

/We will now begin the third lecture on 1 John. /Last time we left off at 2:8. /Today we will begin with verse 9. /A reborn believer cannot continuously hate his brother.

/Even if a believer happens to momentarily hate his brother as a result of his humanly thoughts, /he must repent immediately to be considered a true believer. /Why is this so? /To hate is to be in darkness. /Even if the other person hates and insults me, /I must not hate him.

/If we continue to go forward with hatefulness /our spirits will be filled with anguish. /We will hear the groans of the Holy Spirit. /There will be guilt in our consciences. /This is because believers have been reborn.

/When we continue in our hatefulness, /the devil will work and we will become slaves to the devil. /Therefore, the child of God who remains in the light /must bear fruit of love.

/Read verse 10. /Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

/Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. /The reason for this /is that loving our brothers is equivalent to the spiritual essence of our reborn selves.

/The core of man's love is selfish love /yet, God's love is unconditional and exceeds man's limits. /Let's take a look at the apostle John, the author of this book. /He was called by Jesus at the Sea of Galilee.

/John received the greatest love from Jesus. /John was impatient and was quick to become angry. /The Lord gave him the name, Boanerges (which means Son of Thunder). /Then how did John change?

/John witnessed firsthand Jesus on the cross. /John was inspired by amazing love of the sinless Jesus /who died for the sins of man. /Then as a result, John became the apostle of love.

/He preached about the love of God. /We, too, have received the love of the cross. /We must abide in light and love daily /and must become people of love who will spread love.

/We must put into action the love we receive. /No matter how much we may cry out about love, /those who do not comprehend love cannot love nor spread love.

/Verse 11. /But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

/Whoever hates his brother is in the darkness. /This means that he does not know where he is going, and the darkness has blinded him. /We must think about this rationally. /When we are in darkness, /we cannot see what is ahead of us even though we have eyes.

/When in darkness, we cannot find objects. /We fumble about because we might get hurt. /Again, whoever hates his brother /will wander about in the world, and will be in darkness without knowing which way he should go.

/His spirit will grow dark and he will not see the spiritual world. /He will not know where he should go. /He will become blind and incapable of leading others. /A blind man cannot lead another blind man.

/They will both fall into pits in the ground. /Matthew 15:14. /In order for us to maintain our physical health, /we must have sufficient intake of the necessary nutrition for our bodies. /Appropriate exercise is also necessary. /The heart and body must be at peace.

/The same goes for our physical health. /We must diligently attend worship and receive grace. /We must also pray diligently. /We must go out and evangelize to the souls that do not yet believe. /However, it must not end there.

/Love must be abundant within us in order for love to show through us. /Then we can maintain the health of our faith. /1 Peter 1:4-8 speaks of /the eight characteristics of God, /and it concludes that above all things, we are to supply love.

/The apostle Paul said that the greatest among faith, hope, and love is love. /The world that hates his brother is the world of death. /The world of death is dominated by darkness. /There the devil acts as king.

/Now we must repent and enter first into God's love. /We must first enter into the love of Christ /so that we may love others, /and dwell in light. /The eyes of our spirits will be brightened.

/We will know for certain which path to take in life. /The world of love is a world with bright light. /This means that we will be able to clearly see with the light the path we are to walk down. /Not only was the apostle John a man of love, /but the deacon Stephen was also a man of love, whose eyes were brightened.

/Even when Stephen was martyred by being stoned to death, /his spiritual eyes were brightened and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. /Stephen also prayed out of love for his enemies that God would forgive them. /His face was like that of an angel.

/Stephen preached with the fullness of five things. /What were they? /He was filled with the Holy Spirit, /his faith, /Jesus, /hope, /and love. /We must follow the example of Stephen. /This is to be in the world of love, the world of light, and the world of God.

/Verse 12. /I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

/In verses 12 and 13, John encourages believers according to their age groups. /The

“children” refer to little kids, /the “fathers” refer to the elderly, /and the “young men” refer to young believers.

/The children, fathers, and young men in the latter part of verse 13 and verse 14 refer to different people. /Those in verse 14 have been categorized according to the level of their faith. /What did John say to encourage the children? /John testified to the children about the fundamental doctrine of the church of Christ.

/Sin has been washed away by the name of Jesus Christ. /John encouraged the children to be thankful for the grace of forgiveness of their sins. /All Sunday schools in churches must teach this fundamental doctrine to their children.

/We must plant into children of young age, confidence of their salvation. /We must teach them salvation, that they will enter heaven if they believe in Jesus, /and they will go to hell if they do not believe. /The doctrine of salvation is the most important doctrine to young lives.

/If children hold onto this doctrine for the rest of their lives, /they will not leave God. /Even if they do leave God, /they will return to the arms of God just as Augustine did. /God gave special grace to those who believe in Jesus.

/What was the gift given to those who believe? /We can testify to three things. /First is the grace of the washing away of sins. /Luke 24:47. /There is grace that is received through the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

/Through the sins of Adam, the forefather of all mankind, /all people were born into this world as sinners. /The wages of sin is death. /However, God sent Jesus to this earth as atonement for man.

/Jesus completed redemption on the cross and opened the doors of salvation. /All people in this world, /regardless of ethnicity and race, /regardless of Jews and Gentiles, /who believe in Jesus were forgiven of their sins in the past and in the future. /Believers were allowed to become righteous.

/Second, what grace is given to those who believe? /It is the grace of becoming a child of God. /John 1:12 says, /all who believe in the name of Jesus, He gave the right to become children of God.

/Whoever receives Jesus have the right to become children of God. /It is a great deal to gain the right to be children of God. /There is the right to heal physical illnesses. /There is the right to chase out evil spirits.

/There is the right to overcome the world and its sins. /There is the right to display power. /The rights of the kings in this world are great, /but it cannot compare to the rights given to the children of God. /The rights are seen /when we use our rights. /When we do not use our rights, it will become incompetent.

/Third is the grace of /receiving eternal life in heaven as inheritance. /1 Peter 1:4. /The inheritance of heaven will never perish, spoil, or fade. /The inheritance is kept in heaven. /This inheritance will never perish, /will never fade, /and will never spoil.

/No one can steal the inheritance. /It is the inheritance that God has preserved. /What happens to inheritance on this earth? /It becomes bankrupt /and redundant. /There are many industries that quickly go out of business.

/We believers must become qualified in this world to receive heaven's inheritance. /What is in heaven will last forever. /God gives us trials and hardships to qualify us for the inheritance.

/God trains us in many ways. /The Lord places us in tough environments. /He makes us encounter difficult people. /Then through such situations we will become qualified to receive our inheritance.

/How great of an inheritance did God give us? /God gave us an inheritance that cannot be bought with the world's riches or powers. /We received the grace of the forgiveness of our sins, /the grace of being children of God, /and eternal inheritance of heaven. /How thankful are we that we can receive all this?

/Verse 13. /I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

/What did John encourage fathers to do? /Elderly believers heard and learned the truth for a long period of time. /Therefore, they knew that God existed from the beginning, /and knew the fundamentals of their faith.

/John meant that they should stand firm in the truth. /It is inevitable for people to become weaker as they age. /When one becomes physically weak, it is easy to become negligent of one's faith. /Elderly believers must stand firm in God who was from the beginning.

/To have "known him" means to know from experience. /This means to have confidence in faith through old and long experiences. /It means to take into account past successes and failures, and not be shaken in their faith. /What did John encourage young men to do?

/Young men refer to spirited young people. /They must do their best to defeat the evil one. /They must devote their strength and vitality to their faith. /Then they can defeat the temptations of the devil.

/Young men must make every effort to pray. /They must read the Bible and make efforts to evangelize. /They must be devoted to serve. /We must make great efforts individually to become people of God.

/We must press on in our faith. /The devil approaches us in ways we can't see, /and he comes to us through people closest to us, /and therefore, we must always be awake in our faith. /Those who are awake in their faith can gain victory through the power invested on them by God.

/What is the unending battle we believers take part in? /We must fight with the devil. /We must also fight with ourselves. /We must fight with the world. /We must fight against sin. /We do not fight in flesh and blood. /We fight against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms and against the rules and authorities in the world. /Ephesians 6:12.

/We must be fully armed as soldiers going off into battle. /We must put on the full armor of God /and annihilate the devil's army. /Ephesians 6:13-17 /tells us to put on the six objects of the full armor of God.

/First, we must put on the belt of truth. /We must hold onto the truth and fight the good fight. /Second, /we must put on the breastplate of righteousness. /This means to testify to what is right.

/Third, /our feet must be fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. /This means to always walk in the gospel /and preach the gospel wherever we go. /Fourth, /we must take up the shield of faith, which we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

/This means to do everything in faith. /Fifth, /we must put on the helmet of salvation. /This means to go forward with confidence in our salvation. /Sixth, we must take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

/The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit /because the Bible was written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /God's Word has life. /Power is seen through God's Word.

/When we arm ourselves with these six things /we can defeat whatever the devil's schemes may be. /The devil approaches us in the most cunning way possible. /If we fail to stay away for even a moment, we can fall to the devil's schemes. /I pray that you will arm yourselves with the full armor of God.

/Verse 14. /I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

/The fathers, children, and young men in this verse are categorized by the level of their faith. /The reason for this is /that there is no reason for John to restate what he had previously written. /There is also another reason for this.

/It says that young men are strong and the word of God lives in them. /Here the young men refer to believers who are running the race of faith. /The level of faith is categorized into three stages. /What is the faith of children like?

/This can be seen as the stage when believers begin to know the Father God. /Children can know only the basic truth as they feed off milk. /When the apostle Paul wrote to believers in the church of Corinth, /he said he was addressing them as children of the world.

/Paul said that he gave them milk and not solid food. /This was because they were not able to handle it. /Those who were young in their faith remained in the basic truth. /Those who first begin to believe in Jesus and attend church /are like children in the level of their faith.

/For example, /“If you believe in Jesus and receive forgiveness of your sins, you will be saved,” is truth. /“God is love,” is truth. /However, for the faith of children /it is difficult to cut off sin and defeat the devil.

/It can be difficult for them to obey the Word of God. /It can be difficult for them to carry out their salvation. /Their faith must become mature. /The second stage is the stage of the faith of fathers.

/These believers have believed for a long period of time and know God deeper. /Their faith is mature. /Even if one may be young in age, /if he believed and learned the Bible from a young age, /and if he lives in the Word then he is a believer of great faith.

/This is the faith of fathers. /David defeated Goliath at a young age /with firm faith. /Samuel was a leader of the Israelites until he was old in age. /Those with faith of fathers /refer to believers who are leaders in the church.

/It refers to those who lead the church, such as elders who spend considerable amounts of time in prayer. /1 Corinthians 16:18 says that such believers deserve recognition. /This means that we must acknowledge and respect such believers.

/This does not mean that we should publicly give them praise, /but we must acknowledge and respect the elders. /The third stage of faith is the faith of young men. /They are brave and strong in their faith. /The Word of God lives and works in their hearts.

/Their faith defeats the schemes and temptations of the devil. /Their faith is in complete alliance with the power of Jesus and is strong faith that can defeat the devil. /God clearly told Joshua before the Israelites entered Canaan.

/Joshua 1:6-9 says, /be strong and courageous. /God emphasizes this three times. /This is the faith of young men. /David also gave charge to Solomon as his last days approached. /David encouraged Solomon to be a man of faith.

/David was able to defeat his enemies when he walked forward with faith like that of young men. /However, when he fell to complacency, he was deceived by the devil and eventually sinned. /What is the armor of the faith of young men? /They must first have

the truth of the Word of God. /They must also have the power of the Holy Spirit.

/Strong and courageous faith that can annihilate the devil's army is required even in today's time. /In order for us to have this faith, we must always hold the Word of God close to us. /We must diligently read the Bible and learn. /We must also meditate on God's Word.

/We must also go forward in obedience. /We must also diligently pray to God /and receive power and wisdom. /We can gain victory when we go forward in faith like that of young men. /We can defeat the temptations of the devil.

/Verses 15-17. /Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

/We believers must not love the world. /This world is a world of sin that has abandoned God. /The devil is ruler of the kingdom of the air. /It is a perverted and corrupt world. /It is estranged and is a defiant world.

/It is a world that has abandoned God. /Why must believers not love the world? We can testify to three things. /First, /we cannot love both God and the world. /This is written in verse 15. /A man cannot serve two masters. /A wife cannot serve two husbands. /A man cannot serve two kings. /In this way, we cannot serve two masters. /We cannot serve both God and the world.

/When believers become friends with the world, they become God's enemies. /James 4:4 says that this is spiritual adultery. /We are holy believers who have been picked to be separate from the world. /Therefore, we must not love the world and we must not chase after it.

/Lot held onto God with one hand and loved the world with the other, and he received shameful salvation. /Lot's wife became attached to the world, and after having turned around she became a pillar of salt. /We may live in this world, /but we must always remember that our statuses are believers.

/What are our statuses? /1 Peter 2:9 speaks of five positions. /It says that we are chosen people, /a royal priesthood, /a holy nation, /a people belonging to God, /and people who declare the praises of God.

/God granted us these precious positions. /Therefore, we must not be influenced by this world, /but must always renew our hearts /so that we may discern what is God's good, pleasing and complete will. /Romans 12:1-2.

/Second, why must believers not love the world? /Verse 16 says, /everything in the world

comes not from God. /What are the things of the world? /It is greed of the flesh, /greed of the eyes, /and boasting of the world. /It is material greed, sexual desires, and self greed.

/Satan attempts to deceive us through this. /He deceived Eve through such greed. /The devil tempted Jesus with these three kinds of greed. /Again, /the devil attempts to put dirty greed into our hearts to make us fall.

/Here we can discover the truth. /The devil does not advance. /The devil has been deceiving people with these three kinds of greed /at the time of creation /and during the time when Jesus was on this earth. /Thus, the number of the devil is the number six. /666.

/The devil cannot be the number seven, which is God's number. /In order for us to defeat the devil, we must get rid of our greed. /We must learn to always be content with what God has given us. /It says that greed gives birth to sin. /Then when sin matures, it gives birth to death.

/We must be satisfied that we have food to eat and clothes to wear. /Even believers can fall into sin when they are deceived by greed. /David fell to his sexual desires and sinned. /Achan fell to material greed and sinned.

/Ananias and Sapphira fell to selfish greed, sinned, and were ruined. /Third, why must we believers not love the world? /Verse 17 says, the world and its desires pass away. /All things of this world will pass away and disappear.

/Just as clouds come and go, /as the morning fog fades, /and as the streams flow, the things of the world will all pass away. /All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

/Flowers quickly wither and fall. /Solomon, who enjoyed the splendor of great riches and glory in the world /lost his faith /and said, it is like "chasing after the wind." /We cannot catch wind.

/The things of the world are infinite. /Yet, all will receive the judgment of fire at the second coming of the Lord and will be destroyed. /There is nothing in this world that we will take with us to God. /We must not put value on the things of this world.

/Then what does God require of us? /What must we become as believers? /Verse 17 says, we must become people who do the will of God. /The world is meaningless, /but those who act according to the will of God are like those who build their houses on rocks.

/Treasures in heaven will not fade. /They will become homes built with gold, silver, and precious jewels, and will forever remain in heaven. /Our goals and purposes in life, /as well as our successes, must chase after the will of God. /Faith that turns away from the Lord's will ends in failure.

/Whatever is done for food that spoils will all fade, /but what is done for food that endures



to eternal life will remain for eternity. /Then what is this? /It is to obey according to the Word of God. /It is to devote oneself and be faithful to the Lord and the gospel.

/It is to go forward in our salvation and become more and more like Jesus. /It is to serve by doing God's work and keep our faith in whatever trials we may encounter. /It is to seek God's kingdom and his righteousness. /It is to participate in the Lord's work of salvation.

/We must become believers who seek the will of our Father and act according to his will.

/Here we will conclude the third lecture. /Thank you.