

1Jn 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

3:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

3:6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

[From today's sermon.

We are already God's children, we are now God's children. How great a love the Father has given us to become so! And our end is that we will finally see Jesus directly in front of us, up close and personal, and be made like him. We will not be made like Him until we get there, but because of this hope, we will wash and cleanse ourselves so that He will be clean until we get there.

From verse 4, the word "sin" appears 10 times and the word "devil" 4 times.

The word "sins" appears 10 times and the word "devil" four times, beginning in verse 4. Do not let anyone deceive you. For as he is righteous, so is he who works righteousness."

The presence that tempts and deceives to sin. In the midst of the sin that clings to us, we are justified and made righteous - doing what is right and what God requires, conforming, conforming, and conforming to His standard, level, will, and desire, to His character and character. Can we do this well enough?

The Lord said, "All who are born of God do not sin, but only those who are born of God. For the seed of God remains in him. And he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

All that are born of God do not continue to sin. Because the seed of God remains in him, he does not continue to be capable of sinning.

Even if he goes astray for a time, he who has the Holy Spirit, the seed of God, in him cannot continue to sin. And the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit enables us to do what God wants

us to do. This is hope.

Good morning, everyone.

Finally, the rainy season has started in the Chugoku area. Please take care of yourselves.

We are now in the third chapter of 1 John's letter.

In today's passage, the word "sin" appears 10 times and "devil" 4 times.

And in verse 7, we read.

And verse 7 says, "Do not be deceived by anyone, children. Do not let anyone deceive you. For as he is righteous, so is he who does righteousness."

There is deception. There are enticements. There are ploys to lead one astray, to lead one away from the ways of God. There is an evil will at work to keep us from life and bring us to perdition.

Martin Luther, the religious reformer, put it this way.

No one can avoid the bird of temptation flying over his head. But we can prevent that bird of temptation from building its nest in our hair.

You said that we cannot avoid being tempted, but we can avoid falling into temptation.

This verse was found in this second chapter of 1 John.

1 John 2:17 The world and the lusts of the world will pass away. But he who does the will of God abides forever.

Today we want to learn from the Bible how we can maintain the way of life in this world of the devil.

3:1 Consider what great love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God. For we are already sons of God. The world does not know us because it did not know the Father.

The first thing to be confirmed as a basic premise is that we have been redeemed and saved and are now already sons of God. And what great love the Father has bestowed upon us in

order for us to be called children of God.

And in that immense love and grace, consider this: we have been made sons of God. We have already been made God's children through a great sacrifice.

If you don't think about it, if you don't think about it again, the fact that we are children of God may be drowned out by the clamor in our ears, but the fact that we are children of God may not be treated as something noteworthy in this world, but "the world does not know us because it has not known us. do not know us, because we have not known the Father". Those who do not know God the Father would not even look at the fact that we are God's children, etc. The world "knows" neither God the Father nor us, His children.

We are not to be indifferent so that the world will not pay attention to God or His children, but rather, we are to be deeply mindful of God's presence and how much love He has bestowed on us, and how He has now made us His children.

3:2 Beloved, we are now the sons of God. We are now the sons of God. But it is not yet clear what we will be. We know that when he appears, we shall be like him. For we shall see his true image.

3:3 Everyone who has this hope in him will cleanse himself, that he may be clean.

Here is the hope. We are God's children now, and what does that mean for the future? Is there hope there? Is there meaning there? When we think about whether this is just a temporary thing for now or something that will be valid for a long time in our future, we have hope. The Bible tells us that when Jesus appears, when we see Him up close with our own eyes, when we see Him as He really is, we have this hope that we too can become like Him.

It has been a long time since we entered the Corona Disaster, but that was January 2020. The disturbing news in China became a reality the following month, when a passenger and crew member of the Diamond Princess, which was calling at the port of Yokohama, were confirmed to be infected. Masks ran out, disinfectant ran out of stores, and so on. Four and a half years have passed since then. I have been tutoring at the school, and there is one person I had to say goodbye to without seeing his/her true face until the end, wearing a mask all the time. Recently, I have the opportunity to take off my mask in the classroom, and although it is a mutual thing, I sometimes realize that this person's face was like this. We only know about Jesus from the Bible, but we are still guided by the Holy Spirit, who makes us look like Jesus.

But there are times when we meet Jesus face to face. How moving that must be! But for some of us, it may be different from our own image. You may have had a powerful impression of Jesus, the Son of God, and be surprised by His meekness and humility. In any case, when we see the true and real image of Jesus, we all have the desire in our hearts to be conformed to the likeness of this person. In this way, we will become more and more like Him.

We who are in this hope, do not think that it will be fine from that time because it will happen at that time, but rejoice that such a time has been prepared for us, hope for that time, and enjoy ourselves so that we can finally become more like Jesus, not in a "Jesus look-alike contest," but in our own way, using our own hearts as our canvas. I will use it as a canvas to spur me on to a life of self-purification, to live up to the image of Jesus that I have in mind.

3:4 For every one who sins is an unlawful doer. Sin is unlawful.

3:5 For you know that he appeared to take away sin, and there is no sin in him.

3:6 He that abideth in him sinneth not: but he that sinneth, he sinneth not. 3:6 All who sin have not seen him, and all who sin have not known him.

3:7 Children, be not deceived. Let no one deceive you. For as he is righteous, so he that doeth righteousness is righteous.

3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil. For the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

Now from verse 4, the word sin is mentioned 10 times, and the word devil 4 times.

This is what it meant to be righteous and to be made righteous. -Doing what is right, what God requires, conforming, conforming and conforming according to God's standard, level, will, desire, His character and character.

Sin is an act that is the exact opposite of that.

It puts what it wants before what God wants. And here is where the devil's thoughts are taken in. We must not forget that even when we seem to be free to do as we please, we are still in the grip of the devil's schemes to separate us from God's life, grace, and love. We are being deceived.

Jesus came to take away sin. He went to the cross and became the substitute for our sins so that we would not be deceived into sinning, to destroy the works of sin, to free man from slavery to evil, and to offer forgiveness, salvation, and freedom.

3:9 All who are born of God do not sin. For the seed of God remains in him. And he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We are thus those who, because of God's grace and love, have been born again through the atonement of the cross, through great and great love.

Thus all born of God do not continue to sin. We may sin for a time, but we do not continue to sin. We are now righteous, and the Holy Spirit has given us a deep understanding of what pleases God, what is His will, character, and character, and what is His standard. Because the Holy Spirit is present and we are born of God, we cannot remain in a state of sinning. This is grace. Dying to the old me, Christ. We have died to the old self and have been made alive with Jesus.

Galatians 2:19 I died to the law by the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ.

2:20 It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. Christ lives in me. But I live now in the flesh through faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

3:10 The distinction between the sons of God and the sons of the devil is thus clear. That is, he who does not do all righteousness is not of God. The same is true of him who does not love his brother.

We cannot continue to sin, but are supposed to be righteous. For we are produced as children of God. Those who are from God love their brothers. They give, serve, help, and increase in virtue. As Jesus loved us, so we are to do. Those born of God, those who have the Holy Spirit, the seed of God, continue to do it.

And we pass this grace on to all. We cannot help but do so, we are alive in the impulse of love by Jesus.

Prayer; Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship. How great was the love of God the Father that He took someone who had disobeyed the law, disobeyed God's will, sinned, been deceived by the devil's heart, and was unable to do what was right and just, and now has already called him a child of God! Now we have been made sons of God, and through the Holy Spirit who lives in us, we have been placed in God's protection to the extent that we no longer continue to sin and are no longer able to do so. There is a future prepared for us, a future of endless possibilities. Please keep us in this hope this week. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.