

September 18th, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

The Title of the Message: "We Can See the Invisible Treasures!"

—In Christ—

Text: Colossians 2:1~5

2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

2:5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Introduction

What things do you think we need to live? Human beings have various kinds of desires. Because the desires are **limitless** we want to become **richer**. Having desires is not bad and it makes us live positively.

However, when it is carried too far, it can turn into greed. Greed cannot be acceptable. How many people have unhappy lives because of this?

As the saying goes, "**Well fed, well bred.**" If we are given food, clothing and shelter, we should be satisfied and more than that we should give thanks to God.

Jesus Chris said as below,

Matthew 6:32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The big problem in our lives is that we are anxious about various things. Do you have any worries? Is there anybody who cannot sleep because of the anxiety about tomorrow? The Bible teaches us that if we really trust in God, we should not be anxious anything.

Life without anxiety is a wonderful life that is free from stress. God wants us to live such a blessed life. Thankfully, the saints who believe in God are provided with the way to live the blessed life and are freed from anxiety, worry and fear.

On top of that, we are promised to have wisdom and knowledge on how to live. The following Scripture, Colossians Chapter 2, verse 3 is the Year’s Verse of Kitahama Church,

“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

We can live lives with wisdom and knowledge. The Bible says it is the treasure. Those who have the treasure in their lives are real winners, aren’t they?

Let us pray to God that we may live lives with the treasure that God gives to us this new year. Let us study the following two points today.

Main Points

1. To Truly Know Christ

1) The Saints of the Church of Colossae

The Church of Jesus Christ was born approximately 2000 years ago. The first church of Jesus Christ in the world was the church of Jerusalem.

Jesus said as below,

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

The Christian churches have preached the Gospel to the world by following Jesus’ Great Commission. The Christian Church is being founded all over the world still now.

However, looking into the inside of the Christian Church, it is not a group of only the strong and of perfect people rather than of the weak. People who have no problems do not come to church rather than those who have hardships and unsatisfied areas of their lives come to church. On top of that, the Christian Church is attacked and criticized in various ways. It is the Christian Church.

However, how could the Christian Church have survived for about 2000 years? What is the reason? It is really mysterious, isn't it?

- ➔ The reason is that Jesus Christ is the head of the Christian Church.
Jesus is alive still now.

2) Heresy Came into the Colossian Church

The Colossian church, the receiver of the epistle, was attacked by two kinds of heresies.

① Judaism

Judaism taught that it is not enough to only believe in Jesus Christ but it is important to keep the law of Moses (admonitions) and rituals. It means that they taught the additional things to faith opposed to the doctrine that we are saved only by faith.

One example teaching is the circumcision that a Jewish man receives. The case of circumcision was a serious problem in those days and the Apostle Council (the Council of Jerusalem) was held.

The Epistle to the Romans records the conclusion of the Council as below,

Romans 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

② Gnosticism

Gnosticism taught that people needed to understand faith by reason and philosophy. It was a Grecian teaching where they understood faith intellectually and worshiped pagan gods.

These teachings came into the small church in Colossae and disturbed the faith of Christians. They finally did not understand what was correct. Paul wrote the epistle and warned against ① the legalism of **Judaism** and ② the intellectualism of **Gnosticism**.

There are heretical teachings over the world even today and their purpose is to take our eyes away from the truth. Therefore, we should keep the true teaching so that we can overcome the false teaching (heresy). It is just like the treasure. Paul taught that the treasure is completely hidden in Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is very important whether we have the treasure or not.

3) The Desires of Paul, the author, and Timothy

Paul said in Chapter 2 as below,

2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

Paul writes four desires (prayer) here.

- ① That their hearts may be encouraged.

The heart abides in the center of the inner man. Paul prayed that the heart may be encouraged.

- ② That their hearts may be knit together in love.

Love attracts people. Everyone has a heart. Love is God's agape love. The church is knit together in love, not in human talent, ability nor richness.

- ③ That their hearts may reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding.

Paul prayed that they would live their Christian lives and go forward in full assurance and understanding towards the Kingdom in Heaven, which is like a journey.

- ④ That they may understand the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ.

Paul said that knowing Christ is to understand God's mystery. The mystery refers to the secret and it also refers to the treasures.

The mystery of the Bible is written in the Bible and it is the secret that is found by people who are seeking for it. It is just like children who are **hunting eggs** on Easter Sunday. The children who keep seeking often find the eggs.

Like these children, those who seek for the treasures can find them.

The Bible teaches as below,

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Paul the author said that all the treasures are hidden in Christ.

Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

2. All Treasures is Hidden in Christ

1) The Treasure of Wisdom

Definition: It is the treasure that the saints are given from God the Creator, not of human beings.

We are given wisdom from God and we experience a lot of help from God.

The Bible teaches that everything occurs under God's will and His allowance.

Matthew 10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

However, when we have hardship or unreasonable experiences, we come to feel uneasy of where God is. We are greatly troubled. We wonder how we can deal with the problem and we cannot always find the solution.

One day Jesus said,

Luke 21:14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,

21:15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

The appropriate words will be given. ➔ They are the words of wisdom (the treasure).

{Illustration}

I often remember the Reverend Jakob Esau, whom I respected. Regrettably he passed away, but I keep his word deep in my heart.

He was arrested four times because he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and was sent to a labor camp for 25 years. He told me stories of what he had experienced. They were painful and indescribable experiences, and he was tortured severely.

One day, Reverend Esau had a meeting at a certain city in Japan. After the meeting, a young man stood up and asked him a question, “Reverend Jakob Esau, if I have a

severe experience like you did, I don't think that I could hardly stand it. When I come to have hardships, how can I overcome the severe pain?"

Then, he answered, "I don't know if I could stand that severe pain again. However, I can tell you that God was always with me and gave me His comfort when I was helpless and in despair. My God gave me appropriate words and comfort when I was in need."

He became extremely lonely when he was locked in a solitary cell (a 1 square meter room) for a few months and had no conversations with for many weeks. He was almost crazy and felt hopeless. At that time, a bird came in through a small skylight, as there was a beam of light peeked through the skylight for a few hours a day.

When he held out his hand, the bird flew to sit on his hand and went up tweeting to his shoulder and went down to his hand again and flew away through the small skylight. It was only a few minutes, and he remembered the Scripture.

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

He said he did not know how much he was comforted by the Scripture above. Then, he said, "You should not worry about anything that will happen." Like this, God surely gives us a necessary word at the necessary time.

However, God's word did not come up automatically. The word that he stored in his heart came back to him. Therefore, it is very important to store the God's word in our heart.

2) The Treasure of Knowledge

Definition: It refers to the living testament (history) of the predecessors

It is **knowledge** that we can study from the history of the saints who believed in God the Creator and the history of Israel.

People in the days of the Old Testament did not know Jesus Christ, but they lived by keeping their eyes on Jesus who was the promised Messiah and His

coming. It was the prayer and desire of the people of the Old Testament. And it was fulfilled approximately 2000 years ago.

The saints in the days of the New Testament live by keeping their eyes on Jesus Christ behind them because they realized that the Messianic prophesy of the Old Testament was fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus Christ the Messiah is the center of both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Now, we have the Old Testament and the New Testament and the center of them is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is revealed throughout the word of God. The knowledge of Jesus Christ is the base of church's order and the foundation of solid faith. Paul wanted the people of Colossians not to be tossed about by the heretical teachings but to stand firm by the wisdom and knowledge of Christ.

3) The Bible is the Treasure of Knowledge

Then, why is the word of the Bible the treasure of knowledge?

➔ because, it is the treasury of the living testament (history) of the predecessors.

We can study the historical persons in the Old Testament. Abraham made a contract with God and became father of Israel. We can study lots of things from his life. The life of Isaac and Jacob teach us many things, too.

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites to the promised land. We can study inexhaustibly from his life. We also study from Joshua who was the successor of Moses. God chose many prophets, kings, judges, men of God, wise men and so on and we can study many things from them.

From the New Testament, we study many things from each of the 12 disciples. On top of that, we study from Paul, the great evangelist, and from Timothy. The faith of every forerunner focuses on Jesus Christ. Therefore, Paul said, **"In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."**

The most precious treasure is to know Christ and the treasure of wisdom and knowledge in Him. We can find the treasure in Christ in every field of life such as in private life, work, study life, etc. and only those who seek and find it can understand its preciousness.

Colossians 2:3 "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

It is important to know Jesus Christ and study from Christ. We are united into one by love and understand God's word correctly and are given power to distinguish between truth and falseness.

Then, what should we do?

- ① We should have silence before the word of God. It begins with meditation.
- ② We should pray to God.
- ③ Another Helper (the Holy Spirit) waits and responds to our need.

➔ 「Devotion」

* I pray to God that everyone from Kitahama Church may find the treasure in Christ in 2022.

Conclusion

The Title of the Message: "We Can See the Invisible Treasures!"

—In Christ—

The Lord spoke to us today. What new life does the Lord prepare for us in this new fiscal year? I pray to God for brothers and sisters so that you may find the treasures this year. Because the key to solving all the problems, encouragement, power and guiding are hidden in Christ.

Let us read the following Scripture together.

Colossians 2:3 "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

* God bless you!