

July 18, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Don't Forget the Most Precious Things"

— You Live Only Once —

Text: 2 Peter 1:12~15

**1:12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.**

**1:13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body (the tent of this body), to stir you up by way of reminder,**

**1:14 since I know that the putting off of my body (the tent of this body) will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.**

**1:15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**

#### Introduction

It is said that **human beings easily forget**. I have been so forgetful lately. I listen to very important things, but I often forget what I heard as time goes by.

Dr. Herman Ebbinghaus, a German psychologist, published an experimental study on **forgetfulness**, (The Forgetting Curve).

According to his study, human beings will rapidly lose memory of learned knowledge as below,

Within 20 minutes	approx.42 %
Within an hour	approx. 56 %
Within a day	approx. 67 %
Within a week	approx. 75 %
Within a month	approx.79 %

When we forget things easily, our daily lives are affected. On the other hand, we sometimes need to forget things. If a certain person does not forget anything, his brain will burst with overabundance of information.

However, we are embarrassed if we forget something important. A certain politician replied at the Diet, "I don't remember," and the phrase became very popular. We should not forget very important things.

By the way, Peter said to the Jewish Christians who were exiles:

**1:15 And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**

Peter wrote the word **remind (recall)** three times (Verses 12,13,15) in today's Scripture.

Then, what did he want them **to be reminded of**? Let us study the following two points today.

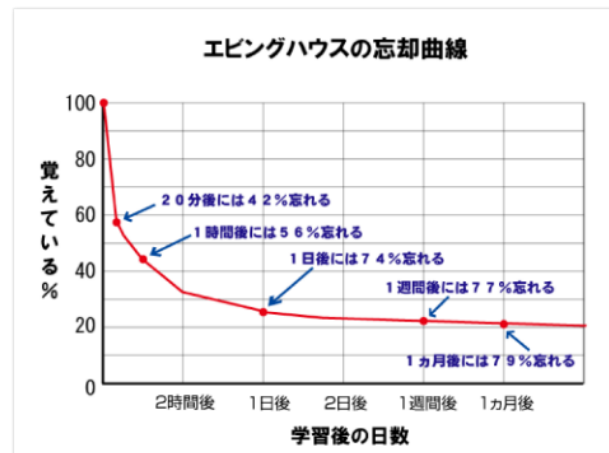
### Main Points

#### 1. The Hope to Receive an Eternal Life

##### 1) Peter's self-awareness

Peter understood the following two things.

① **1:13 I think it right, as long as I am in this body (the tent of this body), to stir you up by way of reminder,**



A tabernacle is like a portable tent. A traveler took it when he lived temporarily. However, Peter refers to '**this tent**' as his own body. We live briefly in this world.

It is a temporary lodging. The real residence where we live eternally is in another place.

The other is:

② **1:14 since I know that the putting off of my body (the tent of this body) will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.**

Peter realized that he was approaching his death.

Paul records in the epistle to Philippians as below,

**3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven.**

Peter said,

**1:11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Peter also records in 1Peter as below,

**1:4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,**

As our Lord Jesus was crucified and rose again on the third day, we are given a hope that we overcome death and finally inherit an imperishable eternal life.

My friends, Peter does not escape from reality by imagining the eternal residence. He was looking at the hope that God showed him, and he accepted the end of life. He was aware of the decline, weakness and imperfectness of his body by looking at the hope of God. He recognized these things.

If the tent continues to be used, it becomes rumped, worn and some holes are made. However, it is only temporary and we will inherit **imperishable, undefiled, and an unfading glorious body.**

Many people, who do not know God, think that the world is everything. Therefore, they work hard to enjoy their lives and spend their time. They covet power, wealth, and so on. However, is it correct? If the world is everything, at least the following

problems occur.

**① The problem is to hold on to various things in the world.**

A man spends much money for various things and tries hard to protect them.

**If the world is everything,**

**② When something unreasonable occurs, he cannot sustain hope.**

When human beings meet a difficult trial, they lose hope.

**If the world is everything,**

**③ He sets the goal of his life in this world.**

He thinks that he enjoys his temporary life so he does not consider other things.

**2) The Teaching of the Bible**

However, the Bible does not teach these things. It teaches that our lives on the earth directly connect to the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, our lives on earth are a preparation for entering the kingdom of heaven. Until then, we experience troubles and sufferings because of our incompleteness, however, we are training, preparing and growing in spirit. We are also growing personally. We will prepare to see the Lord in the course of time.

Lord Jesus spoke a parable as below,

[Matthew Chapter 22](#)

**22: 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,**

**22:3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.**

**22:4 Again he sent other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.””**

**22:5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,**

**22:6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.**

**22: 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.**

**22: 8 Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.**

**22:9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'**

**22:10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.**

**22:11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.**

**22:12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.**

**22:13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

**22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen."**

Lord Jesus taught His disciples with a kind but also a strict attitude. However, His strictness is a sign of His love. He spoke the parable with strict words because He was really anxious about His disciples' future.

**22:12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.**

When we finally meet the One at the entrance of the kingdom of heaven, who took our sin and be crucified, we should avoid being told, **"Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?"** Let us now faithfully lead lives on the earth as those who are longing for the eternal kingdom of heaven.

Peter advised Jewish Christians who were exiles not to forget but to recall

that those who believe in the living true God are given the hope of inheritance in the eternal life.

How about you? Don't we forget the important things?

Let us remember **The Forgetting Curve** of Dr. Hermann Ebbinghaus. Human beings forget 67% of things within a day.

Peter taught the other one that they should recall.

## **2. What Is the Most Important Thing for the Saints?**

### **1) Peter's viewpoint**

Peter was looking towards the end of his life on earth at that time (his viewpoint). According to a legend, Peter was arrested later and was martyred by crucifixion upside down as an example to others.

He understood that his life on earth would last only a few days more so he wrote the epistle and completed his last duty by using every spare moment.

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He hoped that his epistle may help and encourage the Jewish Christians during in his lifetime and after his death. He left the epistle so that they would stand firm on the truth of the Bible and keep working for the work of the Lord without straying.

Peter was called by Jesus and became His instrument to preach the Gospel.

**Matthew 4:19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

He tried faithfully to do the work that was entrusted to him until the end of life. Finally, he became old, and the time was approaching when he put off of his body, a tent on earth. He wanted faithfully to follow the word of the Lord Jesus. The Scripture records, “...and I will make you fishers of men.” However, the Scripture records “Follow me,” before it. He must have looked back on his life towards the end.

## 2) Peter's assigned duty

Peter's ministry was

**1:12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.**

Peter always remembered that he should keep preaching. His assigned duty was that he was to repeatedly speak and remind people of those qualities so that he could inspire them in faith. At the same time, it means that the saints kept listening to him patiently.

It also teaches that the word is spoken to us.

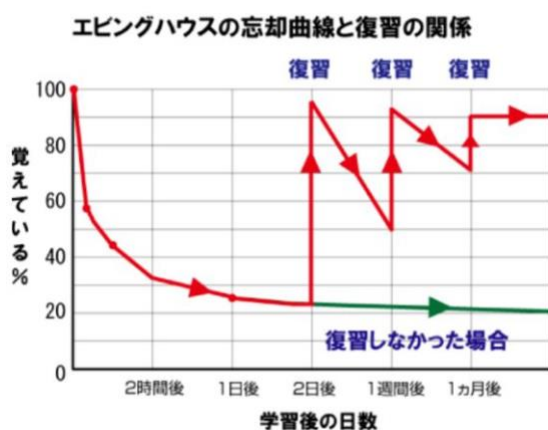
{Illustration}

A certain Japanese cram school (Uni-study) conducted an experiment on *The Forgetting Curve* of Dr. Hermann Ebbinghaus. The following result was reported.

If they reviewed a lesson within in 2 days, students remembered 95% by reviewing, even though they forgot 76% (They remembered 24%).

If they reviewed a lesson within in a week, students remembered 93% by reviewing, even though they forgot 50% (They remembered 50%).

If they reviewed a lesson within in a month, students remembered 90% by reviewing, even though they had forgot 30% (They remembered 70%). After that, the result showed a



parallel line.

My friends, the experiment shows the effect of reviewing. It is helpful in a sense, isn't it?

Human beings easily forget and easily lose their real nature. Even Christians sometimes lose the feeling of tension in their lives in a pagan environment. There is a possibility that they make compromises with the world, so they are not able to carry out their mission as a witness of the Gospel. There is a danger that they come to fall asleep in unfaithfulness.

Therefore, we should repeatedly review the word that the Lord speaks to us.

### 3) Our viewpoint and assigned duty

Peter understood his weakness very well. He denied Jesus three times. He definitely knew how shameful he was. He regretted his miserable self with tears running down his cheeks.

However, the Lord Jesus, who had resurrected, appeared to Peter by the Sea of Galilee and asked him three times, **"Do you love me?"** Peter answered to Jesus' third question as below,

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?"** Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, **"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."** Jesus said to him, **"Feed my sheep."**

I guess, when the Lord Jesus entrusted His important work to Peter, **"Feed my sheep,"** he was at a loss for words as to what to say. The words that the Lord Jesus, who had resurrected, said to Peter was, **"Do you love me?"** The number 3 refers to a perfect number in the Bible.

When Peter was asked, he could hardly respond, **"I love you,"** immediately because of his weakness.

Peter **was grieved** because Jesus said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, **"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."**

It was all he could respond. Peter truly met the Lord Jesus. He realized that



loving Jesus was to feed His sheep (pastoral care) and to preach Jesus Christ. He clearly understood that it was his mission that Jesus entrusted to him.

How about today's message? How do you think about your life? Jesus asks you, **"Do you love me?"** How do you respond to Him?

### Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Don't Forget the Most Precious Things"

—You Live Only Once—

The Lord spoke to us an important message. What did we study today? We often forget things like the study of Dr. Hermann Ebbinghaus' the *Forgetting Curve*. We studied that reviewing is particularly important.

How should we live lives? We studied the following two points.

1. We should faithfully live a life to **enter the kingdom of heaven**.

It is a life of loving God, fearing God, glorifying God, and giving thanks for God's grace.

2. We should live a life correctly by following a compass (the Bible).

We need to review at all times. We should repeatedly read God's word and repeatedly pray to Him and walk according to the Lord's guidance.

\* God Bless You!