

Last Week's Sermon Summary

『Faith That Overcomes the World』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue

1 John 5:1-5, 11-12, John 16:28-33

① [Loved by Christ] John, the elder of the church in Ephesus, writes three times about “overcoming the world”: “Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5). So I want to speak about three things concerning this faith that overcomes the world.

First, we can overcome the world because we are loved by Christ. Paul declares, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... We are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:35, 37). Here Paul declares that through Christ's love we have already won the victory. For no one can separate you from Christ's love. If you ask, “Why do you love me, one who commits such sins?”, the Lord would likely respond, “Is it not lawful for me to do what I will?” (Matthew 20:15). “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. “ (Romans 9:15) Christian salvation is entirely God's doing. God loves because He chooses to love, forgives because He chooses to forgive. There are no conditions on our part. Those who know this love of Christ say, like Paul, “It's as if we've already won!” Because this love is so overwhelming. This God is a God who pursues people, truly passionate about saving them.

② [Knowing God's Word Will Surely Come to Pass] Second, because the words of Christ, the words of God, will surely

come to pass. Pastor Yasuro Enomoto writes: “We are reluctant to truly accept that promise. In reality, we find no cause whatsoever to substantiate the fulfillment of that promise. Yet, as the story of creation begins, this universe did not come into being through any cause. All things were created by the word of God. No matter how our present reality appears, that is not the issue. When we believe in this promise of God, entrust ourselves to it, and follow it, we can overcome this world.” We have hope now, no matter how hopeless the reality before us may seem. Because if God moves tomorrow, something amazing will surely happen.

③ [Overcoming the World by Living Like Christ] Third, it is because we are living by imitating Christ. October 2nd was Gandhi's birthday. India was once a British colony, but Gandhi led a nonviolent resistance movement and directed the struggle for independence from Britain. In January 1948, Gandhi was attacked by a fanatical Hindu fundamentalist and died at the age of 78. When shot with a pistol, Gandhi placed his hand on his own forehead and passed away. This gesture means “I forgive you” in Islam. Gandhi's pacifist movement profoundly influenced figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and the world at large. Though he never became a Christian, he read the Bible extensively and emulated Christ's way of life. Gandhi famously stated, “Christianity is wonderful, but Christians are not.” He was a man who lived the most Christian life possible, despite not being a Christian himself.

We can overcome the world by imitating the way of life Christ demonstrated. This means returning good for evil, praying for those who persecute us, ↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan

Miyakojima Church

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Church Established December 2, 2001

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《The Last Judgment》

Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " (Psalm 127:1)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.