

May 8, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: Let Us Confirm What is True  
— The Word of God —

Text: 1 John 2:12~14

**2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.**

**2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.**

**2:14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

#### Introduction

Good morning, everybody!

My friends, let me ask you. **Are you a coffee person or a tea person?**

There are cafes and coffee shops all around us. However, I have never heard of tea shops. I think it is something strange.

By the way, when we think of tea, we often think of England. England is **a country of tea**. I have a wonderful memory of England. When I went to London for the first time, I stayed at the house of my English friend.

His mother asked me what time she should prepare **an early morning tea**. It is a cup of tea in the morning that they have when they wake up. I asked her to have the tea at 8 o'clock.

The next morning, she knocked at the door and said, “Good morning.” And she brought the tea on a tray to me in bed. I was very surprised to receive the **early morning tea**. It is an old custom in England.

While I was sipping the British milk tea in bed, I woke up clearly and felt comfortable. It is the custom in England that they have a cup of tea and change clothes and go for work. **The early morning tea** was really effective.

My friends, we can't say this custom is good or bad. It is their own custom. When we go abroad, we should change our point of view.

We also need to change our point of view so that we can look at our Christian lives through God's eyes and look again at the value of the treasure that we are given.

Like this, let us look again at ourselves according to today's message and study the following two points this morning.

#### Main Points

### **1. Calling with Love**

#### 1) Little children

**2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.**

The expression, **little children**, appears a few times and it probably is the calling of the readers of the epistle. According to one theory, John, the author, may be almost 100 years old at that time. The readers were just like his children

First of all, John wanted to conform this essential fact **“Your sins have been forgiven.”**

The words above are the foundation of the whole Christian life. On top of that, the forgiveness of sin is not given by our efforts nor decision. We are forgiven **on account of his name**. We are forgiven by trusting in the name of the Lord Jesus

Christ who was crucified and rose again on the third day. Those who are forgiven by Christ are the real children of God.

## 2) Fathers

**2:13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.**

In verse 13, two expressions appear, *fathers* and *young men*. John probably divided Christians according to two age groups.

**Fathers** come to know he who is from the beginning. He who is from the beginning is Jesus Christ, who is God.

1 John, Chapter 1:1 records as below,

**1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.**

The elderly people have the faith in the One whom they should understand. Their faith is not a superficial one. Therefore, it is natural to respect our elderly people.

**Proverb 16:31 Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.**

## 3) Young men

**2: 13 I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.**

**Young men** have the amazing experience in faith. They have overcome the evil one (Satan). They realized that Christ was alive and worked in them.

Proverb records as below,

**Proverb 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.**

John came to understand God's authority through his long life.

He records in 1 John, chapter 5 as below,

**5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he**

who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

John said these things, therefore, both the elderly people who are called fathers and young men have overcome the evil one remembers the fact.

## **2. Calling to All Members**

**2:14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

The content of verse 14 is almost same as verses 12 and 13. John called them dear children once again as well as fathers and young men. He encouraged them to remember when they lived in the word of God and overcame the evil one.

It is probable that John repeated the same thing to stress this point.

### **4) Key words**

The important thing here are the key words, **“the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”**

It means that the secret to overcoming the evil one (Satan) is hidden in the word of God.

We understand it clearly from the beginning of Jesus' public life. He was tempted three times by Satan in the wilderness. Satan cleverly tested Jesus.

Matthew, chapter 4 records the three trials as below,

**4:2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”**

**4:4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

**4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.**

**4:6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”**

**4:7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

**4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.**

**4:9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”**

**4:10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”**

Jesus was tempted in the beginning of His public life, and He won the victory by the words of the Bible (the Old testament). Then, **why** did Jesus win the victory by the words of the Bible?

⇒ The reason of His victory is that the word of the Bible is God’s word, and His’ authority is hidden in it.

The Psalm records as below,

**119:11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

It means that the key words that John records here are, **to live in the word of God**. When we live in the word of God, we become strong people.

Young people who have not read the word of God are inexperienced and reckless. They will soon be overcome by temptation and hardship.

John said,

**2:14 and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

They were the brave men who have overcome the evil one.

Paul records the authority of the word of God as below,

**1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are**

**perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

## 2) Knowing the point in common

We should carefully understand the following point that John wrote to them in the past tense.

Verse 12: Sins have been forgiven

Verse 13: You know him.

You have overcome the evil one.

Verse 14: You know him.

You have overcome the evil one.

**It means that the readers have experienced these things. John encouraged them to remember this fact.**

Do you have any experience like them? Have you ever experienced the authority of the word of God? Have you ever really experienced the word of the Bible?

John encouraged them to remember these things.

### Conclusion

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The Lord spoke to us this morning. How should we live in the chaotic and super busy society? Some of you may say, "Every day is an uphill battle."

How can we have the secret to win the victory in such social circumstances?

John encourages the readers of the epistle as below,

**2:14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.**

The secret to win the victory is hidden in the word of God. John encourages **us** to remember the fact that the word of God has His authority, **even though we have many** trials

**1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

\* God bless you!