

/We will now begin the fourth lecture on 1 John.

/Read 2:18. /Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

/We believers must be careful in the Last Days of many antichrists. /We must be most cautious of the deceiving of the powers of the antichrists /in the Last Days.

/Jesus said in Matthew 24:5-6, /“Watch out that no one deceives you.” /The antichrists appeared in the early church and deceived the believers. /The antichrist attacks God, and attempts to sit in the seat of Jesus.

/False Christians claim that they are savior, and improperly teach the Bible. /They do not believe that Jesus is Savior. /There are many cults in Korea today. /There is Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church. /There is the Church of God of Ahn Sahng-hong, /and there is Man Hee Lee, cult leader of Shinchonji.

/They are all antichrists, cults. /There are also the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Mormonism, and Jehovah’s Witnesses, which are all cults. /They personally placed themselves on the seat of God. /Whoever does not believe in the Bible and teaches contradictorily are all forces of the devil.

/Those who do not believe in the fundamental doctrine of Christianity are cults. /We must always be careful not to be deceived in the Last Days. /We must stand firm in the Word of God and be discerning. /We must set the Bible as the standard as we discern between right and wrong.

/Verse 19. /They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

/We must know how to discern the truth of the Bible from cults. /The majority of cult members stem from Christianity. /They betrayed the truth in the church and left the church. /They do not acknowledge existing churches. /They claim that there is no salvation in the existing churches. /They claim that salvation is found only in themselves. /Their form of worship is similar to that of Christianity. /Their hymns and sermons are similar as well.

/They have pastors, elders, and deacons. /There are many external similarities. /However, there is a trap. /The end is different. /Cults may seem similar to Christianity at first, /but as the end approaches, there is a difference.

/Their views and insides are different, as well as their doctrine. /Jesus said in Matthew 7:15. /“Watch out for false prophets.” /“They come to you in sheep’s clothing, /but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

/They seem kind on the outside. /They put on the mask of gentleness and approach people. /Yet, what are they really like? /They do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. /They are wicked cults.

/They deny Jesus' divinity and character. /They may have one similar verse to the Bible, yet the entirety of their beliefs is wrong. /We must set God's Word, which he has given to us, as the standard and identify cults.

/A true church is one that has been built on apostles and missionaries. /The pillar of the church is the truth, /and the foundation of the church is the truth as well. /A church must preach the truth for it to be considered a true church. /What are the three attributes of the church?

/First, they properly preach the Word of God. /Second, /they properly carry out Communion and baptism. /Third, they properly discipline the believers. /A church cannot be a true church /even if it is great in number, if what they teach contradicts the Word of God.

/The master of the church is God. /The church must receive the guidance and counsel of God, the master of the church. /The church cannot be a church that is led by man. /Ceremonies must also be properly conducted so that believers may gain confidence of their salvation.

/The church must bring up true believers. /It is good for the church to conduct three ceremonies in a year. /This would be at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. /The church must also diligently discipline the believers to be a true church. /The devil continuously throws yeast in the church.

/If sin isn't disciplined in the church, /the church will become corrupted and will lose its ability and role. /If the element of sin is not removed at the beginning, /it will become more corrupted and the entire church will become filthy. /It was said that little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.

/Therefore, there is need for discipline. /In order for the church to maintain its holiness and purity /it must discipline and remove wrongful factors. /Sermons on Sunday /must proclaim about repentance /and point out sins. /When one personally commits great sin, /another person who know about it must go and admonish the one who sinned.

/When the one who sinned does not listen, /two witnesses must go admonish the one who sinned. /If the one who sinned still does not listen, /then the church must step forward and admonish him. /If he still does not listen, then he is to be treated like a pagan. /Matthew 18:15-17.

/Today, churches do not admonish its believers. /The result of that is that churches become secularized and corrupted. /True churches must be established. /They must testify to the truth of God's Word, /properly perform Communion and baptism, /and

must diligently discipline its believers.

/Verse 20. /But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

/We believers have been anointed with the Holy Spirit. /Therefore, we know the truth.
/Those who have truly been reborn /have the truth and the work of the spirit in them.
/They know the truth and they know God.

/Believers can also recognize antichrists, /and have the spiritual insight to detect falseness. /The truth /can be life for believers, /but believers deny falseness /because it does not correspond with their spirits.

/We must chase after the truth. /The Helper Holy Spirit helps believers by testifying for us. /John 15:26. /Those who are in the Spirit can make sound judgments about everything. /Those who are of the flesh cannot know and cannot recognize the truth.

/Verses 21-22. /I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist-- he denies the Father and the Son.

/The apostle John clearly tells us his purpose in writing this letter. /He says that it is so that believers would not be deceived by the antichrist. /In 2:1, John said he wrote this letter so that believers would not sin.

/John said that he wrote this letter so that he could encourage and teach those who have already been saved about the truth, /and that believers would not fall to any delusions. /No matter how great delusions may be, if believers stand firm in the truth, they will not fall.

/We have received salvation through the truth. /The Holy Spirit also guides us to the truth. /Lies do not come from the truth. /What is the greatest lie? /Verse 22 says, it is to deny "that Jesus is the Christ."

/To deny God is also to deny Jesus. /Cults do not believe in Jesus. /They claim that they believe in God, but they deny Jesus. /This means that they do not believe in Jesus and they are filled with lies.

/Jesus said in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." /Therefore, if one claims to believe in God and yet, denies Jesus, this is proof that he does not believe in God. /Lies are of the devil.

/The devil deceived Eve with lies when she ate from the tree of knowledge. /God said, "when you eat of it you will surely die." /What did the devil say to Eve? /He said, "when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God."

/The devil spoke the exact opposite of God's Word. /Lies are a characteristic of the devil. /The Bible testifies that Jesus alone is the only way to salvation. /Yet, cults lie and deny Jesus.

/Cult leaders claim that people must believe in them to receive salvation. /They claim, "Jesus is the failure of the cross." /They lie and say that God appointed them as savior. /Yet, many people are deceived and fall.

/Verse 23. /No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

/No one who denies the Son has the Father, /and whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. /Jesus came to this earth in human form as the Son of God. /Jesus completed the redemption of the cross, for it was our Father God's pleasing will.

/Jesus was fully man, /and He is fully God. /He is the only God who can save mankind. /This is the truth, /and we must diligently testify to this truth.

/No matter how sweet words may be, /or pleasing to the ear, /or morally and ethically agreeable, /there is no truth in them. /If anyone does not testify that Jesus is the Son of God /and our Savior, /we must know that they are of a cult and we must leave them.

/Jesus alone is the only Way, Truth, and Life. /God did not give us any other way to him. /Christianity preaches Jesus alone.

/Verses 24-25. /See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us--even eternal life.

/When what we have heard from the beginning remains in us, /we will also remain in the Son and in the Father. /When we receive the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is life, /then we can remain in the Son and in the Father.

/To remain in the Son and the Father means to /live life in Christ /and live in the Word in Jesus Christ. /We believers will enjoy freedom when we live in the truth. /We will enjoy true joy and peace.

/We will also be able to bear fruit of faith. /God gave us eternal life. /God already granted eternal life to those who believe in Jesus. /The life we have been given will grow more and more in God's Word.

/We will enjoy eternal happiness in heaven. /We cannot receive this life through our own efforts, actions, or good deeds. /This is a freely given gift from God. /Those who believe in Jesus will participate in eternal happiness.

/Those who deny Jesus will suffer in the pits of fire in hell. /This is everlasting truth.

/Believers are not of this world. /They have special identities as people belonging to Christ.

/Just as the world hated Jesus, /it is not strange that they would hate us as well. /We must persevere by looking toward the glory and kingdom of the Lord. /We must endure no matter what hardships the world may throw at us.

/Verse 26. /I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.

/It says to be careful of those trying to lead us astray. /The apostle John continuously tells us to be careful of deceivers. /Why does he tell us to be on guard about deceivers? /It is because deceivers are always near us.

/The devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. /The devil attempts to deceive those who are chosen. /Cult members approach those who attend church and try to lead them astray. /Sometimes cult members come to the homes of those with church names written on the doorframes.

/Cults even enter the church. /They come wearing sheep's clothing. /They deceive believers. /They sometimes attempt to overturn the church. /When cult members come, /they come with sweet and logical words.

/Yet, their identity is the devil. /They are wolves ready to plunder. /They are workers of lies. /We must be able to recognize them.

/We must not give even the slightest bit of opportunity to them. /We must not associate with cult members, must not speak to them, and must not greet them. /We must immediately inform the pastor of the conduct of cult members so that they may be immediately driven out from the area.

/Verse 27. /As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-- just as it has taught you, remain in him.

/The one who teaches and guides us is the Holy Spirit, who remains in us. /The Holy Spirit always leads us to the truth. /John 16:13. /Therefore, anything that contradicts the truth is not the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

/The Holy Spirit God correctly leads believers down the right path. /Those who obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit are filled with the Spirit. /There was a great difference in Jesus' disciples from when they did not have the Spirit and when they received the Holy Spirit.

/The disciples were weak and fell easily to temptations before they received the Helper Spirit. /Peter denied Jesus three times. /However, after Peter received the Helper Holy Spirit, he became courageous. /He preached the gospel with all his might no matter that

hardships he encountered.

/There were great works of life. /When Peter preached the gospel, three thousand people repented in a day. /The apostle Peter was martyred upside-down on the cross.

/We must also follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit God inside of us. /We become filled with the Holy Spirit when we completely obey God's Word. /God's power will be seen wherever we go. /We must not go or see whatever is not of the truth.

/Verses 28-29. /And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

/Those who are in the Lord will receive confidence at Jesus' return. /They will not be ashamed before Him. /Jesus will come on the clouds /when He returns, and all peoples will see Him. /We do not know the exact day or time, /but Jesus will surely return.

/When Jesus returns, /the army of angels will escort him, /and the sound of trumpets will resound over all of creation. /The Lord's glory will fill all of creation. /Those who remain the Lord in these situations will receive confidence.

/The apostle John said that those who remain in the truth and in the Lord will be confident. /It is like a child who is not afraid of anything as he lives in the arms of his mother. /No matter how scary a judge may be in court, /those who lived according to the law will not be afraid.

/Those who keep the traffic laws are not afraid of the police. /Students who study hard are not afraid of exams. /Likewise, we must always live in the Lord so that we would be confident. /We will not be ashamed before the Lord.

/When the Lord returns, we will be separated into those who are ashamed and those who are not ashamed. /God will judge according to his Word. /Those who denied the truth and lived according to his own ways /will be shamed before God.

/His entire life will be revealed. /Yet, those who lived according to God's Word /will not be ashamed, but will be complimented by others. /They will also be commended by God. /The epistles of the apostle Paul also emphasize living in the Lord.

/Paul emphasized living life in Christ. /What does it mean to live in the Lord? /This means to always be aware of God, love and obey.

/No matter what we encounter, /or eat or drink, we must always remain in the Lord. /There is a hymn that says, "The trusting heart to Jesus clings, nor any ill forebodes." /We believers have been reborn through the righteousness of the Lord.

/Those who are born of God are also righteous. /We have been made righteous because

we believe in Christ. /God is righteous. /When we attempt to have a relationship with God, we can only have a relationship when we become righteous.

/The kingdom of God is a kingdom of righteousness. /We are children of righteousness. /Those who act in righteousness on earth will enjoy power over a city in heaven. /Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to accomplish righteousness.

/There was not a single person who sought after the truth in Jerusalem, and hence, there was judgment. /There were not ten righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah, and thus, there was judgment of fire. /We must build righteousness in each generation.

/This generation is corrupted and is one with many sins. /We must continue in righteousness just as Abraham, Noah, and Joseph did. /We must also establish righteousness. /What is righteousness? /It is to obey by doing what is right. /We must be believers who will be righteous until the end.

/We will continue with the lecture on chapter three. /The title is, "Children." /Let us look at the cause. /First, children of God. Verses 1-3. /Second, those who are of God do not sin. Verses 4-9.

/Third, those of the devil. Verses 10-12. /Fourth, love one another. Verses 13-18. /Fifth, those who love will receive God's blessings. Verses 19-24.

/This is the point of chapter three. /"Children of God" is mentioned three times. /Verses 1, 2, and 10. /The apostle John encourages God's children in the midst of the danger of cults. /We have become children of God because of God's love.

/The hope of children of God will be fulfilled when the Lord comes. /God's children must keep away from sin. /Verses 4-9. /Those who have received love must act in love. /Verses 10-24.

/Chapter three emphasizes actions of complete love of the doctrine, /more than the doctrine itself.

/Read verse 1. /How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

/Believers have become children of God through God's unilateral love. /It says in 2:29, everyone who does what is right has been born of God. /This is the result of God's amazing love.

/Believers have been chosen before creation by the love of God, /and when time came, God called his believers in love so that they would believe in him. /We must think about and comprehend the love that God gave us.

/In the past we were in sin and were enemies with God. /We were subject to eternal damnation in hell as a result of our sins. /We were merciless and cruel like wolves and ostriches. /We were filthy and lovely like bugs.

/However, God sent his one and only Son Jesus for us sinners. /God had Jesus die and shed His blood on the cross /and washed us clean of our sins.

/God took us from sin and death, and gave us life as his children. /Our Lord gave us authority as children. /He promised that we would receive our Father's inheritance.

/God allowed us to receive his glorious inheritance in his kingdom. /God protects us as we live on this earth. /We will never meet anyone like God on earth.

/We are children of God who have received his great love and grace. /All grace regarding salvation has been given freely by God. /Ephesians 2:8. /Yet, the world will never know the relationship between God and us believers.

/The people of the world do not know God's love. /There is light in the darkness, but just as darkness cannot know light, /those who are of the flesh cannot know children who are of the light.

/We are blessed to have become children of God. /We must be thankful and deeply moved by God's love for us. /The people of the world do not know us. /Jesus alone recognizes us and loves us. /When we recognize this love, we can overcome the world.

/Verses 2-3. /Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

/When Jesus returns, we believers will be spiritually transformed to be like the Lord. /When the Lord returns to the earth, we believers will change to be like Jesus. /Believers will be transformed into spiritual bodies and will meet Jesus in the air.

/We will be transformed into the spiritual image of Jesus. /We will be resurrected bodies. /Then we will see Jesus face to face. /Children of God face insults on earth. /They face hardships and trials.

/However, the current hardships cannot compare to the glory that will come. /God will repay us with glory all the sufferings we encountered for the Lord and the gospel. /The apostle Peter said that the glory will never perish, spoil or fade.

/We can endure present hardships and disadvantages when we think of the future glory. /The hardships we encounter in this world is light. /"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." /2 Corinthians 4:17.

/God does not only grant us good life on this earth. /God allows us to encounter hardships

so that we may participate in his glory. /God allows us to encounter many hardships so that we would become qualified as heirs.

/Jesus also faced many hardships and humiliation on this earth in the body of a man. /Then Jesus died on the cursed cross. /Then God lifted Jesus up and seated Jesus in His seat of glory.

/Jesus carried the shameful cross and endured. /Then Jesus was seated on the right hand of God. /There is resurrection after the cross. /There is glory after sufferings. /There is hope after hardships. /We must not forget that there is glory after trials.

/Verse 3 says, we must be pure on this earth as Jesus is pure. /Such people are those who live in hope. /Those who wait for Jesus' return are those who have hope. /We must become pure, as Jesus is pure.

/Just as gold is put into a furnace to remove the residue, /we must also throw away the filthiness of our old selves and become pure. /We will enjoy eternal life in heaven where we have our citizenship.

/We must be ready to live in the kingdom of God by becoming pure on this earth. /Jesus was the perfect example of that pureness. /The Lord encountered sufferings yet, He did not sin. /He loved His enemies even when He was nailed to the cross.

/We must live pure and clean lives like Jesus. /We must be clean and even become cleaner. /Our hearts, words, and actions must be clean.

/Then how can we become clean? /1 Timothy 4:5. /Be consecrated by the word of God and prayer. /This is how we can prepare to greet the Lord.

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