

February 26,2023

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "He Who Lives in the Perfect Love."

—The Saints—

Text: 1John 4:17~21

4:17By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

4:18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

4:19We love because he first loved us.

4:20If 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.

4:21And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone.

We listened to the message entitled "The One Whom I Love Abides in Me. — Visualizing God—" last time. Love comes from God. Then, we are filled with that love. Secondly, brotherly love is actualized and then it is **visualized** by faith when we confess it.

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

We studied that there was a flow of God's love as below,

- 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.

Those who believe in God and live with Him are given the blessed privilege. What are the lives of Christians like, who are given such blessings?

Let us study the life of Christians from today's message according to the following two points.

Main Points

1. **There Are Two Judgments**

4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

The verse above contains the word **judgment**. You may not like the word judgment, but do you know that the Bible records that there are two kinds of **judgments**?

1. **The Judgment that Leads to an Eternal Destination**

The beginning of Chapter 4, verse 17 records, the "**love perfected with us.**"

The love of God was perfected by the cross of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. We live the days where the Love of God has been perfected. It is the days where, **as he is so also are we in this world**. People, who live in the days after perfection of the love of God, have to decide whether to enter the Kingdom of God or to be thrown into the lake of fire. This depends on whether they believed in Jesus Christ and were forgiven sin and their names were found written in the book of life.

Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

It is very solemn and strict **judgement**. Why does God judge so strictly? Let us think about the reasons from the following two points.

① **People must pay for their sins.**

(All people committed sins before God)

The Bible teaches that sin means missing the mark. The root of sin is **to go over the boundary**. The beginning of sin is when God's creature, man, forgets who he is and looks down at God the Creator. The Tower of Babel is a typical example that reveals the strong desire of humans for authority.

It is the fruit that comes from the root of sin and is pleasing to the eyes and man wants to boast about it.

When we see various kinds of conflicts of power and troubles within a community, we clearly understand that God is not there. The root of sin is deeply rooted and it

means **to miss the point** and **going over the boundary**. God cannot accept sin, so sin must be paid for.

② **God is holy and the Kingdom of God is also holy.**

(The nature of God is holy)

God is holy and there is no one holier than God. He is too holy so that human beings can hardly approach Him. It is the nature of God.

The Bible teaches as below,

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

All people (creatures) are responsible for living before God.

➔ It is a principle that a man reaps what he sows. (We should not forget it.)

However, those who believe in Jesus Christ are blessed, because He took our sins and paid for them on the cross, even though we have immense debts that is impossible for us to repay by ourselves. Those who trust in Jesus's cross are cleansed by His blood shed on the cross and became clean. They are made holy before God.

There is another judgment.

2. **The Judgment that Receives a Reward**

Those who are saved by Jesus Christ are given the privilege to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible teaches that each of these people are given the reward depending on their work in this world.

Let us look carefully. There are two kinds of people who are forgiven of their sins by God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven: those who are given the reward and those who are not given the reward. Those who are given the reward are like those mentioned below.

Matthew 25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Yes, the keyword is **faithful**. We are asked if we have faithfully followed God's teaching.

We all are Christians, but the rewards are different. Why do we receive different rewards? John says that the differences are judged according to how they deal with brothers in this world. John says,

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.

The daily walk of believers is preparation for our eternal life. John the author writes about it later.

By the way, is it like to walk in **perfect love** in this world? ➔ It means to live like Christ.

2. He Who Lives in Perfect Love

4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

1) Those Who Live in Perfect Love

Perfect love and fear are incompatible because it is written that **fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

Jesus spoke people about the Kingdom in heaven in the parable in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, verse 14 and after as below,

25:14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

25:15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

* **1 talent: 6000 denarii**

* **1 denarius was the usual daily wage of a day laborer. Assuming that it is 10,000 yen per day wages**

1 talent: 60 million yen

2 talents: 120 million yen

5 talents: 300 million yen

25:16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

25:17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.

25:18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master returned and settled accounts with the servants. They were asked how they managed their received talents. The servant who received

five talents gained double. The servant who received two talents also gained double. The master said,

25:21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

These servants were praised because they faithfully managed the received talents from the master. How about the servant who received one talent?

The Bible record as below,

25:24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,

25:25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'

25:26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?

25:27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should

He hid one talent of the master in the ground. He didn't put it out to earn money.

My friends! If we regard God as the master and we are the servants, what do you think about the parable? How do we manage the talents that we have received from God? We receive some talents from God. How do you think we manage them?

We have been given health (we cannot buy it with money), family and friends, haven't we?

Some persons are given more excellent talents and abilities, right? Everything that we have (properties) have been given by God and it is not our own property but something we have borrowed, because the time to settle with the master (death) will come. At that time, the servants must settle accounts with God.

Let us think about the servants now. What was the problem of the servant who received one talent?

- ① He misunderstood that the master was a hard man. (Wrong image)
- ② He did not know how to use the talent. (Lack of self-responsibility)

The master trusted the servants and entrusted them talents. However, the servant who received one talent had at least two problems. How about us?

We need to carefully think about this. It is about fear. Fear makes one depart from the object that they feel fear about.

Let us look the servant who received one talent.

25:25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'

Man does not want to come before a person whom he fears about. We do not want to meet him in our human relationship and even more in fellowship with God.

2) Love Your Brothers

The Scripture advise us as below,

4:19We love because he first loved us.

4:20If 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.

① Love is One

When we love God, we begin practicing love for people. Our attitude to both to God and people are not separated. They influence each other and have a connection.

When we pray to God and speak to people, we use the same words, and they are not separated, but have a connection.

If his attitude both at church and in family is different, we could say that he deceives himself. "His brother whom he has seen," means the closest person to him. He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

4:21And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Those who love God are those who love their brothers. John emphasizes that God commands us to love our brothers.

② Love Gives Shalom (Peace)

John records the word of Jesus as below,

14:27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

As Christ is so ➔ We also have **shalom**.

How blessed we are!

Conclusion

Title of the Message: "He who Lives in the Perfect Love."

—The Saints—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. He taught us the attitude of people (the saints) who live in perfect love. We, who have nothing to boast about before God, and are sinful beings, are chosen through God's grace and cleansed our sin by the blood of Christ. We are made to be holy like God.

They (the saints) live like Jesus today.

4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

Such life is the gift from God.

Let us read the following Scripture together.

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.

* God bless you!