

September 4, 2022
KIBC Sunday Worship Service
Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "God is Love (2)"
— A Barometer of Faith —

Text: 1John 3:13~15

3:13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

John encouraged the saints in the days of the early church to love one another. It is the natural way of life that those who are loved by God begin to love one another.

The nature of God is **love**. Therefore, it is important to the saints, who are saved by God, to love one another.

John said as below,

3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

We understand it, however, it is not easy to us who have flesh to love one another.

Last time, we studied from the story of Cain and Abel.

3:12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

We studied that we are able to practice a brotherly love (the secret) if we abide in

the light. As Jesus Christ said, **“I am the light of the world,”** He Himself is **the light**. Therefore, life with Jesus is the life in the light.

John describes those who receive the love of God in three facts in the latter part of the First Epistle of John, Chapter 3 (Verses 13~24) as below,

- ① The fact that they have passed out of death into life
- ② The fact that they come to know love
- ③ The fact that they are of the truth

Today, let us study ① the fact that they have passed out of death into life, according to the following two points.

Main Points

1. The Secret to Pass Out of Death and Into Life

3:13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

John records here, **“We know that we have passed out of death into life.”** Then, how can man acknowledge his existence?

{Illustration}

There was a famous NHK (Japan Broadcasting Cooperation) announcer named Kenji Suzuki. He was very good at speaking and had various and attractive manners of conversation. He wrote a book about the manners of speaking entitled, The Speaking Skills to Influence People.

Mr. Suzuki writes in his book, “Gossiping is Sutra chanting at the graveyard of life.” He says that most gossip is comparison between the speaker and another person. He says that human beings cannot acknowledge themselves without comparison to other people.

When people do not know God, they always compare themselves with other people. However, such comparison is a relative evaluation. They have a sense of superiority and a sense of inferiority according to their relative evaluation. Mr. Suzuki said, “Gossiping is Sutra chanting at the graveyard of life.”

Then, how about us, Christians? Should we also compare ourselves to other people and seek to live in a society that cares about what people think? No, not at all. We are made free from such a society.

We come to experience God's love. We come to experience how God is full of grace and love. We are changed into very blessed people.

One day, Jesus spoke the parable as below,

Matthew 18:23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

18:24When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

18:25And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

18:26So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

18:27And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

18:28But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

18:29So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

18:30He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

18:31When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

18:32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

18:34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

My friends, our debts are forgiven by Jesus Christ, aren't they? The secret is that our master (God the Creator) paid all our debt. Therefore, we are seen as without debt and have passed out of death into life. We passed out of death into life.

2. The Fact that We Have Passed out of Death into Life

3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

How can we know that we have passed out of death into life?

⇒ We come to know because **we love our brothers and sisters**.

Human beings cannot forgive other people but really want **to be loved**. We cannot understand other people but want to be understood. Because of this, various conflicts and dissatisfaction grow. Many people live such daily lives.

Sometimes, jealousy escalates into murder because one's own deeds are evil, and his brother is righteous. Like Cain and Abel, this is a very painful event. However, the reason that we come to love our brothers and sisters is because our inward selves are revolutionary changed. It means the fact that we have passed out of death into life.

The fact that we have passed out of death into life is revealed by **loving our brothers and sisters**. On the contrary, **whoever does not love abides in death**. He is not a child of God who was born again.

In general, love is growing cold in this society. Loving others is a very distant thing

and if it keeps on this way, hatred comes to grow, and it is the same as murder.

Jesus said,

Matthew 5:21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

1 John 2:11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 4: 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

* Love of our brothers and sisters is a barometer (a ruler).

God first loved us, therefore, we are changed to love one another. It is completely the grace of God. We are truly (the fact) made to pass out of death into life.

Let us rejoice the fact and give thanks to God.

1 John 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.

Conclusion

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The Lord spoke to us this morning. Once, we did not know God, however, Jesus Christ was crucified and took all of our sin and forgave us.

We are forgiven our debt, sin, by the love of God. We understand this fact because we are changed **to love others**.

How happy we are! **God is love.**

⇒ We give thanks to God because the fact that we are changed to love one

another.

Let us read the following Scripture and pray.

3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

* God bless you!