

January 3, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (The New Year Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: ““New Year, Let Us Begin the Treasure Hunt!”  
—An Ultra-Constructive Way of Living—

Text: Colossians 2:1~5 (Verse 3)

**2:1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.**

**2:2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,**

**2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

**2:4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.**

**2:5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.**

#### Introduction

**Happy New Year, 2021! The new year begins.**

1 . Year-end lottery tickets go on sale every year.

#### (1) The Year-End Jumbo Lottery

- The top prize : one billion yen, probability of one in 10 million
- The numbers of before and after the first prize : 15 million yen, probability of one in five million
- The prize for the right numbers in the wrong order : 100,000 yen, probability of one in 101,000

A considerable number of people buy lottery tickets without losing interest. The probability is said as the following.

Total population of Tokyo (139,600,003,751) and Chiba Prefecture (6,280,000,697) are 2,02400004,448 as of November 1. The probability is each of them buys a lottery ticket and wins.

It is said that **a lecture course about the probability of winning the lottery** is held in the recent lottery boom. People seek **dream** and **adventure**. They entrust **the treasure hunt** to **dream and adventure** that would make them **a fortune in a single stroke**. ⇒ People are seeking.

**Matthew: 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

By the way, what is the treasure that the Bible teaches about? It was not like the worldly currency of gold and silver. The Scripture of today teaches,

**Colossians 2:3 “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”**

It refers to the true **treasure** that we need to live. The Bible teaches that **wisdom** and **knowledge** are hidden there.

Today, I would like to tell you about the amazing treasure that God gives us according the following two points.

### Main Points

#### 1. The Treasure of Wisdom and Knowledge

**The treasure** that the Bible teaches of is not like **the jumbo jottery**. When we follow God's teaching, we receive the God's treasure with a much higher probability than that of the jumbo lottery. The treasure is full of **wisdom** and **knowledge**.

Let us think about it! **Wisdom** and **knowledge** are the great treasures for us to live. (We often solve our problems with them). God who created the heavens the earth plans to give us **this treasure**. My friends, how amazing! Those who believe in God live by seeking **the treasure of wisdom and knowledge**.

Let us consider first its definition.

⇒ What is **wisdom** and **knowledge**?

#### 1. Wisdom and Knowledge

**Wisdom:** It is given from God (of godly level)

**Knowledge:** It is our ancestors' living testimony (history)

The Bible's 66 books are the storehouses of this treasure.

**The Bible: Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

Let us remember first that the treasure of **wisdom** and **knowledge** that God gives **us** is hidden in **Christ**. In those days, churches and believers in Colossae were greatly influenced by Gnosticism and asceticism. Even nowadays people hold to these philosophies, thoughts and ideologies and seek them. The world history repeats itself.

Paul sent them a message in that situation.

Then, how can we receive **the treasure** that God gives us?

#### 2. The Treasure Hunt Starts from the Shabbat (Discovery)

##### 1) The Shabbat

There is a teaching of Judaism: **You cannot pick up truth unless you bend down**. It means that man does not learn without being humble. By the way, both Japanese and Jewish people are diligent and ambitious. However, they are quite different.

The Jews are unique people who keep the Shabbat. It is a rest day that God made. God made a week of seven days and made Saturday, the last day, the Shabbat.

Genesis records as below-

**2:2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he**

rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Exodus, Chapter 20 records the fourth of the Ten Commandments as below-

20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

It is the Sabbath that the Bible teaches.

By the way, Japanese people expect a day off to work off fatigue and stress. Therefore, they try to go out and do things such as playing golf or taking a trip during the holidays.

On the other hand, Jewish people stay home with their families. **The Sabbath is the day that they examine themselves.** The holiday is to have the quiet day to face themselves. It is one of secrets of worship. **It means to take time to look within and reflect.**

There are some other religions that teach facing themselves. For example, Buddhism teaches to sit and **meditate**. However, only the God of the Bible made the particular day the Shabbat. God has been teaching human beings the true meaning of the Shabbat through the Jewish people.

## 2) The Treasure Hidden in the Shabbat

Then, how can we find **the treasure**?

⇒ To tell the truth, it is in the Shabbat.

As I mentioned before, God taught in the fourth of the Ten Commandments, “**Remember the Shabbath day, to keep it holy.**” What is the Sabbath like? ⇒ It is **the holy day.**

**Holiness:** *Hagiazo* in Greek, is God’s nature. It refers to holiness where there is no single point of injury or stain. It is perfect holiness that nothing can be replaced with. It is **holiness** that reveals God’s glory. The Scripture teaches us to make the Sabbath the holy day like that.

Then, what is the Shabbat exactly like?

① **The Shabbat is the day of liberation.** : It is the day where they are made perfectly free from the law. It is not the day of restrictions. The orthodox Judaists had hedged in with 613 rules and about 1000 detailed rules. However, the Shabbat is **the liberation day of their hearts.**

The word of a certain economist: **If they carefully take enough holidays, it is obvious that productivity will improve.**

② **The Shabbat is the day of joy.** : It is the day to rejoice in the great nature that God created, and we human beings as well. God made me who is only one in the world and loves me. Therefore, it is the day to rejoice in God.

③ **The Shabbat is the day of victory.** : Jesus Christ died but He resurrected and won the victory.

**John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

**The Shabbat** is the day to rejoice in the One who made us free from the **bonds of sin**. Therefore, the Shabbat is the beginning. **The Shabbat** is the day off to reflect on ourselves before God. It is the difference between those who believe in God and those who do not.

● Let us summarize the story now. Why does **the treasure hunt** start from the Shabbat? ⇒ It helps us to see God.

Keeping Shabbat is to get an opportunity to see God.

**No encounter, no discovery.**

### 3) **Discovering the Treasure**

How can we make the treasure as our own property?

Speaking from conclusion, we should take out **the treasure** by **faith**.

#### ① **Jesus gave bread to 5,000 men.**

Mark 6:34~44

The crucial word is **6:37** **“You give them something to eat.”** And the disciples said to him, **“Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”**

The disciples responded according to an ordinal rule of human beings. The important thing is that **faith is to trust**. It is a great challenge.

The important thing ⇒ We should trust in the Lord because it is the word He spoke.

Jesus let the disciples solve the specific problem step by step. (Verse 37) It is the way of God and faith grows like this.

God will give you His word this year. Please follow Him faithfully at that time.

#### ② **The faith of a woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years.**

Luke 8:43~48

She had a discharge of blood for a long time. The disease has special meanings as below in the Jewish society.

- ① Immorality (uncleanness)
- ② The result of her own sin
- ③ Social discrimination. She had no one to ask for help. She was desperately alone.

What we learn from her are:

- (1) First of all, she confessed to Jesus who she was. Then, her private and personal relationship with Jesus developed.
- (2) Her faith (trust)

**Luke 8:48 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go I in peace.”**

What saved her? ⇒ Her faith

Her concrete action of faith was touching **the fringe of His garment**.

**The fringe of the garment ⇒ a sign of consecration ⇒ Numbers**

**15:37 The Lord said to Moses,**

**15:38 “Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner.**

**15:39 And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.**

**15:40 So you shall remember and do all my commandments and be holy to your God.**

\* Her touching **the fringe of Jesus’ garment** meant that she touched the holy One. Getting **the treasure** on her own ⇒ Touching Jesus by faith (a real experience). The reason is in **whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3**

The treasure that the Bible teaches is hidden in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we should know Jesus Christ.

### Conclusion

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Let us take up the challenge to “Walk in Christ” (growth)!

**Colossians 2:3 “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”**

We summarize what we learned today as below-

- 1 . The treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden in Christ.
- 2 . The treasure hunt starts from the Shabbat (encounter).
- 3 . We absolutely need faith to get the treasure on our own.

Let us touch Jesus by faith.

\* God bless you !