

August 1, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Let Us Pay Careful Attention to the Light of The Word of God"
—A Blessed Life—

Text 2 Peter: 1:19~21

1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

1:20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games is currently being held. The top athletes from all over the world came to join it. The Olympic Games with many restrictions under the Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented event in history.

Before the Olympic Games began, the following remarks of Ministers were serious problems.

- ① Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of State for Economic Revitalization, withdrew his earlier statement about **an alcoholic drink**.
- ② Prime Minister Suga said, "The world should see that the Olympic games will beat coronavirus."

The opposite parties severely criticized their remarks because of their careless words. The first remark was strongly opposed by the alcoholic dealers. As a result, the remark was withdrawn. The second remark was criticized because the real society hardly defeats coronavirus. It is really difficult to speak the right words.

Ministers have a deep responsibility more than the ordinary people to say the right words, because their words greatly influence the national policy. Therefore, thoughtless remarks always cause problems. People try to choose words clearly to not to be misunderstood, however, words that are carelessly spoken cause

problems.

A careful use of **words** is one of important teachings of the Bible.

The following Scripture teaches about **words**.

5:2 Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore, let your words be few.

5:3 For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words

5:7 For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

God's word is faithful. A man's word really reveals if he fears God or not. It is amazing that God Himself is absolutely faithful to His word. He surely fulfills what he says.

Therefore, those who trust in God should be careful to utter word and be faithful. God of the Bible reveals Himself in **His word**. Therefore, **God's word** is faithful and certain so that it does not change.

The Bible records as below,

1 Peter 1:24 for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls,

1:25 but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Then, how can we know God who is the Word?

Let us study the following three points today.

Main Points

1. Understanding God Who is Alive in History

God who created the heavens and the earth is alive in history. On top of that, God has revealed His nature in the history of Israel. God chose and loved the Israelites and made a covenant with them many times.

God spoke to Father Abraham as below,

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to

Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,

17:2 that I may make my covenant between me and you and may multiply you greatly.”

17:3 Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,

However, the Israelites trampled on God’s covenants and turned their back on Him. On the other hand, God kept being faithful with His word of the covenants.

Isaiah 54:10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

People, who hear the Gospel of the cross of Jesus Christ for the first time, hardly understand **the words, “You are saved by only believing in Him.”** They doubt that they can be saved by such a simple thing. No, it is not simple at all. It is only because of God’s love and grace.

God’s salvation is based on His faithfulness to His word, His fervent enthusiasm, His unbelievable love, and His perseverance.

Therefore, those who fear, and honor God should be faithful with their words and sincere just as God is faithful with His word and sincere. We need to realize the importance of our words; especially when **fake news** is appearing around us through social networking.

Let us fix our eyes on the absolute word of God and walk on the steadfast path. God is the One who lives and works in history.

Then, how can we know God who lives in history? We understand Him by the word of the Bible. We come to know through history that God is alive.

2. We Should Keep an Eye on the Word of God.

1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

1) Keep Watching with careful attention.

The morning star refers to Venus that shines more brightly than others. The word of God is still the light that enlightens our dark world today. God's word keeps guiding us until Jesus Christ comes again.

God once went before the Israelites and led them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire when they left Egypt for Canaan, the promised land. Like this, God stands before us and leads through the word of the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit.

"**You will do well to pay attention**" is written in the original book, "**You should watch well.**" This is the important phrase that means a continuous action. Therefore, it advises, "**Keep watching with very careful attention.**"

Why is it important to keep watching very carefully?

① **The word of God gives conviction of faith.**

If our faith is simply based on our experiences, it is an uncertain one. Your memories will fade away. You may think about your experiences again from a different perspective. The former experiences may be denied by the following experiences. On top of that, we may even doubt our faith.

My friends. Experiences are good things; however, they are not everything for our faith. Our faith should be based on the word of God which is authentic and unchangeable.

② **The word of God is the light of hope.**

Peter says that we are surrounded by darkness so that we cannot see the light of hope if we are not exposed by the light of the word of God. However, we easily turn away our eyes. We easily turn away our eyes even though we know that we cannot find hope if we do it.

It is the terror of sin. The sin makes our closes our mind's eye and makes it difficult to see reality. It makes us not know where we are or where we are going. To make matters worse, we ourselves stop thinking about it. As a result, we begin to live temporarily and live in the moment.

Let us remember a story about Adam and Eve.

Satan first tried to shake their faith in God, "**Did God actually say?**" Eve gave way

to his temptation. She saw that the tree was a delight to the eyes and finally lost conviction in the word of God. (Genesis 3)

The following Scripture gives a warning to the saints who are walking through the darkness.

1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2) **The Morning Star**

It is written, **“until the morning star rises in your hearts.”**

It refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ that will occur in God’s time. Jesus Christ is like Venus that shines more brightly than others. Peter advises that we should focus on the word of the Bible that is like a lamp shining in a dark place until the Lord Jesus comes to this world.

The first coming of Jesus Christ is fulfilled. The word that was spoken by many prophets in the days of the Old Testimony fulfilled by Jesus Christ. As many people watched and were convinced of His first coming, His second coming will surely be fulfilled according to the word of God.

Jesus Christ who is the morning star comes again. This is the true hope of the saints who trusted in God.

3. Understanding the Nature of the Word of God

1:20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.

1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

It is written, **“No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.”**

I think that the prophecy here is not an eschatological prophesy, but it is the word of the Bible. Interpretation of the Bible is very important. Human interpretation, the way of reading, and the current thinking of the times do not completely affect it. We should understand as Verse 21 records, **“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”**

God chose and used various kinds of people in the days of the Old Testament. He used their personality, abilities, experiences, power of expression, vocabulary, and so on. However, they did not speak according to their own will. Peter said, “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

The phrase, “to be carried along” has a nuance in Greek of a ship with sails in the wind. The ship is powerless against the power of wind. It has no choice but to follow the wind. The wind has the initiative.

In Greek, **wind** and **spirit** are the same word (pneuma). The power of the wind belongs to God. However, people speak by blowing wind. This is a unique point of the word of the Bible.

The message from God is spoken through the personalities of human beings who are alive. It is God’s consideration. Moreover, God gives us the word of hope by using words that we can understand.

Human beings are imperfect and have faults. What about Peter, the author of the epistle? As far as we know from the Bible, Peter was full of faults. He was a simple and unrefined person. He made mistakes many times and was admonished by the Lord many times. On top of that, he denied the Lord.

However, God used **a man** who was full of flaws to reveal the truth. In light of that, we need not look intently at our flaws. We need to carefully pay attention only to what God speaks through his personality and life.

This viewpoint is closely related when we listen to a sermon where the word of God is interpreted. We do not come to church only to see people. We should look carefully the truth that God shows through people who are full of flaws. Therefore, man should not be emphasized before God. We should sincerely listen to the word of God.

We should tightly associate ourselves with God’s word in faith.

We would like to carefully look at the light of the word without losing hope and lead lives by the support of the word.

Conclusion

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The Lord spoke to us today. Peter sent the blessed word to the saints who were under hardship.

The word of God is living and active and gives us life.

Let us read the verse 19 as a conclusion of the message today.

1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

* God bless you!