

February 5, 2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: “The One Whom I Love Abides in Me”
—Visualizing God—

Text: 1 John 4:11~16

4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

4:16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone.

In general, it is not easy for us to believe other people. Some people, who easily trusted in others, affixed their seals, or allowed others to use their signature and they had a heavy loss as a result.

Some other people trusted a certain person, whom they trusted because they have been an acquaintance for a long time, became a guarantor and eventually received damage. There are various background stories. It is the fact that there are countless number of people who experienced sufferings because they easily trusted in others.

It is really a regrettable thing.

My friends, it is more difficult to trust in a person whom we have never met or seen in such our society. As for God, we cannot see Him with our naked eyes even though it is said that there is a God. Therefore, we cannot easily believe in God even if we are told that we should believe in God.

{Illustration}

Major Yuri Gagarin, of the former Soviet Union, was the first man in space to return to the earth. When he came back, he said, "God was nowhere to be seen." I saw a big poster of Gagarin who looked around to see God by shading his eyes with his hand.

In those days, the Soviet Union used his poster for political propaganda.

In all ages and today also, we cannot believe in things that we cannot identify.

By the way, no one has ever seen God the Creator who created the heavens and the earth. Then, does that mean that God does not exist? No, God the Creator exists. God shows His presence in various ways.

John records as below,

1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

John said that if we love one another, His love is perfected in us. It means that they see God there in us. ⇒ It is a way to **visualize** God.

There is the flow of God's love.

Let us consider about seeing the invisible God today.

Main Points

1. Visualizing God in Brotherly Love

4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1) The Flow of God's Love

We cannot directly see God, but John said that we see God in practicing brotherly love. As we are loved by God, we can love one another. We acknowledge **the flow of love** here.

The flow of God's love.

- ① Love flows from God to us.
- ② Love flows from us to brothers.
- ③ God, who is love, is visualized.

John said that we can see God in this way. On top of that, the purpose of God's love is **completed** in us.

4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Love is God's nature, and it is revealed within us. How thankful! In the days of the early church, John and many other saints experienced **God's revelation**.

2) The Living of Christians

John records the living of Christians as below,

2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

{Illustration} A Christian Who Has Become a New Person

The biggest change in a person who has believed in God and has become a Christian is changing his sense of value. He does not turn his attention toward things that he was interested in before. He met the more valuable One, Jesus Christ. How about you?

I have heard the following story. It is the story about a certain local church in Japan. It is a small village, so everyone knows each other. Therefore, when one of them changes, everyone feels this change when they meet.

A young woman went to the church and became a Christian. One of villagers was surprised at her change, "She comes to greet something like me."

The other day, an old woman came to church and gave a package of tea, "Please offer it to the God of Christ." She said that her neighbor became Christian and stopped grumbling. She thought that the God of Christ was quite different and amazing.

The village people were favorably impressed with them. Christians became blessed testimonies to others.

There are many ways to live a Christian life. Above all, the life that spreads the fragrance of Christ is the real testimony. ⇒ **The visualization of God**

John said,

2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

We come to know that in those days there were Christians who loved the world. They called themselves Christians but they could not depart from the pleasures of the world. They could not become witnesses at all.

Jesus taught that the most important law was **to love our neighbors**. It is a Christians' first step to love people around us. It is a blessing that God's love is visualized through loving our neighbors.

John eagerly teaches that we are given the precious love from God. On top of that, he emphasizes that Jesus Christ abides in us, so that we can reveal the image of God through us.

⇒ **the privilege of Christians**

2. Visualizing God in the Confession of Faith

1)The Confession of Faith

4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

The invisible God becomes visible within us. It is God's blessing and His desire.

The Invisible One becomes visible is in **the confession of faith** that Jesus is Christ (the Messiah). When **we truly confess our faith**, we are making God visible. And it

involves **actions**.

{Illustration}

- ① **An example of the good Samaritan**
- ② **An example of Zacchaeus who gave his possessions to the poor.**

They are the blessed examples that are accompanied by actions.

However, we know it best that we hardly have power to visualize God.

John says as below,

4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

We are given the Holy Spirit, so that we come to able to do what we could not do. We are able to visualize God. that is **the visualization of God**.

⇒ **The privilege of Christians**

2) The Visualization of God's Love

3:24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

In the days of early church, John saw Jesus Christ. He said as below,

4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John seeing the real God's love, he continued testifying and he said as below,

4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

In this way, the invisible God is made visible through people who confess their faith in Christ. Then, the flow of God's love occurs.

Let us review it as follow,

- ① The message of love flows from God.
- ② Jesus abides in us through our testimony.
- ③ We have a confession of faith, and it bears fruit.

The visualization of God ⇒ It means that the glory of God is revealed. And above all, we are under the blessing of God. ⇒ The privilege of Christians

Conclusion

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—Visualizing God—

Today God taught us that the amazing One abides in the saints who believe in Jesus Christ. We who are in Christ are really blessed.

4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

Let us put our name in **Whoever** the verse 15 above.

Let us sincerely pray to God so that Jesus Christ **is visualized** in our Christian lives.

* God bless you.