

January 9, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Live Life in God's Grace"

—God's Love—

Text: Colossians 3:17

3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Introduction

The New Year has just started. What is God's plan for our church in 2022?

Let us expect a great deal from Him.

{Illustration}

My friend in Tokyo told me a story. A certain restaurant put a birdcage outside and there was a hill myna in it. The bird can reproduce human voices very well.

The bird clearly spoke to people who walk by, "Welcome to our restaurant" and "Shochu spirit please." The bird seemed to contribute to the sales of the restaurant. It also reproduced a sound of a motorcycle.

My friend went back home and talked with his wife. **"The hill myna is a very interesting bird. I want to keep one and learn how it remembers human voices. I think the bird learns from people nearby who speak ordinary conversations."**

The next morning, they spoke to each other shivering with cold, "It's hard to get up in the morning. Yes, it's very hard. It is painful when we get out of bed."

Suddenly my friend wondered, "What if we kept a hill myna, what words would it remember? Would it remember the negative words such as, **"It's hard. It's tough. I'm exhausted and what should I do?"**

He thought they could not invite guests with such a bird. They may find out about their true family life through the bird.

If we kept a hill myna, we would like to make it remember, "I give thanks to God! Halleluiah! Amen! Don't worry! It'll be fine! It's OK and so on."

Needless to say, if we want to make the bird remember those words, we should always speak those words out loud. We should speak positive words and have a hopeful 2022. It is very important what words we say out loud.

Today's Scripture is Colossians 3:17.

3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

⇒ The Scripture refers to **the whole Christian life**.

It speaks about what Christian life we should live. The point we should focus on is, **"do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."**

Let us study the verse deeper today.

Main Points

1. Those Who Receive the Infinite Grace of God

We celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, about two weeks ago. Matthew Chapter 1 records the complicated genealogy of Jesus Christ. Some may think, "What was the editor thinking when he put the genealogy in the first page of the New Testament of all things?" It is difficult for us, the Gentiles, to understand the genealogy.

It often points out that Jesus was born by the blood of Abraham and David, and it claims legitimacy for the king of Israel.

The names of four women appear in this genealogy. It is a very unusual thing in a patriarchal society.

Tamar: She gave birth to a child of her **father-in-law** by means of ruses. Matthew 1:3

Rahab: A prostitute woman in Jericho Matthew 1:5

Ruth: A foreign woman Matthew 1:5

Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah: She had sexual relations with David, even though she was a married woman. Matthew 1:6

These women seemed not to be worthy to be named in the genealogy of Jesus Christ who is the Savior of all humans. We would want to take their names off the genealogy if possible. However, there was God's grace there.

1) The wife of Uriah

I would like to pick up **the wife of Uriah** for an example, who was the most corrupted among these women. David was a shepherd when he was a boy and rose from shepherd and became a hero of Israel. His **success story** was like the one of the Japanese successor Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

He commanded many soldiers and went to battle with them at any time, so people of Israel loved him. However, when he became king and the nation became peaceful, he stayed at the palace and just idled each day away even though the soldiers went to fight. At that very time, the Bible records as below,

2 Samuel 11:2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

This was a show of contempt for soldiers and his men to arise late one afternoon. It shows that he completely let his guard down in his daily life and also in his mental life. The temptation was coming to his unwary and careless mind. When he was walking on the roof of the king's house, he saw a woman bathing and she was very beautiful. She was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. David sent a messenger immediately and took her to the palace. David had sexual relations with her. And the women conceived.

David became panicked and called Uriah back from the battlefield to Jerusalem. David let him report on the military situation and later he sent him to his wife, Bathsheba. He tried to cover up his adultery.

However, Uriah would not go back his house. He said, "When my fellow soldiers go through a real life-and-death battle, how could I go to my house?"

Knowing Uriah would not go to Bathsheba, David wrote a letter to Joab, his superior, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **15 In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he**

may be struck down, and die.” (11:15)

My friends, how malicious that was! It is the inside of a human’s heart. Uriah died in the bloodiest battlefield. At that time, David thought, “Good! Nobody knows that.” However, God knew everything.

2) Nathan, the Prophet

God sent Nathan to David and said as below,

2 Samuel 12 1:1And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.

1:2The rich man had very many flocks and herds,

1:3but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

1:4Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

David became furious when he heard the story and said, “**The man deserves to die.**” Nathan instantly said, “**You are the man.**” (12:7)

David was broken down before God who knows everything. He accepted that he had sinned before God. At that time, God forgave David. We understand that God the Creator **loves** to forgive sins.

3) Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah

Usually, when they read the story, they focus David and his sin and God’s great love that forgave his sin. Therefore, they do not usually focus on Bathsheba.

Of course, Bathsheba could not disobey the king. However, when we read the story well, we find another fact. The place where she was bathing was not very far from the palace. It was very near so David realized that she was very beautiful. The distance was very close.

From this point, we should think that Bathsheba was bathing to target the time the

king would come out. She knew that she was beautiful so she might seduce the king and get the crown of the queen. David fell for the evil temptation of Bathsheba and committed adultery and finally murdered her husband.

It means that Bathsheba also stood up for committing sin. The plot did not occur without Bathsheba. Both David and Bathsheba were in conspiracy. The child who was born at that time died. The story continues. The Bible records ugliness of human beings.

We should see an important thing from the story. We understand that God has authority to forgive any sins through the scandalous affair of David and Bathsheba. There is no impurity that He cannot cleanse. There is no sadness that He cannot heal.

My friends, our sin, impurity, sadness before God should not be forgotten with the passage of time. They should not be forgotten when we have a new year. They are not legally invalid.

Sin must be paid off and forgiven. Impurity must be cleansed. Sadness must be healed. Jesus Christ who is Messiah was born and crucified and shed blood and resurrected. It was to forgive our sin. It is ⇒ **God's grace and that is the infinite forgiveness.**

* Those who are forgiven and given **infinite grace** are Christians.

2. A Christian Life in God's Grace

3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1) Why does it have to be in **the name of Jesus**?

⇒ He has authority as Messiah.

Name refers its existence. **The name of Jesus** means the King of Kings, the Lord of the Lords and has all authority. Jesus is the Son of God.

2) What privileges are given to those who believed in the name of Jesus?

① Forgiveness of sin: **Acts 10:43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."**

② Being not condemned: **John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not**

condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- ③ Receiving eternal life: **John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Jesus Christ defeated death and was resurrected. He is the Messiah.

Let us think about that. It is amazing that we are given privileges in **the name of Jesus**. It records **The Lord Jesus**. It shows the relationship between the Lord and servant. In general, it is impossible for a **servant** to use the name of his master.

* However, the Bible tells us **in the name of the Lord Jesus** (privileges).

Therefore, the Bible records as below,

3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word and deed ⇒ It refers to speech and behavior. (They are always a problem)
It teaches the way of a Christian life.

{Illustration}

I have heard of a few certain stories in America. It was about the way of life of those who believed in God. The theme of the stories was: **people of prayer**.

- ① A child sits on a lap of father and asked, “Dad, did God die?” Father said, “Why do you ask me such a thing?” Then the child said, “Because, you do not pray to God these days.” Father was ashamed of himself and bowed his head humbly.
- ② A young man was taken to an electric chair. In the end, he said, “I never thought I would be here. If I had good parents, I would not be here.”
- ③ A man went into jail because of gambling. He said, “It is my father’s fault. The things that he taught me were drinking, fraud, evil doings, and telling lies. If my parents were **people of prayer**, I would not have become like this.”

My dear friends, we are asked how we should live our lives.

How do we live in the year 2022? Do we follow God’s Word and live well? Do we become a **person of prayer**? Everything depends on us.

* Let us live 2022, the new year, by putting ourselves before God’s Word.

Conclusion

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What is Christian life in God's love?

3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

If we had a hill myna at home now, what words would it remember at the end of the year? I hope it speaks, "Amen! I give thanks to God! Halleluiah! Don't worry, It'll be fine, and it's OK."

What are the lives like that believe in God? Their lives are forgiven sins by grace and live in privileges of grace. It is life ⇒ to fear God and live in His grace.

* God bless you!