

May 27, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Are God's Commandments Burdensome for You?"

—God's Love—

Text: 1John: 2:3~6

2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

2:4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Introduction

John, an apostle, taught in his first epistle of John, chapter 1, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." And he preached the good news (the Gospel) that the blood on the cross of Jesus Christ, the son of God, gives forgiveness of sins.

Those who are forgiven by the blood of Jesus are true Christians. They are **people who walk in the light**.

John teaches in today's text to keep God's commandments. In verses 3~6, it is written **to keep his commandments, to keep his word, and to walk in the same way in which He walked**. They mean all the same things. This is the attitude that a Christian should have.

Those who are not like them are liars who have no consistency between their speech and their lives.

John record such people as below,

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

Yes, they are liars. We must not be like them.

My friends, we are created to be God's children by the precious blood of Christ. We became God's children, so we inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

➔ We are true Christians. Then, what are true Christians like?

They are people who live wisely, and the commandments of God are not a burden for them. **The commandments** that appear here mean **statutes** or **precepts**. Is there any life where the commandments of God are not a burden?

John teaches the blessed life today by the following two points.

Main Points

1. The Christian Life

The Bible teaches that man has **an outer self** and **an inner self**. The outer self is the part that everyone can see. People cannot see the inner self. A human heart is in inside of people and their conscience is there. On the other hand, the outer self is gets older as time goes on.

2 Corinthians,4:16 records as below,

4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Keeping God's commandment that John taught relates to the part of one's inner self.

1) **The inner self who does not keep the God's commandments**

He who does not keep God's commandments is like the one who goes to church but his inner part does not change. The word of God gives him pain. It is not easy for him to go to church on Sunday, the first day of the week.

He cannot do whatever he wants to do or live a day even though it is Sunday. He has no free time to do what he wants. Many people think that they will become happy when they find a way to live lives as who they are. If there is no God, it may be fun to live a self-centered life. However, it is obvious what happens to those who live by their own desires.

If they live by their own desires, it definitely leads to serious confusion. This world shows that, doesn't it? There are people who lead lives with their own way of thinking (ideas, ideology) without God and they come in conflict with people who have different ideas. The world is truly full of turmoil, and its root is that people stray away from God, insist on their own idea, and never accept other people and

their thoughts.

Looking at small examples, there are troubles between friends, married couples, and in families. The bigger problems are battles between races and nations. The world history is a series of wars. Are there any completely peaceful times without war in the history of mankind?

Let us be calm and think and we come to understand that people are controlled like slaves, influenced and brainwashed by their own thought.

Jesus said that the following things will occur as the sign of the last day as below,
Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

If we do not keep God's commandments, order will come to collapse (the natural environment, human relationships, races, nations). It is already happening, and it is really frightening.

2) The inner self who keeps God's commandments

However, if someone who really meets Jesus Christ, their inner self is changed by His blood on the cross even if they do not keep God's commandments. He, who lived an ignorant way of life before he met Jesus Christ, has his inner self changed by the blood of Christ on the cross.

God's commandments and His word becomes a joy him. God's word becomes a light that lights up his path and it becomes the criteria to judge good or evil. He comes to think his pleasure and selfishness are most disgusting. It is God's work in him.

And he will want to follow the word that God speaks to him. The word comes to control his whole life. Then, his inner self changes.

John said as below,

5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

119:162 I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

119:92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

119:16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Therefore, the lives of our inner selves reveal our true natures.

From that point of that view, human beings are firstly given the grace of salvation of souls through the cross of Jesus Christ. However, it is not merely salvation of souls, but it is the starting point of Christian lives.

The grace that is continually given is the growing of our inner beings by receiving God's blessing. It is the fact that **the Kingdom of Heaven** is realized through our Christian lives. Our outer beings are getting old but on the contrary our inner beings become more glorious by receiving energy. The real Christians are those who grow from glory to glory by receiving God's blessing.

Jesus taught growing of the inner self through the parable.

Matthew 7:24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus taught this very important thing that those who hear His words and do them are like the wise man who built his house on the rock.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

1:24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

1:25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

He who lives the Christian life is like the man who built his house on the rock.

2. The Christian Life that Reveals God's Love

2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1) Keeping God's Word

When we walk by keeping God's word, He sees that in us **truly the love of God is perfected**. God is very much pleased with it. Those who did not know God's love (*agape* love) were saved by His love and He begins the renewing of their inner selves.

John records as below,

4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

By receiving God's love, the nature of our inner selves is changed into lives that keep God's word. Then, **in him truly the love of God is perfected**. It means that we will achieve God's purpose. If only a part (for example, the knowledge and feelings) of our inner selves changes, God's love stops pouring before completing the goal.

God wants us to complete His love in us. It is achieved by keeping God's word. If we continue to keep God's word, God's love in us eventually achieves.

What we should do is to continue to keep God's word. However, the problem is we cannot always keep God's word. Then, what does it mean to keep God's word?

2) Following the Example of Jesus Christ

John records as below,

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

As we are flesh, we don't have confidence that we can put God's *agape* love into practice. It is impossible. However, Christians are made to change to do *agape* love by help of the Holy Spirit. How blessed we are! These are real Christians.

John records,

2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Those who believe in God and have fellowship with Him should follow Jesus Christ

the master. Jesus walked in the same way in this world as a human except for committing sins. He experienced weakness and troubles. He shed tears and felt sorrow and pain.

Jesus Christ is God who came to this world as an appearance of human being.

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’?”

The Epistle to the Hebrews records as below,

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus is the real example for us.

1 Peter 2:21 21For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

The Bible teaches us as below,

Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Conclusion

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The Lord spoke to us this morning. How should we live, we who believe in the living God? We should live like the wise man who builds his house on the rock as Jesus taught.

Practically, what should we do? The Scripture records as below,

2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

It is very important to keep God’s word so that it does not become a burden. Jesus Christ took everything for us on His cross. Those who accept the cross of Jesus Christ are changed into people and their inner selves are reborn.

* God bless you!