

April 18, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Entrust Yourself to God, while Doing God."

—A Joyful Life—

Text: 1 Peter 4:12~19

4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

4:18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Introduction

We have not studied the first letter of Peter for some time because of the Easter Worship Service. Let us study 1 Peter again today.

It would be helpful to review what we studied.

The letter was written from Jerusalem to:

- ① The Jewish Christians who were dispersed.
- ② Many of the Jewish Christians were in a battle of life and faith.
- ③ Peter wrote the letter to encourage the Jewish Christians.

Peter wrote in Chapter 4, verse 11 as below,

1 Peter 4:11—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The verse above is a **doxology** that praises Jesus Christ. The letter seems to be closed, however Peter continued writing after verse 12. The content of the letter is to encourage brothers and sisters. Peter really wanted to support his people.

Today, let us study the last part of Chapter 4 according to the following two points.

Main Points

1. Rejoice Even in Suffering

1) The Attitude of Christians

4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Peter advised Christians not to wonder why they had suffering when they followed the Lord, rather they should rejoice in it. He taught that they should not think it strange that they had suffering again, even though they became Christians so that they were freed from suffering, but that they should rejoice.

The Bible records the two attitudes of Christians as below,

- ① One of them is that if they follow God's commands they would absolutely be blessed and given His grace. Psalm 1
- ② The other is that the righteous has been troubled and has many hardships. See the Book of Job.

What about in real life? Probably the number of the latter case ② is more than that of ①. Looking at this point, we understand the reason why Peter taught about suffering from the beginning of the first epistle to the saints who were under suffering. His letter seemed to be closed with the doxology, but he teaches them about suffering again. I understand Paul's feelings for them.

In general, our hardships are divided broadly into three groups.

- ① Suffering as a punishment for doing evil things.
- ② Suffering from the jealousy and hate of others in spite of doing the right thing.
- ③ Suffering from sickness, an unexpected accident, or a misfortune.

We have various pains through our lives. Jesus Christ is the example of one who suffered. Therefore, it is natural that we who follow Jesus are given the same suffering. Peter teaches about it here.

Then, what should we study?

2) Our Faith is Matured Through Suffering

Peter taught them to rejoice when they had suffering. How could they rejoice under a situation where rejoicing is so difficult? The Scripture below teaches the reason.

4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Our sufferings and hardships are not mere suffering, but they are **trials**. It means that suffering and hardship tests us and makes us grow. Our faith is refined. They grow us personally and also our faith becomes mature. This is the first reason to rejoice in suffering.

The Bible records the truth that we grow through trials.

Hebrews 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives.”

Hebrews 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The word ‘train’ here refers to chastise. God trains us by **chastising**. There are two ways of chastising with love and without it. God loves us so He makes us grow by chastising.

Experiencing trials is painful however, later on it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. We can stand before God with a peaceful mind. There is another reason to rejoice in suffering.

3) Sharing Christ’s Suffering and His Glory is Revealed

4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

When we experience sufferings, it means that we also experience sufferings with Christ. On top of that, it does not all end in suffering in the end. When salvation is perfectly fulfilled, we may become **in a rapture of delight**.

The letter to the Romans teaches the same teaching as below,

8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The sufferings of the present time do not end in suffering only. They become the glory and they are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Peter continues his teaching.

4) The Spirit of God rests upon people who are suffering.

4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

The Spirit of God rests on people who are suffering. It is an especially important factor when the Gospel is preached.

{Illustration}

The other day, I was interested in an article written by Professor Mark Nickens (Church history) of the monthly Newsletter, vol.4, 2021, of Trinity Bible Institute. It is the list of the top ten countries over the world that send missionaries and the top ten countries that receive the missionaries.

① The top ten countries sent the missionaries outside their countries

1. USA: 127,000
2. Brazil: 34,00
3. France: 21,000
4. Spain: 21,000
5. Italy: 20,000
6. South Korea: 20,000
7. United Kingdom: 15,000
8. Germany: 14,000
9. India: 10,000
10. Canada: 8,500

② The top ten countries received missionaries from other countries

1. USA: 32,400
2. Brazil: 20,000
3. Russia: 20,000
4. DR Congo: 15,000
5. South Africa: 12,000
6. France: 10,000
7. United Kingdom: 10,000
8. Argentina: 10,000
9. Chile: 8,5000
10. India: 8,000

● The interesting point of list ① is that five of the ten countries are countries in Europe and North America. In both lists ① and ② the United States comes first, and Brazil comes second.

● The common point of these countries that send missionaries and receive missionaries is that they need them. Each country is a country of immigrants and a multiracial country. The Gospel satisfies their great spiritual need.

Missionaries live in a multicultural society and preach the Gospel of Christ there through many difficulties. The Spirit of God helps them to preach the word of God.

4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

The Gospel of Christ has been preached by the help of God's Spirit.

The next important point is a way of a Christians' life.

2. You Should Entrust Yourself to God

1) Do not Suffer as Your Fault

4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Even though we are sinners, we are not **a murderer or a thief or an evildoer**. However, what about a **meddler**? It refers to our relationships with other people. Peter advises them not to suffer for these reasons as Christians. It means to live like this.

For example, the relationship with other people is easily broken by a trivial matter. Paul taught them not to suffer for unnecessary reasons. We should not be like those **who do not greet others, who leaves without cleaning up, who blames others for their own failures, and who has no manners**. Then how should we live?

2) Entrust Yourselves to God

4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Peter said that to be persecuted and have sufferings in this world is **judgement**. And **the judgement** begins at the household of God, which is church.

Even Christians who are loved by God have sufferings because of God's love for us is to make us grow. If it begins with us, **what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?** It means that those who do not follow God may have greater suffering than Christians who follow Him.

Peter quoted Proverb Chapter 11:31,

4:18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

The Scripture above does not mean that the righteous is scarcely saved at the Last Judgement of Christ. It means that Christians have various hardships and persecution during their lives in this world.

If it is so, what will become the end of people who are unfaithful and are not forgiven their sin? Therefore, Christians are blessed who are in God's hand even though they have hardships.

4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Peter sent the important two word as the last Scripture of Chapter 4.

① Entrusting

To entrust means to leave his property to his friend when he goes on a long journey. A sense of security depends on whom we entrust. He who entrusts our souls is God the Creator, the true One. God

is the Almighty and we can entrust ourselves to Him. Therefore, we can feel perfectly safe.

② Keep Doing Good

Paul records in Romans Chapter 12 as below,

12:21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

My friends. It is not easy to endure the trials of our daily lives. Doubt, disappointment, and various feelings may arise, and it is quite difficult to rejoice. But we should follow Peter's encouragement.

(1) First, let us examine ourselves and see if we are at fault or not if we have something to correct or not. If we recognize that we have no problems, let us rejoice. Our Lord makes us grow by using trials. Let us rejoice if we suffer because of Christ, we will reveal God's glory.

(2) If we realize our faults, let us come to before God and repent of our sin. At that moment, the Holy Spirit who is God's Spirit (another Advocate) helps. We come to give thanks and rejoice. Let us rejoice together with Christians who are suffering.

Therefore, let us entrust ourselves to God who is truth and keep doing good.

Conclusion

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Today, God spoke to us. How should we walk in suffering?

Let read the following verse 19 as the conclusion.

4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

The important things to live as Christians are:

1. Entrust ourselves to God.
2. Keep doing good.

* God bless you!