

October 10, 2021

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Keep on Drawing the Water of Life"

—God's Will—

Text: 2 Peter 2:17~22

**2:17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.**

**2:18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.**

**2:19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.**

**2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

**2:21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

**2:22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."**

#### Introduction

As you know that Afghanistan was controlled by **Taliban**, an Islamist extremist organization. Taliban seems to think that Christianity is a western religion and thoroughly hate missionaries who preach the Gospel. The following news appeared.

The news spread to the entire world that **229 Christian missionaries were sentenced to death** in Afghanistan on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, immediately after the disintegration of Afghan government. (Sent from J.K. Chihuahua) However, it turned out to be the utterly fake news later. It is a terrible problem, isn't it?

You probably know that false rumors about the Covid-19 vaccination are widely spread. For example, **some say that the government implants a body microchip** by the vaccination and women **become incapable of being pregnant**. Many people were confused by these rumors, not by the correct news. Fake news is really troublesome

It is probably difficult to judge which is the correct news when the incorrect one appears as if it is the correct one. However, this kind of problem is nothing new.

It was approximately 2000 years ago that the false teachers came into Christian churches and taught false teachings. And it spread over the world. It occurred about 30 years after Christian churches were born. In those days, Greek and Roman societies were pagan societies so there were various temples here and there that worshiped nature gods and guardian deities.

People indulged in many kinds of fashions, philosophies, and thoughts.

When Paul the evangelist visited Athens, he records as below,

**Acts 17:21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.**

My friends, the lives of the people in those days were no different than our lives. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was preached around the Mediterranean countries of those days and Christian churches were founded all over that region. People who were under hardship accepted God's word with joy by the Holy Spirit. As a result, they preached the Gospel and lived lives by following Jesus as the examples of faith in Him.

They forsook their former lives that followed idols of the Gentiles and began to serve the true living God.

Peter records in his second epistle as below,

**2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.**

**2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

They were alive with faith and lived with joy and thanksgiving. They also lived in hope that Jesus Christ was coming soon again. On the other hand, the false teachers appeared in the days of the early church and began to teach people. Regrettably, some people gave up their faith and left the church being enticed by the teaching of the false teachers.

Peter sent the epistle to the saints of churches who were in problems. Let us study the today's Scripture according to the following two points.

#### Main Points

1. Do not Become Slaves of Sensual Passion of the Flesh.

**2:18 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.**

**2:19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.**

1) Enticed by sensual passion of the flesh

The false teachers enticed the saints by sensual passion of the flesh.

The Bible records in Hebrews, Chapter 13 as below,

**13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**

Marriage is God's blessing that He decided. However, there are people who think little of its meaning today. When they do not understand God, they do not also understand the relationship of a man and a woman. Eventually, they come to live by following the desires of their flesh. It should not be accepted not only because of the Bible but also because of the ethics and morality of society.

It breaks the relationship of a family and gives children uneasiness. On top of that, it entrenches women's rights. They transfigure such crafty behaviors into pure ones and insist as if it is the correct deed. It is very dangerous.

The idea and philosophy that confirm human desires and instincts haven't changed since a long time ago.

Satan plots to entice people and corrupt them by the sensual passion of the flesh.

Therefore, we should not be deceived.

The Bible records,

**Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**

### 1) True freedom

My friends. In this age, there are people who insist that it is up to people to live together without getting married. They may enjoy freedom of life for a while as they so choose. However, is it true freedom? They may soon realize that they cannot get the true freedom from the desires of the flesh.

Peter records as below,

**2:17 These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.**

Peter describes people as **waterless springs and mists driven by a storm**, who live by following the sensual passions of the flesh. They are enticed and believe there is a spring to drink water, but the spring is waterless. Their joy is a temporary one, so it is like mists driven by a storm.

After a while, they come to realize that they cannot get real spiritual satisfaction. They try to get away from God and become free from Jesus Christ, but they are caught by their old selves and finally enslaved to sin.

We believed the Gospel and were made free from living under the control of sins and the curse of the law, and eternal punishment. When we believe in Jesus Christ, who frees us, we are allowed to be free from all of sins, all power of evils.

It is the amazing grace of God. However, if we separate from Christ, we are enticed with power of sin and become enslaved to sin again. Therefore, we should not misunderstand meaning of **freedom**.

Then, what is the freedom that makes us alive?

Jesus said,

**John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,**

**8:32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

When we believe in Christ, we are given true freedom. If we feel uneasy, we are still

clinging to things in this world. We still try to trust in the flesh. We should not follow the flesh. We follow the One who is the fountain of living water.

Peter continues describing people who follow the sensual passions of the flesh.

## **2. You Should Escape the Defilements of the World.**

**2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

Peter knew well that if someone who began to live in faith returns to this world again, it is very difficult for them to have Christian faith again. It emphasizes how dangerous the former place was, where we had been. We should not stay there forever. Peter said **the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

### **1) Peter's warning**

#### **① Sodom and Gomorrah**

Peter records the extinction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Chapter 2.

**2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;**

**2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,**

**2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.**

My friends, we study something from the Scripture above. The Scripture teaches us that the reason that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God was because of their sins, not of God's judgement. The Bible records the real situation of the morally and ethically decadent society. It records the disastrous lives where human desires and sins are unrestrained. The Bible records the real situation of society that is ethically and morally corrupted. It records the tragic situation where human desires and sin are unregulated.

#### **② Balaam**

Peter also adopts an example about Balaam, the prophet that even a person, who

preaches the word of God, but gives in to the temptation of unrighteous wealth. The Bible records many such cases of failure. Human sin and desires do not give true joy or peace.

Yes, they may satisfy people temporarily. They seem to be good and have freedom, but they are mere **waterless springs and mists driven by a storm.**

Therefore, we should not be entangled in them again.

**2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.**

If once we let our guard down to give Satan some room to approach, he may attack us more and more. It is said that a house that had been burgled repeatedly is more likely to be burgled. When swindlers come to know a person, who is once completely defrauded, they visit the person one after another.

Jesus said as below,

**Matthew 12:43 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none.**

**12:44 Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order.**

**12:45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits eviler than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”**

Peter records continually,

**2:21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

Peter quoted a certain saying,

**2:22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”**

It is Chapter 26 from proverbs.

**26:11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.**

## **2) Blessing for Christians**

Peter records God's will as below,

**2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**

**1:4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

Peter prays that Christians escape from the corruption in the world and may become partakers of the divine nature. The promise that God made is to become partakers of the divine nature. It is God's blessing.

Peter records its blessing in his epistle as below,

**2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,**

**1:6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,**

**1:7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.**

**1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

⇒ They are **the qualities of the seven graces.**"

Then, how can we overcome Satan's temptation and receive God's nature?

- ① We should have devotion time every day (to be quiet before God, to read the Bible and to pray).
- ② We should walk with the Lord (to pray every time).

Jesus made a promise with the saints as below,

**John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"**

We should keep on drawing the **water of life** from rivers of living water. Then, we will not become thirsty anymore. We lead lives where joy, peace, praise, thanksgiving and freedom spring up in us. What happy lives we are given! It is life that is given to those who believe in God.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "Keep on Drawing the Water of Life"

—God's Will—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. The power of evil is increasingly spread over the world. How should the saints, who believe in the living true God, live lives?

Please remember that we do not have any strength to overcome all lust. It is only Jesus Christ, who defeated death and resurrected, and overcame lust.

Christians are those who walk with Jesus Christ.

Jesus said,

**John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"**

\* God bless you!