

March 20, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Life Where Treasure is Found"
—Where Can We Find the Treasure? —

Text: Colossians 2:3

2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Introduction

Spring is just around the corner. How have you been lately ?

We sometimes say that someone has a cheerful personality, or that they have a gloomy personality. The recent medical research proves that there is a connection between human hearts and light.

{Illustration}

Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, etc.) near the North Pole have a season of the midnight sun in the summertime and it hardly gets dark. On the other hand, the duration of sunshine becomes extremely short in the wintertime. In Finland, the duration of sunshine has changed recently because of global warming.

It is said that the duration of sunshine in the wintertime is for 5~6 hours on average. However, it is not like a brilliant sunny morning. It is like the dim light of a Japanese evening when the sun is setting to the west.

Depending on the year, but the duration of sunshine seems to be less than half than in ordinary years (a few years). Please imagine how it is in the wintertime.

It is regrettable that people who become depressed are increasing in such countries. It is called seasonal affective disorder (winter depression). However, those who have seasonal affective disorder get well with a simple treatment. It is called "resort therapy" where the patient spends time in countries that have lot of sunshine like Spain, and South Europe.

People who have seasonal affective disorder are healed by exposure to sunshine. It means that the human body and the condition of our hearts are related to light.

Professor Toshihiko Kinoshita of Kansai Medical University studied the field from a medical view. He says, “When a human being is bathed in the light, his body secretes serotonin (hormone), a substance in the brain, which gives energy to his body and heart.”

It is natural that good health is very important to us. It is the most precious treasure, isn't it? If we are fine, we can do anything we like. Yes, good health is a treasure, indeed. Good health mainly means physical health and mental health. Now, mental health is a serious problem under the corona disaster. Many become mentally ill and feel pain in their hearts, and they are mentally exhausted, and finally they develop a mental disorder. It is regrettable that there are many people who become sick. Then, what should we do to live a healthy life?

Jesus Christ said, “I am the light of the world.” The light refers the source of the light (phos). Bathing the light of phos that is the source of light is connected to good health. Therefore, having fellowship with the One of the light makes our hearts fine and energetic.

When we come to church and worship and praise God, and also bathe in God's word, we have energy in our hearts. The reason is that we meet, is to see the One who is the light.

Let us consider two points about our lives according to the today's text of the Bible. The title of the message is The Life Where Treasure is Found.

Main Points

1. The Bible is a Treasure

1) The Bible

① The Bible is very strange and curious book. It consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. It records the days before the birth of Jesus Christ (BC) and the days after Jesus was born (AD). The former record is the Old Testament, and the latter is the New Testament.

My friends, the birth of Jesus Christ divided world history. Don't you think it

strange?

The reason is that He is the One (Jesus Christ) who is good enough to divide the world in two. How much do we understand about the One who divides the world in two? You should know Him, or you may suffer great losses. It is such a great matter to know Jesus Christ.

② Then, how do you get the content of the Bible? Every book has a great purpose and meaning. The Bible writes about Jesus Christ (the purpose).

In the days before Jesus (BC), the Bible was written by putting Jesus Christ as the One in future. It is the Old Testament. When the days of Jesus (AD) started, the Bible was written by looking back at Jesus Christ's life. It is the New Testament. Therefore, Jesus Christ is in both the Old and New Testament, and He is the central figure. The Bible teaches that all things are hidden in Jesus Christ, the central figure.

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2) Wisdom and Knowledge

As the Scripture records, wisdom and knowledge are great advantages for people to lead lives. They are **treasure** for us. The treasure is the most important and precious thing. God plans to give this **treasure** to us. How wonderful! It can be said that the lives of people who believe in God are lives of those seeking **the treasure of wisdom and knowledge**.

Let us study the definition of wisdom and knowledge from the Bible.

Wisdom: It is given by God, the Creator in heaven (a heavenly level)

Knowledge: It is the living testimony of forerunners (history), not academic knowledge.

The Bible consists of 66 books. The treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden there.

The Epistle to the Romans in the New Testament records as below,

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

3) Education Based on the Bible

By the way, it is important to know that in the Bible, God chose one tribe (the Jewish people) since before God has created the heavens and the earth. And God reveals various plans through fellowship with the Jewish people. The Old Testament records them.

The scripture of Judaism is the Old Testament, especially first 5 books (from Genesis to Deuteronomy). Jewish people give education to their children from these five books. They educate theology, mathematics, literature, science, psychology, sociology, philosophy, law, politics, economics, and other many fields based on the Old Testament.

Recently, Jewish education has attracted world's attention. For example, Israel, which is a small country in the Middle East, has the most advanced computers and AI even under the coronavirus disaster. It is an obvious fact that Israel produced the more Nobel Prize winners than any other nation. Why are they so excellent?

The reason is that their starting point is the Old Testament. The treasure of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in the Bible. This may be a little off topic but, the Japanese business world and researchers have taken a keen interest in Israel (the Jewish people). Seminars and lecture meetings are actively conducted in various parts in Japan. Why?

“Jewish people are good at creating from zero to one. On the other hand, Japanese people good at creating from one to ten.” They think if Jewish people and Japanese people team up together, they expect a big achievement in the business world and other areas of study.

It is correct that the Jewish people are very creative and can be leaders of the world. This is probably because their education is rooted in the Old Testament.

By the way, it is said that the epistle to the Colossians was written in from 59BC to 62BC. In those days, Paul was imprisoned in Rome because he preached Jesus Christ. Gnosticism, which was a false teaching and philosophy and also the ascetic ideology came into the church of the Colossians.

The believers of the Colossian church were seriously influenced. Some believers

became unstable in faith. Then immoral believers appeared. Therefore, Paul sent the epistle to the believers under such a circumstance.

Paul records as below,

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4) The Incomparable Nation

Then, let us think more about the root of **the treasure**.

There is a **saying** in Judaism, "You cannot pick up truth without bending your knees." It teaches that he cannot learn anything without being humble.

On the other hand, Japanese are also diligent and have a desire to improve themselves. However, there is a significant difference between them.

It is that Jewish people keep **the Sabbath** which is incomparable in the world. The Sabbath is a holiday that God decided. God created a week that consists of seven days and made Saturday the last day the Sabbath (Shabbat).

Genesis records as below,

2:2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Exodus Chapter 20 records,

20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

It is the Sabbath that the Bible teaches. By the way, when we have a holiday, we want to relieve fatigue and stress and refresh ourselves. Then, we often **go out** to play golf or take a trip.

On the other hand, the Sabbath, Jewish holiday is quite contrary. It is the day to stay home with their family. It is the day that they stay with themselves more than anything else. The holiday is time to quietly reflect on themselves. One of secrets of worship is hidden there. It is time to look inside and reflect on themselves.

There are many other religions that teach to face themselves. For example, believers of Buddhism sit Zen in **meditation**. However, it is only God of the Bible

who created **Shabbat** (the Sabbath), the special day. God teaches His real intention of the Shabbat through Israelites.

Even in Israel today, all means of transportation stay stopped through the Sabbath because it is prohibited to do any labor. The orthodox Judaists hardly cook, work in the field or do their work.

Then, what is the Sabbath like? It is **the holy day**.

Holy: *hagiazō* (Greek) is God's nature. It means perfect holiness without any stain or blemish, and to this nothing can be compared.

It is holiness that reveals God's sacredness in God's glory. God teaches that they should keep the Sabbath as the holy day.

Therefore, the Sabbath is very significant day for them.

① **The Sabbath is the day of liberation.**

The Sabbath is the day that they are made free from labor, not the day of a restriction. It is the day of **the Sabbath for the heart** that people are made free.

An economist says, "If they carefully take a holiday with enough intervals, they really increase productivity."

② **The Sabbath is the day of joy.**

It is the day to rejoice by looking at nature, the things that God created. On top of that, it is the day to remember God who created me, the only person in the world. It is the day to love God who loves us.

③ **The Sabbath is the day of victory.**

Jesus said,

16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Like this, the people who keep the Sabbath are quite different from the ones who do not keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath is the day to take a rest and consider ourselves before God. This is the difference between those who believe in God and those who do not believe in God. They attract world's attention even though they take a rest on the Sabbath.

My friends, now you may understand. They have the Bible that is the treasure.

Their treasure hunting starts with the Shabbat. Because they meet God there.
Without encountering, without finding!
The Shabbat gives opportunity to meet God. We should understand this point.

Let us open Isaiah, Chapter 42,

42:6 “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

Let us study further.

2. A Life Where Treasure is Found

1) A woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

The Bible records people who met Jesus Christ. One of them is a poor woman who had been bleeding for twelve years.

The Gospel of Luke records as below,

Luke 8:43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.

8:44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

8:45 And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!”

8:46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.”

8:47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.

8:48 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

She had a discharge of precious blood for a long time. The disease had a special meaning in the Jewish society.

- ① Immorality (uncleanness)
- ② The consequence of one’s sin
- ③ Being discriminated by one’s society

2) The behavior of the woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve

years 12

She had no one to depend on. She was completely deserted. However, we can study from her.

① She She touched the fringe of Jesus' garment and told Him the truth. Then, she began to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

② She trusted in Jesus.

Then, Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well (be saved)." (8:48)
She was saved.

Then, what saved her? ⇒ Why did she want to touch **the fringe of Jesus' garment**. And why did the act of touching **the fringe of Jesus' garment** cause her to be saved. What does it mean?

Tassels on garments ⇒ It means a sign of consecration.

Numbers record as below,

Numbers 15:37 The LORD said to Moses,

15:38 "Speak to the people of Israel and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner.

15:39 And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.

15:40 So you shall remember and do all my commandments and be holy to your God.

Touching **the fringe of the garment** means touching the Holy One. Her health meant everything to her. She trusted (had faith) that if she touched Jesus, her disease would be healed.

She got **the treasure** which was health. ⇒ She touched Jesus with faith (a real experience). Because,

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The most precious treasure for her was her health.

What about you? How can we find the treasure?

First of all, we should know Jesus Christ who gives us the treasure.

1. First, we should know the Bible. Then, we start finding the treasure.

2. Then, we should touch Jesus Christ (to meet Him). It is the goal of life is to find **the treasure**. Concretely, we read the Bible and come to understand Jesus Christ, the center of the Bible.

Jesus Christ who is the center of the Bible is the amazing One. Let us have a **positive** attitude (faith) even in the coronavirus pandemic. Let us touch Jesus Christ who is the treasure

Conclusion

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—Where Can We Find the Treasure? —

Those who were cleansed of their sins and saved by Jesus Christ become children of God. How blessed we are! We are not excellent or competent. We have nothing to boast before God the Creator.

However, we start **finding the treasure** by opening the Bible and reading it. And we are given the true treasure.

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

How about today' message? Why don't you start **finding the treasure**?

* God bless you!