

July 31, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "In Reality, They Are One Thing."

— Faith and the Way of Life —

Text: 1 John 3:3~7

3:3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

3:5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

Last time, we studied the privilege of those who trust in Jesus Christ.

3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Those who trust in Christ will become like Him. There is a saying, "We have so much in common." People who always spend time together naturally become similar. The weak should be affected by the strong.

The Bible teaches that those who are in Christ will have the absolute future(hope). It is the privilege that is given in love.

3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

John records the blessings and the privilege of those who trust in Jesus. We are really blessed in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we live in hope in Him.

Let us study the hope in Jesus from the Scripture according the following two points.

Main Points

1. Those Who Hope in Christ

3:3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1) The Purity of Christ

In whom do we trust every day? If we trust in humans, we will be disappointed some day, because humans are not perfect even though some may be respectable people. However, Jesus Christ is different. He is the perfect One.

If we have hope in Jesus Christ, our way of life comes to change. Then we come to crave for Christ's **purity**, which is one of His natures. We don't want to be pure compared to other people, but we want to be pure **as Christ is pure**.

We do not want to be compared with others and it means to want to **become pure** in a vertical relationship with God. It is quite a personal one. We are given fellowship with God. It is the quite a personal relationship. We are given the personal fellowship with God the Creator of the heavens and earth. How blessed we are! Those who have hope in Christ also crave to be cleansed like Jesus who is pure.

1) Christ is our Goal

Next, John taught that those who have hope in Christ are those who set Christ as their goal of life. It is very important to set a goal for their life. The goal of Christians is to not be as other humans who are imperfect, but Jesus Christ who is perfect.

They look Christ as their goal of life and want to become like Him.

John says as below,

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

Christ is our ultimate goal while we are being transformed.

3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

If it is so, we should hope to walk in this world like Christ.

2) Our Real Lives

However, what about our real lives? Those who have hope in Christ want to be pure like Christ and walk toward their goal, Christ. How about you? What do we crave for? Do we crave for joy? Don't we find a desire in us to be looked on as a spiritual person?

Or aren't we dissatisfied with ourselves who are not spiritual? What really occupies our heart?

Don't we think that we **are blessed** when we pray to God and He responds to it? Of course, it is a good experience, however it is a temporary one. Aren't you satisfied with it? The more important thing is to seek Christ's purity and walk as He walked. And it should be our goal.

Jesus wants us to receive His blessing (happiness).

Jesus said as below,

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

A **yoke** ⇒ Two cattle are put upon one **yoke**. The cattle should go the same direction. (It is important.)

The yoke with Jesus is very blessed one. We do not take the burden by ourselves. He said He already took **the yoke**. Those who take the yoke are those who trust in Jesus as the Savior. They are Christians.

Let us study another important point.

2. Faith and the Way of Life Are One Thing

1) Everyone who makes a practice of sinning

3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning means here to keep committing sins. It means the way and characteristics of their life moves in a certain direction. They **make a practice of lawlessness**. They went astray from the standard, the law that God has given.

They turn their back to God and ignore Him.

John records as below,

3:5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

Yes, indeed. The reason that Jesus came to this world is to take away sins. He came to forgive sin and cancel the punishment, and Christians should leave sins and live like Christ. There is no sin in Christ. He is the perfect One.

2) Those who Abide in Christ

Those who abide in Christ do not practice lawless. They do not keep on sinning.

3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

My friends, to keep on sinning and abiding in Christ are the quite opposite. It is impossible to balance them out. Therefore, John record in verse 6, **“No one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”**

We can check the way of life that appears out here. It reveals the nature in us and a relationship with God.

There are people who call themselves a Christian. They only think of things that are convenient to them. They change according to people, place, and time. Some of them don't mind visiting a temple and a shrine. They even practice divination.

John does not discuss these people. He speaks to people who have a relationship with the living God in the essential aspect. Their lives naturally come to change because they have met the true God and know Him.

3) Do not be deceived.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous

John said that whoever practices righteousness is righteous.

My friends, he who lives righteously is the righteous and he who lives evil is the evil. It is a simple rule, and everyone understands it.

The truth is that someone's inward nature and their outward lifestyle are the same. John taught them to understand it and to **let no one deceive you.**

There are temptations in this age like the days of John. There is a what we call a "gray zone." Gray is a neutral color between black and white. There are many cases like the gray zone in this world, however they must not happen before God. The gray zone cannot be reasoned before God, because God can see through all of lies deep in our heart.

One day, Jesus said,

Matthew 5:37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No;' anything more than this comes from evil.

If a man keeps on sinning, he cannot say that he knows Christ even though he says that he knows Christ and he calls himself a Christian. It all ends up as empty words.

John said that Christians seek the pure way of living.

3:3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

John continues that they do not keep on sinning.

3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning.

Those who live like this, they eventually become like Christ. It means that our faith and our Christian lives should not be different things. They appear out from the same person. The title of today's message is **"In Reality, They Are One Thing."** The faith and the way of life are one thing. How about today's message? Let us take time and consider the message before the Lord.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "In Reality, They Are One Thing."

— Faith and the Way of Life —

Our Lord spoke to us this morning. In reality, faith and the way of life is **one thing**. Even though our souls are saved by Jesus Christ our bodies have the nature of sin. Therefore, there are struggles within us. Then, what should we do? How can we become the victor in faith and the way of life?

It is important to walk by taking **the yoke** of Jesus Christ with Him.

Jesus said as below,

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

* God bless you!