

January 7, 2024

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message : " Let Us Live in the God's Love"

—In Holy Faith—

Text: Jude 1:17~25

**1:17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**1:18 They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions."**

**1:19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.**

**1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,**

**1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.**

**1:22 And have mercy on those who doubt;**

**1:23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.**

**Doxology**

**1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,**

**1:25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

Introduction

**Good morning.**

It has been a little while since we last studied from the Epistle of Jude two months ago. So let us take a short review of what we have learned so far.

The name **Jude** means **praise the Lord**. The reason why Jude wrote this epistle is written in verse 3.

**Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.**

Jude wrote this letter in the late 1st or early 2nd century. At that time, the Roman Empire was at its peak. It was the time of **Pax Romana** (Roman peace). Politics, economy, culture, religion, etc. were all in their golden age. At the same time, however, some people were leaving **the true faith**. It was a difficult time for Christians.

In prosperity, people were only concerned with the affairs of the world, and were self-centered, and lived as they liked. Society was affluent, and people were obsessed with wealth and trying to satisfy their own desires. There were all kinds of temptations there and sexual immorality was also quite prevalent.

In such an environment, Christians were also in danger of being carried away by the world-centered trends. Therefore, Jude wrote the epistle to the Christians, urging them to beware of two things, **covetousness** and **immorality**.

The Roman Empire at that time was much like the state of modern society. Today's Japanese media such as TV, magazines, DVDs, etc. are full of vulgar content. They pollute people's minds and make them feel less guilty about unrighteousness and immorality.

Many people do not know God the Creator, nor do they fear Him. People's greatest concern is how to live in this world, how to enjoy and live well.

Noe, let us consider the following points.

Main Points
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**1. Avoid Unfaithfulness**

**Jude 1:4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.**

At that time, the heresy 'called **Gnosticism** had entered the Christian church and the saints were being influenced by it. God's grace was perverted, and a clever

excuse for committing sin openly was created. They would acknowledge Jesus Christ, but they denied Him in reality.

Jude warned against that dangerous teaching. He warned them not to deny God's grace. In the history of Israel, the people lost faith and incurred God's wrath because of their unfaithfulness. Jude warned them not to forget that.

Jude wrote as below,

**Jude 1:15 to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”**

It is also important for us to remember what the Bible says about the Lord Jesus. However, if we have not stored up the Word of God in our hearts, we will have no material to recall. Naturally, we always need to store up the Word of God.

The Word of God is the sure standard by which we live. It is important for us to remember the Word of God in order to avoid unfaithfulness.

## **2. Beware of Fake News**

At that time, false teachers were entering the church. They were confusing the church by preaching false teaching instead of the Gospel of Christ. Jude referred to them as below:

**Jude 1:12 These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.**

The scary thing about the teachings of heretics (false teachers) that they still exist today. It is **brainwashing** that makes us incapable of making normal judgments and discriminations. People fall into a state of believing false teachings to be correct. Therefore, they claim that **they are right, and others are wrong.**

My friends, where do you think we can find a way to discern between God's right and wrong teachings (heresy)? ⇒ Take time to observe

- ① Observe the fruit through words and deeds, and

- ② Whether or not there is God's peace (shalom).

The right teaching or the wrong teaching is revealed to those who are saved by the love of the living God and who have daily blessed fellowship with Him. For the living God reveals it to us.

Fake news is still prevalent in this day and age. It is not only within the Christian church but also is in all fields of society. We live in such times. The epistle to the Hebrews teaches us how we should live,

**Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,**

**Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

### 3. **Live in the Love of God**

Jude, the author, wrote about how a person of true faith should walk in times of deepening confusion. The Bible describes the signs of **the last days** and the time in which Jude lived was exactly such a time.

Peter also speaks of **the last days**. The apostles had already foretold that this would happen.

**2 Peter 3:3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.**

**3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."**

The important thing is,

- ① Christians should build their lives up in **holy faith**.

**1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,**

- ② Christians should pray in the Holy Spirit and keep us in the love of God.

**1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord**

### **Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.**

If we see someone drowning, or someone asking for help, we will throw a rope and help him/her. It is right to do so. However, it is important to first make sure we are on our feet before throwing the rope.

When we deal with people who are in sin, we should be careful so that we do not fall into sin with them. To do this, we need to build our house of faith on the Word of God, which is the firm foundation. Otherwise, we ourselves will be swept off our feet.

Jude taught that **God is able to keep us from stumbling in the spiritual fight.**

**1:24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,**

Jude concluded the epistle with God's blessing.

**Jude 1:25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

### **Conclusion**

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In the days of Jude, heresy had entered the Christian Church, and the Church was facing a very great challenge. Therefore, Jude encouraged the saints to stand firm in the faith.

It was like parents teaching their children about the dangers of crossing the street. They hope that their children will realize the danger and live safely.

Let's review three important points.

1. Avoid unfaithfulness.
2. Beware of Fake News.
3. Live in the Love of God.

\* God bless you!