

March 6, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "What about Your Attitude?"
—Against Sins—

Text: 1 John 1:8~10

1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Introduction

The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing was held last month. We remember the amazing performances of Japanese athletes. I was moved very much even though I just listened to the results of players on the news.

On the other hand, there occurred a doping problem. It was regrettable that some players were disqualified from taking part in the Olympic games because they took illicit drugs.

The Olympic Games is held every four years. The athletes who join the Olympic Games should follow the rules of the Games. It means that they compete their skills in the Olympics as the Olympic athletes themselves.

By the way, Paul compared the Christian life to that of a runner.

1 Corinthians 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

9:26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

John also advises Christians, who believe in the living God, to walk as they are children of the light. And he 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.

He taught them to have a vertical fellowship with God and a horizontal fellowship with brothers and sisters, so that they could live a blessed life with joy. It is the privilege of people who believe in Jesus as Christ and it is the Christian life with power of the blood of Christ.

We study verses 8~10 today. John argues our own attitudes against sin. The blood of Christ that God prepares for us has a limitless power of forgiveness of sin. Then, what attitude do we take regarding sin?

John points out two attitudes that we must not take and one attitude that we should take. Let us consider the following two points that John teaches together.

Main Points

1. The Attitudes that We Must Not Take

1) If we say we have no sin,

1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

“If we say we have no sin” means that “He has no sin itself,” and “He has no sinful heart.” Let us remember that sin, according to the Bible, originally means off the mark (off target). Human beings were originally made to walk toward God (the target); however, they were born without knowing God and have walked separately from God. It is off target. Therefore, we have the nature (the root) of sin within us.

The Bible records as below,

Romans 3:10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

3:11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

3:12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

3:13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

Who can say that he is not sinful? John includes himself a sinner because the verse above says ‘we’. In those days, there were probably Christians who thought they were not sinners because they were taught so by the false teachers.

However, human beings seem to make themselves better than what they are like and think in their mind, "I am not a sinner." They have the nature that they judge that it is their fault, not mine. They see themselves as victims. Therefore, they cry out, "I am not guilty!"

However, the Bible teaches that they deceive themselves. They turn away from their true self. We can deceive ourselves, but we cannot deceive God's eyes. We deceive ourselves, make a false image, and fall on our knees at our own image.

Even Christians try to stay away from the mirror, the Bible, which reflects their nature correctly. As a result, they get farther away from the truth. Christians stray away from the truth if they do not walk faithfully before God.

If we say we are not guilty, we deceive ourselves. We cannot see our true selves clearly.

The following attitude is another one we must avoid.

2) If we say we have not sinned,

1:10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

The first attitude is that **'I have no sin'**. Verse 8 records sin in the singular that means **a root (basis), the nature of sin.**

The second attitude is that **they do not commit sins.** They think that **they do not ever commit sins, even though they have a sinful mind.**

Verse 9 records sins in plural. It refers to the fruit that are deeds that were born from the sinful nature.

If they think that they have no sins and they have never committed sins, they do not need to be cleansed.

3) Those who are righteous before God

Luke 18 records as below,

Luke 18: 9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

18:10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

18:11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

18:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

18:13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Two persons appear here; ① One of them is a Pharisee, ② the other is a tax collector. They are quite different people.

1. The Pharisees said that he followed the law of Moses, gave prayer, fasted and offered money. Therefore, he takes the attitude where he felt no guilt.
2. On the other hand, the tax collector was quite different. He illegally extorted tax money from people. However, he sincerely prayed, **"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"**

What did Jesus teach people through this parable? He taught that a person who says that he is righteous and looks down other people is not righteous before God.

My friends, if we do not pray once a day, we do not commit a sin. We are very weak, so we always commit sin morning and evening even during the daytime. Therefore, we need to ask God for forgiveness of sin. For example, we pray **the Lord's Prayer** like this.

Matthew 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

6:13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

If we pray the Lord's Prayer like this, but if we actually do not pray morning and evening, our attitude is against the Lord. What is our faith like? Human beings are very weak. We who trust in God are also very weak.

Jesus said to Simon with love,

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

22:32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

We should not take the attitude that I am not guilty, or it is not my fault. We, who are weak should fear the Lord.

John taught the attitude that we should take below.

2. The Attitude that We must Take

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1) Confession of sins

John records, **“If we confess our sins.”** However, that is the problem, because the root of sin is hidden deep in our inside and it becomes human nature.

① **The nature to hide sins**

We do not need explain about it. We have the nature to hide our sins throughout generations, nations, races, and languages. Adam and David were the same.

② **The nature to excuse**

He says that it is my nature so I can't help doing it. Other people also do it. I do some good things, so let me off this time. He asks to save his face and he will absolutely make up for it.

③ **The nature to apologize**

He apologizes and says that he never repeats it. Sometimes he cries and sometimes he apologizes by kneeling on the ground and begs forgiveness.

My friends. The idea that as long as you apologize, you will be forgiven is still very much alive. However, it is helpless towards God. God does not forgive us because of our tears or words.

The blood of Jesus Christ on the cross is the only one reason for forgiveness.

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.

God's condition for forgiveness is only if **we confess our sins**. God only wants us to do so. Another translation of **confessing our sins** is to *express* and it means to tell the same things according to the original language. It is to speak the fact just as in

his mind to God. We commit sins every day, so we **repeatedly confess** them. It is that we confess.

Then, when we confess our sins according to the Scripture, how does God answer us?

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

⇒ Now, the forgiveness of our sins come to be realized.

It is the forgiveness of sins that only God can give. Some of you may doubt that you can be forgiven by such a simple way. But it is true. You are forgiven, because God has authority to give people forgiveness.

2) God's authority

God had authority to forgive based on His righteousness.

The Bible records as below,

① **Romans 3:25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.**

God had passed over former sins in his forbearance; however, the days of the Old Testament are over. The reason was that Jesus Christ came to this world and the true sacrifice was offered. If we believe in Jesus as Christ, we are forgiven by the authority of God.

The Bible records as below,

② **Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

"As far as the east is from the west" means that God removes our sins so far from us, so that we never meet them.

③ **Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.**

God blots our sins with a thick cloud.

④ **Jeremiah 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the**

least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

God promised that he would remember their sin no more.

Like this, God completed the path of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was God's master plan for salvation.

Those who confessed their sin before God are not asked about their responsibility, because the perfect forgiveness of sin was fulfilled. How happy we are!

3) A position of Christians

John as a Jew must have often remembered the day of redemption. On that day, a high priest entered into the Holy of Holies. God's glory on earth was shining in the room of the cherubim. He was walking back and forth in the light before the Ark of the Covenant.

When he came into the Holy of Holies, he should not be careless or indifferent. The high priest stands before God in the Holy of Holies. It really means to walk in the light. Just one person was allowed once a year to come before God on **the day of redemption**.

Nowadays every child of God can come to before God and walk in the most holy light. They share the light of God's throne together.

The Israelites once left Egypt and traveled in the wilderness. At that time, God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They are children of God, who walk led by the light. John stresses the point of the light.

Jesus said,

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The Bible teaches our position below,

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

How blessed we are! Those who are worthless before God are loved by Him. On top of that, we are cleansed of all unrighteousness by repenting of our sins. It is God's grace and blessing.

Conclusion

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—Against Sins—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. John took on the problem of **sin**. There are two kinds of **attitudes that we must not take, and we should take**. He taught the blessed position of people who are forgiven sins by the blood of Christ.

1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God, who has authority, saves us just we believe in Jesus and confess Him as Christ (the Savior) and makes us children of God.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

My friends, what attitudes do we take before God? Let us walk this week with the appropriate attitude as the ones who are given God's grace.

* God bless you!