

Hello. /I am Professor Chae Hee Kun, and my lectures will be on 1 Corinthians. /We will begin our first lecture on the books of Corinthians. /The books were written by the Apostle Paul.

/In Greek, 1 Corinthians is called Pro Corinthios A (alpha). /2 Corinthians is called Pro Corinthios B (beta). /There is Biblical evidence proving that the Apostle Paul wrote the books.

/1 Corinthians 1:1-3 bear witness to the fact that the Apostle Paul wrote the book. /Furthermore, through 3:4-6, we can know that it is a work of Paul. /1 Corinthians was written in Ephesus at around 57 AD.

/Paul's third missionary journey took place at 53 – 58 AD. /Some scholars claim that it was written in 55 AD.

/Why was 1 Corinthians written? /Hearing the reports of the people of Chloe's house, Paul learned about the situation in the church of Corinth. 1:11. /He wrote this letter to solve the church's problems and to settle multiple theological disputes.

/1 Corinthians is mainly divided into three parts. /1 Corinthians chapters 1 to 4 rebuke and reply to the church for its disputes.

/Chapters 5 and 6 are Paul's reply to the problems of sexual immorality and lawsuits. /Chapters 7 to 16 provide answers to various questions. /They are answers to the questions about marriage, offerings to idols, /the Lord's Supper, /and the proper application of spiritual gifts. /Paul especially points out the improper use of speaking in tongues.

/1 Corinthians 15 is the chapter of the resurrection. /Paul bears witness about the certainty of the resurrection to those who deny it. /Finally, he teaches us about offerings for the poor.

/The title of chapter one is "The Cross." /First, blessings and regards. Verses 1-3. /Second, thanksgiving and certainty. Verses 4-9. /Third, divisions and disputes. Verses 10-17. /Fourth, the word of the cross. Verses 18-25. /Fifth, God called the weak. Verses 26-28. /Sixth, boast in the Lord. Verses 29-31.

/We will now begin looking at the text. Verses 1 to 3 are blessings and regards.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

/One does not become Jesus' apostle just because he wants to. /One does not become a worker of God because someone else forced him to. /A person becomes a servant of God only when God himself calls on and chooses this person.

/The Apostle Paul was called to be an apostle. / “Apostle” in Greek is “apostolos.” /Its meaning is “one sent on a mission.” /Paul was called by the Lord himself and was sent.

/In Paul’s letter to the churches of Galatia, /in Galatians 1:1, he writes this. / “Paul, an apostle— not from men /nor through man, /but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, /who raised him from the dead.”

/Paul became an apostle through God the Father. /Also, Sosthenes is the chief of the synagogue. /He believed in Jesus and followed Paul. /There are claims that Sosthenes wrote for Paul the book of 1 Corinthians.

/Verse 2. /To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

/A church is a group where people gather, /but it is established by God and it belongs to God. /Therefore, God is the owner of the church. /The church is God’s inheritance. /He himself raises it up, protects it, and lets it grow.

/The church isn’t simply a building. /It is an organic association of those who believe in Jesus and were born again. /It says that the church of Corinth was sanctified in Christ Jesus.

/Does this mean the members of the Corinth church were completely holy in their actions? /No, it does not mean this, but it means their spirits were sanctified. /We can explain the sanctification of the believer in three ways.

/The first is that the believer belongs to God. /Second, the believer has a spirit that is born again. /A regenerated spirit is holy and clean. /The reason is the Holy Spirit, with the truth, brought the soul to life.

/Third, the Holy Spirit treats the believer as a temple and dwells in the believer. /Here, it says, “Called to be saints.” A “saint” does not come to believe in God on his own.

/Because the Lord called us and guides us, we believe in Jesus. /It also says, “Together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.”

/This letter sent to the church of Corinth is not only for that church, /but Paul is sending his regards and writing to all those who in every place believe in Jesus.

/For example, if Paul writes to a certain region, /after they read the letter, it is sent to another region. /Thus the Bible is given to us Christians of today.

/Verse 3. /Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/The verse says, “God our Father.” /The moment we believe in Jesus, God becomes our Father. /We believers are children of God. /This is the core idea of covenant theology.

/2 Corinthians 6:18 reads, / “and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me.” /The moment we put our faith in Jesus, /we become God’s people of the covenant of blood.

/When it says we are God’s people of the covenant, it means God is our Father, and we are his children. /Here, Paul wishes grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/What is significant here is “grace,” which refers to everything concerning God’s redemption. / “Peace” is the true, spiritual peace that is within a believer as the result of being saved. /Here is the second main point. /Verses 4 to 9 are about thanksgiving and certainty.

/Verse 4. /I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

/The church of Corinth had many problems. /The city of Corinth was a port city, an industrial city, and a very corrupt city. /God’s church was raised up in this place. /It was a great and glorious event.

/The church of Corinth was raised up as a result of Paul preaching the gospel for 1 year and 6 months. /Paul left the region of Corinth and stayed at Ephesus, and he heard from the people of the house of Chloe. /Because of the many problems of the church of Corinth, Paul was troubled.

/However, thinking about the grace that God had showed to the church of Corinth, Paul gave thanks. /This is the same for the church today. /When the church does something wrong, we groan, /but when we see it do well, we rejoice and give thanks.

/Verses 5-6. /that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—

/The church of Corinth was enriched by the speech and knowledge given to them by God. / “Speech” here is “logos” in Greek. /It means “the word.” / “Knowledge” refers to understanding.

/In this way, God’s word was abundant in the church of Corinth. /Not only did they accept the word as knowledge, but they came to understanding. /That is why Paul says, “Even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you.”

/If the believer does not learn the Bible, he cannot know the truth. /If we do not correctly know the Bible, we cannot live proper spiritual lives. /Therefore, although we may not be able to do everything the Bible says, it is good for us to learn.

/The one who learns the Bible well will be victorious. /Thus if we can, we must study the Bible. /It is more important that we understand.

/Whoever does not understand the truth will not find life in it, though he may have learned a lot. /In the Old Testament, Hosea the prophet groans. /The verse says, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, /because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. /And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” /Hosea 4:6.

/Hosea 4:14 also says, / “A people without understanding shall come to ruin.” /People who know that poison will kill them do not drink poison. /In order for the church to do well, believers must learn the Bible and /firmly understand the truth. /Then will believers’ faith stand firmly in the truth.

/Verse 7. /so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

/Paul also gave thanks for something else. /He was thankful because the church of Corinth was not lacking in any gift. /The church received various gifts, /and in 1 Corinthians 12, we learn about these gifts. /Furthermore, the church of Corinth was a church that waited for the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

/Living our lives in preparation of and waiting for the Lord’s second coming is a precious thing. /Today’s churches are closer to the Lord’s second coming than were the churches two thousand years ago. /Therefore, everyday, we must have a faith that longs and waits for Jesus Christ’s return.

/Verse 8. /who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

/The day of Jesus Christ refers to the day of Jesus’ second coming. / “Who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

/Philippians 1:6 says, / “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” / “A good work” is the work of believing in Jesus. /God began this good work.

/When we go before Jesus, we will be guilty of many things. /But why does it say we will be guiltless and sustained to the end? /It means that God will bring to completion the work of saving believers.

/We are incomplete and flawed. /To make us complete for the day of Jesus’ return, the Holy Spirit works day and night to help us.

/To make us guiltless on the day of the Lord's second coming /as we live our church lives, God gives us several tests. /Sometimes, he disciplines us. /Sometimes, he rebukes us.

/Sometimes it may seem like God is taking away everything from us, /but through it, he brings us to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. /Therefore, when we face various trials, we must be completely joyful. /James 1:2. /God trains us through these various trials.

/He teaches us to gain complete patience, and he makes us lack nothing. /In that sense, it is better for us to face trials than to not face any at all.

/We are made through trials. /God disciplines those whom he sincerely loves. /Hebrews 12:5-8 tell us that God does not discipline those he does not love.

/Verse 9. /God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

/God is faithful. He is trustworthy. /He called us to believe in Jesus, /and he called us into the fellowship of Christ. /Therefore there isn't failure in our salvation.

/When it says God is faithful, /it means God the Father is faithful to his people of the covenant. /Thus there is no failure in our salvation. /God completely fulfills his will.

/Because God who began the work of salvation is faithful, /he will bring it into completion.

/The third main point, divisions and disputes, is found in verses 10 to 17. /This is an important part of the first letter the Apostle Paul sent to the church of Corinth. /The church of today can face problems of divisions and disputes. /We can solve all these problems by looking at the Bible.

/Verse 10. /I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

/The verse says, "All of you agree... in the same mind and the same judgment." / "All of you agree" refers to speaking in the truth. /We need to have the same mind, /which means having the mind of Jesus.

/What is Jesus' mind? /It is the mind of laying down one's glory and honor to live like a servant. /Philippians 2:5. / "Same judgment" refers to seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness and fulfilling his will.

/Believers, do you remember the faith of John the Baptist? /He was born 6 months before Jesus was born, /and he was the one who prepared the way for Jesus. / “He must increase, but I must decrease.” /John 3:30.

/This is saying that though he may decrease, he will be satisfied if God’s movement of salvation is fulfilled. /We believers of today must always be in agreement in the church, having the same mind and same judgment. /Then how did the Apostle Paul know that there were disputes within the church of Corinth?

/Verse 11. /For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

/Paul heard from Chloe’s people about the church of Corinth. /Chloe probably had great faith, and she probably loved the church. /It appears as though she told Paul, who had planted the church, because she was saddened to see the church of Corinth plagued with disputes.

/Verse 12. /What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.”

/In this way, the church of Corinth was split into four factions. /It is unfortunate to see factions within churches. /If we truly belong to Christ alone, /then we would not compete with others. /We must not be separate from them and create our own factions.

/Creating factions and following people is not standing in spiritual faith. /3:22 says it this way. / “Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours.”

/Just because a believer is blessed by a particular pastor, he must not follow the pastor. /Creating a faction centered on this pastor is proof that a person has departed from spiritual faith. /It is a sin before God for believers to create factions. /Believers, do you know what ultimately happened to Korah’s faction in Numbers 16:1?

/Verse 13. /Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

/Jesus died on the cross for our sins. /If we put our faith in Jesus and were baptized, then we belong to Christ. /Christ is our head, and we are his body.

/Therefore everyone on this earth who believes in Christ has Christ as the head, and all believers are the body. /Paul or any other person was not nailed to the cross.

/Believers were not baptized in the name of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or any other person. / For this reason, Paul is rebuking the church of Corinth.

/Verse 14. /I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

/Paul preached the gospel to Crispus and Gaius, who came to believe in Jesus, /and he baptized them. /Acts 18:8; Romans 16:2. /Paul did not baptize many of the people of the church of Corinth.

/He worried that he might be lifted up if he did baptize them. /He always lowered himself and guided believers to Christ. /Is this not the posture of a true servant of God?

/Thus Paul says this in verse 15. / “So that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.”

/Paul did his best to not baptize many people. /He did this so that the believers of the church of Corinth wouldn't follow him excessively.

/Instead, he wanted believers to follow Christ alone. /Today's pastors must guide believers to follow Christ alone. This is the form of a true servant. /God uses these servants and lifts them up.

/Verse 16. /(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

/Verse 14 tells us that Paul baptized Crispus and Gaius. /He also baptized the household of Stephanas, but he does not know if he baptized anyone else.

/Verse 17. /For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

/Paul said, “For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.”

/It is vital for pastors to preach the gospel. /They must not prioritize baptism over preaching the gospel. /The gospel saves lives.

/Baptisms are ceremonies that put a stamp on those who believe in the gospel. /It is a symbol of sin being washed away. /Also, when the Apostle Paul preached the gospel, he tried not to speak words of eloquent wisdom.

/Why didn't he use words of eloquent wisdom when he was a learned person? /The reason is he feared the cross would be covered by his words. /When we use words of eloquent wisdom when we preach the gospel, people tend to favor and follow the words of humans rather than understanding and following the cross.

/Many Christians these days follow pastors who speak eloquently rather than following pastors because of the word of God. /Some follow pastors who are able to heal sicknesses. /If the church does not stand firmly on the word, it may fall into confusion.

/Verses 18-25 are about the cross.

<Approximately 10 lines deleted>

/The word of the cross is the truth about the cross. /To say it again, it is the truth of believing in Jesus Christ. /The blood of Jesus on the cross is the core doctrine of Christianity.

/Therefore, whoever believes in the redemption of the cross believer in Jesus, /but whoever does not believe in the redemption of the cross does not believe in Jesus. /It says that the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing.

/To those who do not believe, the cross appears to be folly. /The reason is Christianity isn't a religion that stemmed from the wisdom of man. /It is a religion that comes completely from God's revelation.

/Christianity not only cannot be understood by the wisdom of man, but it also appears to be foolish. /Think about it for a moment. /If we look at it with man's wisdom, /how can Jesus, who was crucified two thousand years ago, forgive people's sins?

/How can the blood of Jesus, who died two thousand years ago, forgive us of our sins?
/How can someone who was dead be resurrected in three days to ascend to heaven?

/If we think in terms of human wisdom, all of it seems impossible, /and the word of the cross appears to be folly. /However, the word of the cross is the core of Christian doctrine. /To nonbelievers, human wisdom says that /believers who believe in the word of the cross are foolish.

/Those who believe according to the Bible appear even more foolish in the eyes of nonbelievers. /However, we who have received salvation, have the power of God. /"Power" in Greek is "dynamis." /This refers to great power.

/It speaks of the power that is unleashed when a bomb explodes. /Believers, you do know of dynamites? /The word "dynamite" comes from "dynamis." /Romans 1:16 says, / "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, /for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, /to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

/In the word of the cross is God's power. /God saves those who are in sin who believe in the word of the cross. /He gives them life, /he makes them defeat the world and the devil, /and he makes them fulfill the kingdom of Christ and his righteousness.

/Verse 19. /For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

/The verse applies the word of Isaiah 29:14. / “Therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

/Acting in human wisdom leads to failure. /We will only succeed in the things we do in faith. /God judges people when they do things in human wisdom.

/Those who do things in the wisdom of man will be judged by God and be put to shame. / Those who live with the wisdom and discernment of man cannot believe in the word of the cross. /They will perish.

/The word of the cross that came from heaven is the objective truth, /the truth that human wisdom cannot possibly believe. /Today, you believers have come to believe in the word of the cross, have received salvation and eternal life, and have become children of God.

/You also have become inheritors of heaven’s inheritance. /I hope you daily give thanks for the grace you have received.

/This concludes our first lecture. /Thank you.