

April 24, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service (Open Church Worship Service)

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "The Word that You Can Absolutely Trust In"

—Crisis Management—

Text: John 14:1~6

14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

14:4 And you know the way to where I am going."

14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Introduction

We welcome all of you who came to join us in **the Open Church Worship Service** today.

We sometimes face a crisis in our lives. When an unexpected event occurs, we feel really disturbed. For example, Japan is called a country with frequent earthquakes.

Recently, seismology has developed considerably, and we can forecast the occurrence of an earthquake just before it happens. However, it is impossible to know when it will happen weeks or months in advance. It is a sudden event.

I have experienced an unforgettable earthquake.

It was about 5 years ago (July 18, 2018) that the **2018 Osaka Earthquake** occurred. It occurred before 8:00 am. The meteorological agency reported a magnitude of 6.1. I was on my way back to Osaka after serving at Yonago Christian Church in Tottori Prefecture. I first heard the news of the **2018 Osaka Earthquake** on the car radio. When I took the expressway and arrived at my home in the

evening. I found out that the elevator to our apartment stopped due to the earthquake.

We were living on the fifteenth floor of the apartment building. I had no choice but to go up the stairs to the fifteenth floor. On top of that, we had a lot of luggage at that time. I went up the stairs and got short of breath and I was sweating. I remember well how I was exhausted. It was a really hard day. Earthquakes occur unpredictably.

We sometime face unexpected events in our lives.

How about your life? There are things that we are able to avoid and those that are unavoidable. What do you do if you can't avoid a problem? Jesus Christ said,

(The Bible) John 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

The Scripture above teaches that we can overcome a crisis even though we cannot avoid it.

There are people who experienced a critical situation and are overwhelmed by suffering. On the other hand, there are people who keep living even though they face suffering. We are allowed to live only once, and our lives are very precious. We should not live our precious lives and be overwhelmed by suffering.

The Bible teaches that God the Creator wants us to live without being overwhelmed. He wants us to live lives with hope and purposes.

By the way, do you know the word **absolute**? There may have been a case where you put your trust in a person, but you later realize that they were not what they seemed. If you think about it, we come to know that we should not use the word **absolute about a person**, because there is no **absoluteness** for human beings.

Only God the Creator can use the word **absolute**.

Jesus Christ said as below,

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

My friends, what a bold and over-estimated remark. However, if His word is true, what a powerful word it is.

Let us study the following three points from His powerful word.

Main Points

1. Jesus Said, "I Am the Way."

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1) **He who strays down the wrong path**

Many people are seeking the way to live. There are people who achieve success in business and sports. On the other hand, there are people who are sick, have problems and are struggling. All of them are seeking the way, aren't they?

Therefore, many people believe in many religions for help and practice a doctrine, do religious services and work hard. How far should they go to be satisfied and finally feel fulfilled?

There is an expression of **straying down the wrong path**. It originally means, the path that we should not go as human beings. This path should not happen, and it should not be allowed. **Straying down the wrong path** means to live such a life.

When people go to the wrong way, a signal is sent. ➔ It is a pang of **conscience**. The conscience is in people's hearts. When they **go astray**, their consciences have a pang and send out a warning to them. Therefore, they always get the signal and receive the warning when they **go to the wrong way**.

On the other hand, people who follow their consciences are called **a man or woman of conscience**. The conscience is the precious barometer of our lives.

2) **Those who follow their conscience**

Do you know what the Bible teaches about us?

The Bible teaches that we humans consist of three things as below:

- ① Body (the physical body)
- ② Heart or soul (conscious, conscience, feeling, intention, personality, etc.).
- ③ Spirit (an organ that can have fellowship with God the Creator)

The thing we now study is the conscience that is in our hearts. God the Creator gives this to human hearts.

{Illustration}

It was a very mysterious incident that occurred eleven years ago (July 8, 2011). There was a Dutchwoman activist whose name was Weiser. She resisted the German Nazis in the days of under the Nazi regime. In those days, there was a rumor that a businessman whose name was Currie had worked with the German Nazis. Weiser became furious at Currie. In those days, the resistance movement against the Nazis was very active.

Finally, the war ended, and Currie was arrested and was put on trial. However, Weiser did not think he was punished correctly. Then, she killed him **in the name of justice** on March 1, 1946. She was the activist who had a violent temper.

However, Currie's true deeds became clear after his death. He did not work with Nazis, but he protected Jewish people and secretly gave them food and other things.

When Weiser realized the true story, she was already 96 years old. She was quite upset and regretted and confessed her terrible mistake. She also apologized to Currie's children and grandchildren.

When she realized the true fact that she mistakenly killed the right person, she was condemned for her mistake. She had **a conscience**. Her conscience gave a warning when she went astray.

Straying down the wrong way is a very regrettable deed. Humans should walk **the way of the truth**.

Jesus Christ said, "**I am the way.**" And He also said,

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 4:14

The way to follow Jesus is the way that changes regular people into blessed people, because they become **people who follow their conscience**. They also become people who are loved by other people.

It is the correct (true) way. Let us study the second point.

2. Jesus Said, "I Am the Truth."

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1) The truth is the absolute standard.

The truth refers to justice. It also means fairness. The truth is the absolute standard. There is no absolute right in this world today because human teachings are always changing. Many people live by thinking that they are all right. However, we can hardly find any certain, absolute and trustworthy things in this society.

Jesus called Himself **the truth** and it is the standard and the example, and He is immovable. Is there anything like this around us?

Ideologies and thoughts are changing with history. Dictators of the world believe their own ideologies and fight for pursuing their ideals. As a result, those who do not follow them suffer.

There are countless religions in this world. There are religions in undeveloped nations. There are objects of worship in the developed nations. People are seeking the way, but they cannot find the way of the truth. Jesus said, **"I am the truth."** The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the truth.

{illustration}

I heard a story like this. A certain Christian said to a pastor after worship, "Pastor, God's word is true." The pastor asked, "Why is it true?"

"Due to aging, I often think of this and that and shed tears at night. When I felt pain in my heart, I prayed to God as you said, 'I win a peace because You are with me.' Then, my heart was deeply moved and filled with God's comfort."

2) The truth gives peace.

When you think this and that at night and come to the morning with complicated problem, you may fall into disorder. You should wake up early in the morning, go into your quiet room and speak every trouble to God. Then, your unclean thoughts and wrong ideas are screened and finally only the sound thoughts come to remain.

God listens to the prayer of people who humbly kneel down before Him. He gives

them amazing comfort and grace. We come to learn the following things.

We can pray about every thought and worry to God as below,

- ① Hatred changes into thanks.
- ② Anxiety changes into praise.

My dear friends, we should think. We should think but we should not worry. We should believe in God and think. God is the One of truth, therefore we should believe in Him.

Jesus Christ said, **"I am the truth."**

3. Jesus Said, "I Am the Life."

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1) Crisis Management

Life is the root of human beings. It is said that we live in times of crisis. Unpredictable and unreasonable international situations and national disasters caused by extreme weather occur. People always feel anxious. Young people cannot hope for an optimistic life in the future. They feel fear in life. (The more one is serious, the more the problem becomes serious.) The problem becomes serious when they think about their future lives.

It is **crisis management abilities** that they need in this time and age. Looking back into history, there were no great leaders who did not experience crises and mistakes in their lives. However, they overcame them and became experienced people.

Then, how should we overcome crises? How can we improve our **crisis management abilities**? There are two points as below:

① We should change our point of view.

People sometimes begin to lose their minds when they are at the center of crises. Some begin to panic. The important thing is to turn their eyes at **God the Creator**, not **crises**. We should ask God for help. God can overcome problems that humans cannot solve.

② We should control our hearts.

Crisis management abilities are to control our heart more than anything. If your heart becomes weak and feel uncertain, you cannot judge things correctly.

The Bible teaches that it is important to control hearts.

Proverb 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Crisis management abilities rely on God more than anything and ask Him for help. We should trust in God and rely on Him who changes all things into good for us.

Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

'Whose mind is stayed' means the steadfast attitude under any circumstance that trusts in God and relies on Him. God gives peace to such people.

Therefore, he who trusts in God has peace in him under any critical storm, even though the gale lashes the sea into fury, the bottom of the sea is always quiet. It is God's blessing that He has given.

2) Why did Jesus Christ come to this world?

- ① He came to change our viewpoint of life
- ② He came to free our minds

According to Japanese well known dictionary called Koujien, keeping peace in mind means to control a certain region as its leader and win the people's minds. Jesus came to this world to **free our minds**.

Human beings cannot control their minds by themselves because they have a strong part of ego (self) in their mind. They are also very weak and commit sins. Jesus took our weakness and crucified. He defeated death and resurrected. He is the winner.

Jesus said **clearly, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

God forgives our sins and saves us only by faith in Christ. Jesus is God and has authority in His **word**. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are saved.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "The Word that You Can Absolutely Trust In"

—Crisis Management—

This morning God spoke to us. The current situation of the world is really critical and chaotic. How should we live in the days of uncertainty?

Jesus Christ said,

14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We cannot say the word **absolute** in human society. However, the word that God, who created the world, spoke (the Bible) has authority.

Jesus Christ said,

14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

How about today’s message? Would you like entrust your life to Jesus Christ and lead the blessed life?

* God bless you!