

July 3, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Abide in Christ"

— In the Grace of the Lord —

Text: 1John 2: 26~29

2:26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

2:27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

Last time we studied the way of our Christian lives in the Kingdom of God through the sermon entitled, Abide in the Truth.

In the days of the early church, the saints who believed in Jesus as Christ faced various struggles. They had trouble, hardship, temptation, and heretical teachings that made the believers doubt their faith. However, Christians can faithfully live even in such a society.

The saints who believe in Jesus as Christ are given eternal life despite how strong the antichrist and the heretical teaching are. Therefore, it is very important to abide in the first faith.

John says as below,

2:24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

Let us continue studying his teaching today according the following two points.

Main Points

1. **Who Is Jesus Christ?**

2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

The verse above records if they abide in Christ, they do not shrink from Him in shame at His Second Coming. They have confidence and joy to meet the Lord.

What they need to do is to live righteously. Let us consider what **it means** to **abide in the Lord**, Jesus Christ.

1) **Jesus Christ**

The nature of Jesus Christ has various characteristics. Some of you already studied **these** but please listen to me again for reviewing.

① **Jesus is the eternal One.**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:3 records as below,

1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

The Bible records that Jesus was in the beginning before all things were made.

② **Jesus has nature of God and of man.**

Romans 1:3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh.

1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

He is the One who has two natures in Him at the same time. **This is very difficult for us to imagine.**

Let me show you an example. I am **a man** whose name is Teiichiro Kuroda. And I am **a husband** for my wife, and I am also **a father** to my children. I have these

three natures, but I am still the same Teiichro Kuroda.

Therefore, it is not strange that Jesus Christ is the One who has two natures, a **human** and **God**. Jesus has two natures, a human and God.

One day, Jesus was tired and took a rest.

John 4:6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

It is Jesus as a human.

On the other hand, Jesus performed various signs and miraculous deeds. He healed the sick by **His words**. He made the dead alive. **It is Jesus as God.**

One day, He healed a man who was born blind. The blind man who was asked by people answered as below,

John 9:25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

It is the sign that reveals the nature of Jesus who is the Son of God. On top of that, the Bible records that Jesus healed many people and did miracles and signs.

③ **Jesus was the One who committed no sin.**

John 2:20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

The temple refers to the second temple that was built in Jerusalem. The temple is **a holy** place where people come to before God and worship Him. Jesus said He was holy by assuming **Himself** as the temple. In other words, He is the **holy** One without sin.

1Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

③ **The death of Jesus is incomparable.**

If Jesus is like the One (the One **who is** eternal, the One who has nature of a human and of God, the One of without sin), He did not need to die. Nevertheless, He was crucified and died.

The Bible asserts that death came from sin.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death.

Then, why did Jesus die? (It is very important point.)

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Scripture **that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life** is absolutely true.

④ **Jesus is the One who was resurrected and ascended into Heaven.**

The Bible records that Jesus Christ resurrected.

Luke 24:3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

24:4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

24:5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?

24:6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

24:7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

24:8 And they remembered his words,

24:9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

The Bible also records that Jesus ascended into Heaven.

Acts 1:9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

1:10:And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

The Bible continues that Jesus will come again.

1:11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

On top of that, there are other characteristics of Jesus Christ, and the Bible says that it cannot record all of them. Jesus Christ is just like this One. If we abide in Him, we are able to keep the correct confession of faith.

2. Abide in Jesus Christ

2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

John who wrote the epistle recorded the speech and behavior of Jesus Christ in detail in his former book, the Gospel according to John. One of speeches of Jesus during His public life is recorded in John 15:5 as below,

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

We often hear **this** Scripture and some of you remember it. The important point of the parable is **the connection of the tree and branches**. Being connected is to **abide** in.

Let us study the following three points.

1) **He who abides in Christ**

Jesus said,

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit

The teaching is really reasonable. Anyone can understand it. Then, what does it **really mean to our** Christian lives?

Does it mean to join the Sunday worship every week? **It may mean this.**

Does it mean to usually serve the church and do monetary offering? **It may mean this.**

Does it mean to visit the weak members of the church and help them? **It may mean this.**

They are the precious testimonies that **appear to us**. However, the Bible teaches those outside things come from inside. Therefore, **it matters** whether our **souls** as the **branches** connect to Jesus Christ as the tree or not.

Then, how can we know whether **we are connected** or not? We are able to know by **the fruit** that come from Jesus.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Bible calls them the fruit of the Spirit. We are not born with them. They are only the gifts that are given as His grace to those who believe in God. Therefore,

they are not the fruit of our **own efforts**. They are only the gifts from the Lord as His blessing. The Scripture teaches further.

2) Those who do not abide in Christ

John 15:6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

This is **a** very **strict** word. The Christian church has preached God's love. Yes, it is true that love is the most important thing and great thing. However, the truth is **also** something **strict**. The truth must eliminate what is **false** because of its nature. The nature of God is **holy** so that it must eliminate what **is** not holy.

However, it is all right. Jesus Christ said,

John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

15: 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

3) Those who abide in love of Christ

John 15:9As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

{Illustration} I have heard the following story.

In 2019, Becket Cook, an **ex-homosexual**, published a book entitled Change of Affection in America and **raised a** big discussion.

First of all, Mr. Cook records the details **of** how he became gay. The reason why he became gay **came from his childhood and family** and some disgusting incidents that happened to him. When he became a high school student, **he came to be no longer** interested in opposite sex but interested in men and started **dating them**. He lived with some of them and felt happy.

He also worked hard as a designer and came to **be in charge of** making film sets of Hollywood movies. He finally became a member of the celebrities.

He seemed to live productive days, however he always felt emptiness. He was seriously thinking, "Do I live a correct life?" One day, he saw a certain Christian group at a coffee shop in **Los Angeles**.

They came to the coffee shop to pray. He saw them praying and reading the Bible. He spoke to a man who looked to be their leader (a pastor). He asked him, "What does the Bible record? What does the Bible speak about the problem of **being** gay?"

The pastor had a conversation with Mr. Cook for a while and told him to join the worship at the church. He joined the worship next week and had a dramatic experience **of meeting** Jesus. He was changed and became a completely different person.

Until then, he thought there was nothing he could do about being gay. **He thought it was because** of his genetic makeup. However, when he listened the word of the Bible, he completely understood that **homosexuality** was a sin before God. He felt deep sorrow and at the same time he was greatly impressed that he, who was a sinner, was forgiven by the cross. He couldn't stop shedding tears.

He thought that he didn't need to live with men **anymore**, because the Lord Jesus who was the amazing Savior with him.

2 Corinthians The Bible: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

John says in 1 John, Chapter 2 as below,

1John2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

It records that when Jesus comes in due time, **we** may **not shrink from him in shame**. It means that **we can** live righteously before the Lord.

John 2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

My friends! What kind of person **are we?** The Epistle to the Romans records as below:

Romans 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

The Scripture continues,

7:20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

7:21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

7:22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

7:23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Christians come to be able to live righteously only by the grace of God. It is only the blessing of God.

Conclusion

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— In the Grace of the Lord —

The Lord spoke to us through the word this morning. Let us give thanks to God. In the days of the early church, the church of Christ and Christians were severely attacked from both inside and outside. On top of that, **antichrists came about** so they were truly under confusion.

However, John the author of the epistle taught that those who abided in Christ Jesus won the complete victory even though they were under **difficult circumstances**.

The secret is hidden in the following Scripture.

2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Those who abide in Christ **are** those who receive the blessing of the Lord. How about today's sermon? Do we really abide in the vine tree in **the parable of the vine tree** that Jesus spoke **of**?

* God bless you!