

February 27, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "If You Walk in the Light"

—Growing in Grace—

Text: 1 John 1:5~7

1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Introduction

The advertising industry is flourishing in Japan, which is a democratic country. Commercial television broadcasters and mass communications are supported by sponsors. Sponsor companies are using images of celebrities and popular actors to advertise their products in order to sell well.

On the other hand, if the celebrities and popular actors are involved in a scandal, the sponsors suffer severe damages. There are both of positive and negative effects of images. The key to the success of an advertisement seems to what image they provide. Therefore, images have very important effect on human beings.

By the way, what image do you have of God? Of course, I mean God the Creator who created the heavens and the earth. Can we see God who created the world? Is there any image of the personality of God? If we could see God physically, what could happen? Let us think about it.

Suppose God the Creator appears before us, you do not know how many people would surge into this room. They would likely start to panic.

However, it was only once that God appeared physically before us. It was through Jesus Christ who appeared only once.

The Bible records as below,

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Jesus said,

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jesus Christ who became a man is the Son of God Himself.

John has heard Him, has seen Him with his eyes, has looked at Him and has touched Him with his hands

John records God in the Gospel of John as below,

John:4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Epistle to the Hebrews records as below,

12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Like this, we are able to have the image of God through Jesus Christ.

John records two messages about God in the epistle (the First Epistle of John).

- ① God is light. (1:5) Chapter 1,2
- ② God is love. (4:8) Chapter 3~5

Let us study about God whom John taught according the following three points.

Main Points

1. God is Light

1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John taught in the Gospel of John as below,

1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John records that God is light, **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

He also records in 1 John that **in him is no darkness at all**. The light here is *phos* that means the source of light, not the *pengos* that is the reflected light. It is very difficult for us to understand the *phos*.

I am changing the subject, but we live in an age where daytime and nighttime are mixed up. During the time when there was no electricity, the whole town (village) was shrouded by darkness at night. However, in this day and age, people can do anything without distinguishing between day work and night work.

It is said that the biggest change is that people no longer appreciate the sun and give it no thanks because of electricity. We do not have a sense of hope for daybreak. We take the sun for granted and have little feeling of expectation for the rising of the sun. (We are told that a human body usually wakes up at the rising of the sun and rests as sunset falls. However, our rhythm of life collapses.)

Like this, we come to ignore God. We come to deny that the light that shines our life comes from God as the light that shines on earth comes from the sun. We have started thinking of that our life is all right without God for 24 hours because we can keep the lights on all day and night.

On top of that, we come to think that we can live life humanly. It comes from human arrogance and sin. The sun is the source for existence of human beings. How many more things on the earth depend on the sun? There are so many that we could spend many days talking about it. Even so, God sends the light of the sun to human beings.

The light and the darkness are completely different things. John separates the world into two. They are **the darkness** that denies God the Creator and **the light** that is the quite the opposite.

John says,

1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

He says that things in the dark world is sin and the totally opposite of sin is the light. God is absolutely Holy who does not have any darkness or uncleanness like human beings. John heard the truth directly from Jesus and teaches it ¥ to us.

John teaches those who read the epistle to apply what he wrote. **If**, the conditional word appears many times in after Chapter 1:6. It means that **if** we examine our **outside life**, we can confirm if we have **fellowship with God** in our hearts.

2. We should Walk in the Light

1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

My friends, first of all, our walk is questioned with the first **if**. Let us read the Scripture (1:6) carefully.

Verse 6 asks us that even if we say we have fellowship with God but if we **walk** quite the opposite way, it means that we tell a lie because our actions are quite different from what we say.

If we say we have fellowship with God, if we say we are Christians, if we go to church, if we have much knowledge of Christianity and have been baptized but we still commit sins and live a sinful daily life, it is said that we are in **the darkness**. It is said that our life is not a true one before God, but it is a false one.

John asks us a question using **if** question.

My friends, this kind of a dangerous attitude occurred not only in John's days but also today in Japan. I who is at church and I who is in family and office are the same persons, but I am different. I who live in from Monday to Saturday and I who attend church are the same persons, but different. We live Christian lives according to our official stance and live in real life according to our true feelings. These two attitudes are inconsistent.

A certain person said that we should separate public self and private self, or it is impossible to live in Japanese society. This is based on dualism. Let us think about such a person who lives in dualism. Do we really trust in him? No, we don't. We don't like a person who has public self and private self. We think it is difficult for the two to be one. (Often times, we don't think about ourselves at all.)

{Illustration}

It is very difficult to start a new business. In Japan, there was a person who established a company by the encouraging the word of the Bible. He is Mr. Taichiro

Morinaga, whose life was greatly changed by encountering the Bible. He established a confectionary company that is familiar to us by a symbol mark of an angel.

Morinaga was born in 1865 in Saga Prefecture. His father died when he was 6-years old, and he lived in one relative's house after another. Until 12-years old, he seemed not to write or read well. He could not even write his name correctly. He eventually got lots of different kinds of work. He studied very hard in difficult circumstances. He went to America holding up debts to reconstruct a pottery company.

The Gospel of Christ saved Mr. Taichiro Morinaga who lost everything. He heard the Gospel of Christ in America and became a Christian and was baptized. He made the angel that saved Morinaga as his company's symbol mark. He wanted Japanese children to eat American sweets, so he studied the manufacturing method of American confectionary and came back home.

He decided to work for God, so he wrote the Scripture on the side of the Rikisha (handcar) **"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (1 Timothy 1:15)** He loaded sweets on the Rikisha and went on selling even though people mocked him as the **"Jesus' sweets seller"**.

His ambition moved people and he was given good co-workers. When the business was finally on track, the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 occurred. He distributed sweets for free to victims of the earthquake in spite of his company's opposition. He was inspired by charity and the heart of Christ that had helped him in America.

Later, he became very busy and once left the Christian faith. However, he confessed **"I am the foremost of sinners"** and restored his faith in Christ. He went around the country preaching **the Gospel of Christ** that was the forgiveness of sins and finally he died at the age of 71.

The life of Mr. Taichiro Morinaga was like a dramatic story. He went to America when his company became bankrupt. He became a Christian and was baptized. He returned home and established Morinaga Confectionary Company and the angel

symbol mark. In his later years, he walked the path of the light that the word of God teaches.

1:6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

John makes a second “**if**” statement.

3. You should Walk as Children of Light

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Here we see the second **if**. First of all, we should know that God is light and also, **He is in the light**. Therefore, if we walk in the light and our life has the light all the time, we are cleansed and have holiness in us.

If we are with the true **light** (phos), our daily life is made new, and God’s nature comes to dwell in us. It is quite different from the worldly way of life.

1) Characteristics of People who Walk in the Light

Our real life reveals secret fellowship with God.

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

One of Characteristics of people who walk in the light is that they have fellowship with one another. Then, how can **we walk as children of the light**? Christians who believe in God are human beings, so we make mistakes. We sometimes become discouraged.

However, that is not a problem. The problem is how we deal with it after we make a mistake.

John said, “**The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**” (1:7)

The first Christian church of the world was the Jerusalem church. The believers had deep fellowship with one another. It was a blessed one and the Lord was with them.

2) The Power of the Blood of Jesus

John said, **“The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”** The secret of a Christian victory is hidden here. What power does the blood of Jesus, which was shed on the cross, have?

① **The blood of Christ always has power throughout our life.**

The Scripture of verse 7 means that **the blood of Jesus his Son keeps on cleansing us of all sin.** It means that when we come close to the cross, the blood of Jesus is always valid not only when we are saved but also after we are saved and even become old, and we find salvation and of forgiveness of sin.

② **The power of the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin.**

The blood of Christ cleanses away stubborn stains that are deeply ingrained in our hearts and the binding power of sin that can render us helpless without it.

③ **The power of the blood of Christ makes us grow in grace.**

The more we walk in the light, the more we find stains in our hearts. We come to find our real selves and get depressed. However, we will experience grace if we look the cross of Jesus Christ, because we are forgiven.

The Bible records as below,

Romans 5:20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Conclusion

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God spoke to us this morning. We should not be a dualist. It makes us lose God’s grace and blessing. God really wants us to walk the victorious life as the saints who are forgiven of all sin.

John directly observed Jesus beside Him. He was convinced that He was the Messiah (Savior) who appeared in the shape of man. He wrote this epistle to the believers and asked them **if they walked in the light**, which is today’s theme.

What we are asked to do is walk as children of the light.

The secret is hidden in Jesus Christ as what John records as below,

1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Let us walk in the light!

* God bless you!