

墨爾本華人基督徒以勒團契

「主日崇拜證道綱要」

日期：2015年9月27日

主題：最大的是愛（一）

經文：林前13:13「如今常存的有信，有望，有愛，這三樣，其中最大的是愛」

詩歌：奇異的愛 1-4 節（生 178）

「牧者心聲」：

今天早上證道的焦點落在經文中的一個詞匯上：「如今常存」。我們會思想

*「如今常存」是甚麼意義？ *「如今常存」的是甚麼？ 盼望我們不單從中得著真理，更能夠得著神為我們所預備最大的恩典和福氣。

● 「如今常存的意義」

「如今」：1) 在主耶穌基督榮耀再來及世界終結之前，如今就是現今的世代。

2) 在我們離世及生命結束之前，如今就是人的一生。

「常存」：1) 在現今的世代及人的一生成中有真正價值和意義的事物。

2) 在現今的世代及人的一生成中有永恒價值和意義的事物。

● 「如今常存的是甚麼？」

在我們未認識神的時候，以人的理性與智慧去衡量人生真正有價值，有意義的事物時，得出的結論：-「金錢，物質，名譽，地位，美貌，學問，智慧，能力，材幹，生活享受，家庭，婚姻，兒女，健康....」。但非常遺憾的是，沒有擁有這些事物的人固然感覺痛苦無奈，但即使擁有這些事物的人，很多時候都好像到雅各井取水的女人一樣，雖然表面上擁有一切，但心裏卻充滿空虛，憂愁，孤單，痛苦，恐懼與無奈。

感謝神的恩典，蒙恩歸主以後，神藉著使徒保羅教導我們，人生真正有價值，有意義，並能永恒存留的是：- 「信」「望」「愛」。

1) 「信」是信心 一個純一清潔，堅定不移，信靠神的信心。

「人非有信，就不能得神的喜悅，因為到神面前來的人必須信有神，並信祂賞賜那尋求祂的人。」(來 11:6) 「也要堅守我們所承認的指望，不至搖動，因為那應許我們的是信實的。」(來 10:23) 「所以，我們只管坦然無懼的來到施恩的寶座前，為要 得憐恤，蒙恩惠，作隨時的幫助。」(來 4:16)

2) 「望」是盼望 一個忍耐等候，專心仰望，盼望神的心態。

「但願使人有盼望的神，因信將諸般的喜樂，平安，充滿你們的心，使你們藉著聖靈的能力，大有盼望。」(羅 15:13) 「等候所盼望的福，並等候至大的神和我們救主耶穌基督的榮耀顯現。」(多 2:13)

「只要心裏尊主基督為聖，有人問你們心中盼望的緣由，就要常作準備，以溫柔，敬畏的心回答各人。」(彼前 3:15)

3) 「愛」是神的愛 一份毫無條件，毫無保留，犧牲捨己的愛

「神既不愛惜自己的兒子，為我們眾人捨了，豈不也把萬物和祂一同白白的賜給我們麼？」(羅 8:32) 「逾越節以前，耶穌知道自己離世歸父的時候到了。祂既然愛世間屬自己的人，就愛他們到底。」(約 13:1) 「親愛的弟兄啊，你們卻要在至聖的真道上造就自己，在聖靈裏禱告，保守自己常在神的愛中，仰望我們主耶穌基督的憐憫，直到永生。」(猶 20-21)

盼望藉著神的啟示，我們能夠掌握：人生真正的幸福與保障絕不能從世界中得著，不能從個人的計劃，籌算，努力中得著，也不能從人當中得著，只有藉著信靠神，盼望神，得著神的愛而擁有。

27/09/2015

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13

The focus of our sermon this morning is on two phrases: the first one is '**now remain**' and the second one is '**the greatest**'. We may wonder, what is meant by 'now remain', and what are the things that now remain?

What does 'the greatest' mean? What is 'the greatest' and why?

I hope that we do not only attain the truth from the sermon, but we can also attain the greatest grace and blessing.

The meaning of NOW REMAIN

NOW

1) Before the glorious second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and before the end of the age. Now means the present age.

2) Before we die and our life ends. Now means a person's lifetime.

REMAIN

1) the things which have **true values** in the present age and in a person's lifetime.

2) the things which have **eternal values** in the present age and in a person's lifetime.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT NOW REMAIN?

Before we know God, we use human intellect and wisdom to assess what are the things which are truly valuable and meaningful. Then the conclusion we get is: "money, materials, fame, status, beauty, knowledge, wisdom, ability, capability, enjoyments in life, family, marriage, children, health". Needless to say, people who do not possess these things feel sorrowful and helpless.

But sadly, even when people possess these, very often they are like the woman who went to Jacob's well to draw water. On the surface she owned everything but her heart was filled with emptiness, sadness, loneliness, pain, fear and helplessness.

Thanks to God's grace, after we are saved by God's Grace, through the apostle Paul, God teaches us that the things which are truly valuable, meaningful and which endures forever are 'faith', 'hope' and 'love'.

1) 'Faith' is the type of faith that is pure and clean, steadfast, one that puts the trust in God.

Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists
and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Hebrews 10:23

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 4:16

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

2) 'Hope' is the type of hope with an attitude which waits patiently, wholeheartedly looking unto God, and putting the hope in God.

Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Titus 2:13

*while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ*

1 Peter 3:15

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you
to give the reason for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect*

3) 'Love' is God's love

– love which is unconditional, without reservation and self-sacrificing

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

John 13:1

It was just before the Passover Festival.

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Jude 20-21

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

The meaning of 'the greatest'

The synonym of "the greatest" is "the most important", "the most valuable", "the most meaningful", "the most needed".

This is something that is indispensable in the whole age and lives of mankind.

What is the 'greatest'?

The apostle Paul gave us the answer:

But the greatest of these is love.

To compare among faith, hope and the love of God, the greatest is the 'Love of God'

The reasons why the love of God is the greatest

1) The greatest need

John 17: 26

I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that

*the love you have for me may be in them
and that I myself may be in them.”*

Men are created in the image of God. God is love. In a person's life, since the day he is born until the day he passes away, he needs love and he needs to be loved. When a person is filled with love he can love others. It is more blessed to give than to receive. His own life is contented and rich. There is peace, joy, kindness, mercy and holiness in him. When a person attains someone else's love and care, his soul gets comfort, warmth, sustenance, healing and satisfaction. On the contrary, if a person lacks love or is deprived of love, his soul becomes empty, drained, weary and burdened. More sadly, the life is filled with selfishness, greed, bitterness, hatred, jealousy, self-indulgence etc. So that he will sin and do evil.

2) The greatest motivation

2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that
one died for all, and therefore all died.*

*And he died for all, that those who live
should no longer live for themselves*

but for him who died for them and was raised again.

The reason why a person can be positive and strive for improvement, can do his best and work hard which is manifested in the way he lives, he studies or works and in the ways he conducts himself – behind him there must be a force which drives him forward. This force can be his objective or ideal, or it can be for the sake of other people. However, there are limitations or reservations to these driving forces. And these driving forces may even disappear. It is only the love of God, the great sacrificial love of the redemption of Christ, which can transform into boundless power of motivation. It compels us to be willingly pay the price and even sacrifice ourselves to love God and love other people.

3) The greatest testimony

John 13:35

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.”*

The most lamentable phenomenon in the world is the falling apart of various interpersonal relationships - the hurts, indifference of people, insincere love, short-lived love, calculating love – they all cause us to be discouraged and disappointed, sad and sorrowful. However, if those who belong to God can love God and love other people with the love from God, what a good and pleasant scenario it will be. Then it can be a testimony that glorifies God.