

1Jn 2:7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

2:8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

From Today's Sermon

Since ancient times, people have offered the lives of animals as sacrifices for their sins, according to God's command.

People were sinful and unable to come forward to God, and therefore needed offerings to appease them.

But a new era has come, and a new covenant has come from God. He is an offering of atonement for our sins. Not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world," that is, that this offering of the Son of God was given, that forgiveness was granted unilaterally and solely by God's grace, and that reconciliation with God was made.

The old commandment (the old covenant) has passed away, and a new covenant has been brought in that supersedes it. The new covenant fulfilled, fulfilled, and swallowed up the old. It is a world of radiant God's love and grace, light and love. It is the love of unconditional forgiveness. That is the truth, that "darkness has passed away and the true light is already shining. How can we be in the light of such forgiveness and compassion and still not be able to forgive others? How can we, who have been forgiven without any conditions, knock down the conditions of forgiveness to others? Those who truly know the forgiving love of God forgive others. And that person will never stumble in sin.

Good morning everyone. It is another snowy morning, albeit a little. I hope everyone has been well in the cold weather.

Three cold and four warm days, coldness and warmth are repeating in these days. I hear that pollen has already started to scatter. There is also the onslaught of coronavirus and influenza. I pray that everyone will take care of themselves.

I have been reading the second chapter of First John's letter.

The beginning of this chapter is powerful.

2:1 My children, write these things down. I write these things so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, the Father has a helper for us, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2:2 He is an offering of atonement for our sins. But not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world.

What must we do to become better without sinning anymore? Since ancient times, the sacrifice of an animal's life has been essential for man to come into the presence of God. Without it, one could not enter God's presence in sin. How many animal lives had to be sacrificed, how much blood had to be shed? But inside man remained the same, insidious, rebellious against God, and arrogant toward others.

He said, "My children, I am not writing these things to you, but to you. I write these things so that you may not sin.

If anyone sins, the Father has a helper for us, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2:2 He is an offering of atonement for our sins. But not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world.

When we sin, we do not have an angry judge standing before us, but Christ Jesus the Advocate, the Helper, whose hands and feet have the scars of the nails through which he was pierced. For the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world, indeed, the Son of God took His place. Where else can we find such a costly sacrificial offering? If such a costly sacrifice was offered, how could any sin, no matter how great or how numerous, not be forgiven in its entirety, all the sins of the past and future? Thus we have complete salvation through him.

2:7 Beloved, I write to you. I write to you not a new commandment, but an old commandment, which ye received from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you have already heard.

Sin and judgment, and atonement by sacrifice, have been spoken of from time immemorial.

Romans 3:10 For it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one.

3:11 No one is enlightened, no one seeks God.

3:12 For all have gone astray, and have become futile at every turn. There is no one who does good, not even one.

Because we are such people, there has never been a time when we were not in need of sacrifices. We have sinned, sinned, and sinned again, and needed sacrifices. We were the ones who could only go before God through hard work, effort, and sacrifice, where one had to turn before God and walk with Him by offering sacrifices. There was a commandment and advancement all along. We were told to turn to Me with our sacrifices.

2:8 Moreover, I am writing to you a new commandment. And it is the truth for him and for you. For darkness has passed away, and the light of truth is already shining.

The light of truth is already shining.

He kept on offering and sinning, repenting and repenting, offering and offering, but never being made whole.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

1:2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

1:3 All things were made by it. 1:3 For by it all things were made, and not one thing was made that was not by it.

1:4 And in this word was life, and the life was the light of men. And this life was the light of men.

1:5 The light shineth in the darkness And darkness did not prevail against it.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a people for God

2:10 And that ye might recount the works of him that hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, that ye might be witnesses unto the truth.

2:10 Formerly ye were not God's people, but now are God's people; formerly ye were without mercy, but now are ye those who have received mercy.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Now is the time of light. Now is the time of forgiveness, now is the time of healing. The old

covenant has been swallowed up in a new covenant, of new and great grace. The light of truth, the true light, is already shining.

2:9 He who says, "I am in the light," and yet hates his brother, is still in darkness.

2:10 He who loves his brother is in the light and will not stumble.

The love of God through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. If we have been shown this much love, if we have been illuminated by unconditional, unilateral love, how can we think that we cannot forgive our neighbor and brother who are both in the noose of sin and can only be forgiven by God's mercy and love for one another?

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and said, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? up to seven times?"

18:22 Jesus said to him, "I say not up to seven times. But seven times seven times until you have multiplied it seventy times.

18:23 Therefore heaven is like a king settling accounts with his servants.

18:24 When the settling of accounts began, a man who owed ten thousand talents was brought to the king.

18:25 But since he could not pay it back, his master ordered him to sell himself, his wife and children, and all his possessions, and pay it back.

18:26 Then the servant fell down and pleaded with him, saying, "Please wait. Please wait, and I will return everything to you.

18:27 And my master had compassion on him, and forgave him his debt.

18:28 As I went out, I met a fellow who owed me a hundred denarii, and I seized him, and seized him by the neck and said to him, 'Pay back your debt.

18:29 Then this fellow bowed down and said, "Wait, please! I will pay you back.

18:30 But he did not agree, so they hauled him away and put him in prison until he paid back the debt.

18:31 When his companions saw this, they were very distressed, and they went and told their master all about it.

18:32 And his master called to him and said, "Wicked servant, it is because you have asked me that I have forgiven you all that debt.

18:33 Should not I have had mercy on him as I had mercy on me?"

18:34 And his master was angry, and gave him over to the jailer until he had paid off his

entire debt.

18:35 And if you do not forgive your brother from your heart, my heavenly Father will also do so to you.

How much is 10,000 talents?

A talent is six thousand denarii, which is the average daily wage of a laborer. Therefore, 10,000 talents is equivalent to the wages of a worker for 60 million days, which means that it is a large sum of money, several hundred billion yen. A hundred denarii is also a large amount of money, about one million yen, but it is one six-hundred-thousandth of the amount of money you have been forgiven. What can we learn from this analogy?

From an ordinary value judgment, a person who has been forgiven 600 billion yen can easily forgive a person who has been forgiven 1 million yen on condition that he or she forgives 1 million yen. This is because he would gain a huge amount of money by forgiving. This time, however, the forgiveness began with no conditions. A person who has embezzled a huge sum of money from the state, committed a major crime, a crime punishable by death, and will never be released from prison, is forgiven unconditionally. This is not normal, but that is the gravity of our sins. The sins we have committed before God are so heavy and ever-increasing that they cannot be repaid by ourselves at all, and they are sins that can only be atoned for with our own death. God took pity on us who deserved it and redeemed us with the precious sacrifice of His beloved Son, who was trapped in a narrow pit and groaning in darkness.

But just like the retainer who was forgiven his debt, if he is set free, he will take advantage of it, and he will come on to the person who lent him a million yen and shut him up, demanding his own money back. This is being forgiven and saved, but not forgiving the sins of others. They have been redeemed for their huge sins and brought into the light, but they forget that favor and judge, condemn, and do not forgive others. This is a grievous thing for God.

2:10 He that loveth his brother is in the light, and shall not stumble.

2:11 He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not where he goeth. For the darkness has blinded his eyes.

It means never forgetting who you are. To love with all our might as we have been loved. This is how we escape being dragged down and stumbled by sin. If we do not, we become castaways, wandering around forgetting who we were.

We want to be people who rejoice in God's love, who are grateful for forgiveness, and who continue to share and pass on that forgiveness.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. How many times have people struggled and offered sacrifices to somehow obtain forgiveness before God? How many animal lives have been sacrificed in the past? But human nature remains the same. What is it that allows us to obtain salvation? We are amazed, awed, and grateful for the new covenant, the forgiveness and peace given to us through the sacrifice of the beloved Son. Please renew us accordingly. Let us live in a manner worthy of the Son of Light. Please guide all sufferers into the salvation and peace of God. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.