

/We will now begin with the eighth lecture on 2 John. /We will begin with an introduction to 2 John. /The introduction to 2 John is almost identical to that of 1 John. /2 John can be viewed as a compressed edition of 1 John.

/The text especially emphasizes living according to the greatest commandment: love. /Also, it tells us to be wary of false teachers who twist and distort the truth of Christ. /During that time period, followers of Gnosticism claimed that only those with knowledge of God could be true believers.

/Claiming to be saved followers of God, these people strayed from the commandments and lived immoral lives. /They cried out for love, but they did not act out God's commandments, and they had faith without deeds. /Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees for the same reason.

/The title of chapter 1 is "Truth." /The main parts are as follows. /First, the header. Verses 1-3. /Second, encouragement to love. Verses 4-6. /Third, being wary of cults. Verses 7-11. /Fourth, a greeting. Verses 12-13.

/Read verse 1. / The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth-- and not I only, but also all who know the truth—

/The apostle John writes to and blesses the beloved children of God. /First, he writes to the chosen lady and to her children. /Also, he writes to those who know the truth, including us.

/Here, it is difficult to know who the "chosen lady" is. /However, it is unmistakable that she is someone whom John acknowledges as a devoted servant of God. /These people faithfully kept the Lord's commandments.

/The apostle John rejoiced in seeing a beautiful family chosen by God. /Also, John gives courage to the believers and their faith, with a thankful heart, encouraging them with the Word of truth.

/In the Old Testament period, there were women of good faith. /Hannah, Samuel's mother, and Sarah, Abraham's wife, are such examples. /In the New Testament period, there were also women of good faith who followed Jesus.

/Then and now, women had good faith, and they were loyal to God's church. /The apostle John blessed these women and their children, giving them his regards.

/Verse 2. /because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

/John greets those who live in the truth. /Jesus Christ is the truth. /In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

/Because Jesus dwells in the church, everyone must love the church and think of it

preciously. /We must not criticize the church nor harm it in any way. /We must always keep in mind that God is with his church and his servants, and we must pray for the church and its servants.

/The apostle John's love for believers comes from the truth of the gospel that comes from the Holy Spirit. /The fellowship between believers does not come from human relationships or emotions. /It comes from the love that is founded in the truth of the gospel.

/This is a relationship that only believers can enjoy. /When a believer dwells in Jesus or when a believer has a good relationship with a servant of God, we call such relationships a relationship of life. /Believers are noble because the Holy Spirit dwells in them.

/The Spirit of God leads us to the truth. /When we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are truly loving God. /Love is a fundamental characteristic of God.

/Those chosen by God must completely love others. /A believer who does not have love in his heart may have diseased faith or may not be of God.

/John, the apostle of love, emphasizes true love not only in 1 John, but also in 2 and 3 John. /Love is the completion of the law and the greatest commandment. /Anyone can love someone who shows favor towards him.

/The love that the Lord teaches us is to love those who cannot be loved. /Those who dwell in that love dwell in the truth.

/Verse 3. /Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

/There is always grace within the truth and love of Christ. /Within that person is God's mercy and the peace that comes with salvation. /The apostle Paul spoke of this in the letter to the church of Corinth.

/In 2 Corinthians 13:13, /Paul's blessing is possible because of the grace of Christ, the love of the Father, and the communication of the Holy Spirit. /In Numbers 6:23-26, we see Aaron's blessing. /It says, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites."

/The LORD bless you and keep you, /The LORD protect you, /and the LORD always give you peace. /In this way, believers who have been saved received the grace and mercy of God.

/These believers must always live proper lives. /They must always live holy and pure lives, loving God and their neighbors. /We believers must not only be thankful of the grace of salvation, /but must also lead lives that grow in truth and love.

/We must keep growing until our lives come to an end. /When our lives end here on

earth, we enter God's eternal kingdom to live forever in truth and love.

/Until then, we must learn from our Savior and the example He has shown us. /1
Corinthians 11:1

/We must follow the footsteps of the Lord. /We must imitate the love displayed by Jesus Christ. /His patience, servitude, and prayer are characteristics we must learn. /That is what it means to truly walk in faith.

/Verse 4. /It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

/A pastor finds it joyful and worthwhile when believers act in truth. /The apostle John felt the same way when the believers acted in joy. /In Philippians 2:16-17, the apostle Paul says, /"But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you."

/Our Lord became a grain of wheat that bore many fruit. /Moses gave up the glory and power that came from being the son of an Egyptian princess and rejoiced in being persecuted with Christ and God's people.

/A real servant of God experiences joy and finds it worthwhile when he makes sacrifices for other believers. /Faith that knows the truth but does not act is dead faith.

/Jesus said that a house built on sand will fall over when the wind blows and the floodwaters appear. /Properly knowing God's Word is important. /We must obey the Word that we know, bring joy to the Lord, and bring joy to God's servants.

/Our parents of the flesh find happiness when we live proper lives. /Pastors rejoice when believers act in truth, so how much more will our heavenly Father rejoice?

/Jesus cried three times when He was on this earth. /He cried once in John 11 in front of Nazareth's grave. /Jesus taught us the truth of resurrection, but He cried when they did not understand.

/A believer living in truth is like a child held in his mother's arms. /He lives the safest, happiest, and most satisfied life there could be. /We must always push ourselves to obey in the truth and set that as a goal for ourselves.

/This is joy for one's self, joy for God's servant, and joy for God.

/Verse 5. /And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

/Verses 5 and 6 teach us the commandments we must follow. /Verses 5-6 speak of the core values. /That is to teach one another the commandments that we love. /John emphasized in 1 John the commandment of love. /1 John 4:20

/Jesus also asked His disciples during the Last Supper to love one another. /John 13:34. /When we love one another, we dwell in God. /That is what it means to be a true disciple who dwells in God.

/On the other hand, hating other believers is the work of the devil. /1 John 3:15 says that anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. /Both the Old Testament and the New Testament teach believers to love.

/This is not a love that comes from human empathy. /This love is the Lord's sacrificial love, and it is unconditional. It is Agape love. /Just as God love us sinners, we must also have the faith to truthfully love one another.

/Love for God is the core of the Ten Commandments. /The Ten Commandments is the summary of the law, and the core of the Ten Commandments is love. /Also, the Lord said that the greatest of all the commandments is love.

/In this way, the apostle John emphasizes love, starting from 1 John. /A person with love becomes a person of love, and a person without love becomes a person without love. /A loving person is a person of noble character.

/A person who hates lacks character. /Love is not something that is easy to practice.

/Verse 7. / Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

/From verse 7 to the last verse, it tells us to be aware of cults. /Those who deny the coming of Christ in the flesh are the Antichrist and are of cults, and there are many in the world.

/At that time, Gnosticism emerged, denying the existence of Jesus in the flesh. /Followers of Gnosticism argued, "all creation and materials are evil." /The Bible does not say this.

/Materialism is wrong, but we need material things in our lives. /In any period of time, cults enter the church, break it down and confuse believers. /When the church of Galatia received the wrong gospel, the apostle Paul strongly rebuked them, saying that they will be judged.

/Paul rebuked the church in Corinth for having a different gospel and spirit. /Today, there are wrong ideologies and heretics that have entered the church, and they are bringing down the church.

/Satan uses incorrect lessons and cultic ideologies to confuse believers. /It is the church's

responsibility to defeat such cultic ideologies. /Jesus came as God and \ human to this earth. Denying that fact is an act of the antichrist.

/Today there are people who claim, “I am Christ,” or “I am the Counselor Holy Spirit.” /They claim that they are Christ and the Counselor, but they are all cults.

/Such are signs of the Last Days, and therefore, we must be cautious of cults and ostracize them. /Furthermore, new theologians who deny the Godly nature of Jesus have appeared.

/These people regard Scripture as human teachings, and they acknowledge Jesus a teacher, not as Christ. /Others deny that Jesus Christ is God’s Son, but say He was a mere human.

/These people confuse believers by wearing masks of sheep. /The antichrists are our enemies who try to break down the true work of Christ. /This is God’s providential way of separating the grains from the empty grains.

/Although human thoughts and doctrine may sound attractive, we must firmly reject them if they go against the Word. /God gave us three things to distinguish what is right from wrong. /We have God’s Word of truth.

/The Holy Spirit is in us. /Also, God has given us a good conscience that allows us to distinguish the two. /Whatever goes against these three ideas is to be rejected, and this displays our faith and we defeat the enemy.

/Holding onto the Word, Jesus was victorious over Satan’s temptations. /Paul faced difficulties when going to Jerusalem, but he followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /Also, Peter emphasized the importance of maintaining a conscience of faith.

/Therefore, a believer must stand firm in the Word, distinguish evil spirits from good spirits, and be victorious in the spiritual battle. /He must always hold onto the Lord’s Word and defeat the enemy’s schemes.

/Colossians 3:16 says, /“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.” /We must make sure God’s Word dwells abundantly within us, and we must nurture others with the Word of truth. /This is the proper type of life that gives joy to God.

/Verse 8. /Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

/Here, it teaches us how to defeat the forces that confuse us. /First, we must always be on the watch. /We must prepare and ready ourselves for whichever road the devil tries to come at us.

/Satan knew that Eve was not always careful, and he was able to break her down. /David, in his self-indulgence, fell to Satan's schemes when he did not stand alert.

/The devil knows our weaknesses, and he uses that space to break us down. /1 Peter 4:7 admonishes us to be awake and pray, for the end of all things is near.

/We must always be cautious, being victorious in the Word and in prayer. /The second way to achieve victory is to hope for a sound reward. /When our spiritual lives are in line with God's Word, our reward is being stored up.

/Here, the complete reward is given to those who live by the Word of truth. /Hebrews 10:35 tells us not to throw away our confidence, for confidence will give us rich rewards. /Jesus put His eyes on the reward and overcame the suffering of the cross.

/Because Paul fought the good fight, completed the run, and kept his faith, he had a crown of righteousness prepared for him. /Moses gave up his power as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and chose to walk the road of suffering with Christ and his people.

/We must keep our faith in order to receive a crown that has not spoiled. /Everything in the world rots and disappears. /Everything burns to nothing. /Everything withers away. /However, we store rewards if we are shaped by the Word.

/Even though we may be deceived by the crafty devil, we look forward to the joy that is ahead, fighting through with the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. /When this happens, God gives us great rewards and glory.

/Verse 9. /Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

/Third, we must remain in Christ's teachings in order to defeat the forces that distract us. /We must not stray from the Lord's teachings. /By this, we must not go ahead of the Word or fall behind it.

/We must walk the path of a servant as it says in the Bible. /When the truth is firmly stuck to us, we are able to defeat the enemy. /A person may be admirable, but when the truth leaves him, he becomes a servant of the devil.

/How great of a person was Aaron? /However, Aaron's two sons were killed before God when they offered a sacrifice that was not supposed to be given. /Leviticus 10:1-2. /Samuel is a great prophet of God.

/However, God was not happy when his sons strayed from God's Word. /We must rid ourselves of the knowledge, ideologies, and lessons that are not in line with Scripture. /Anything that adds or subtracts from the Bible is not truth.

/Whatever strays from the Bible will receive judgment. /In 1 Corinthians 4:6, Paul warns

readers not to go beyond the Word. /God's Word acts as the standard by which we are judged.

/Some build a house of gold, silver, and jewels by matching their faith with God's Word in their lifetime. /Some build a house of trees and leaves even though they live lives of faith.

/The Word is our spiritual yardstick. /Living by God's Word may be physically tiresome, but living by God's Word is the only thing that lasts forever.

/Verses 10-11. /If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

/Fourth, in order to defeat the forces of evil, it is important that we do not associate spiritually with cults. /We must not associate with cults that teach differently than what the Bible teaches.

/To hate sin is to love God, and it is important that we keep our faith. /In the end, it is especially important to protect our faith. /By stepping out of his place, an angel became the devil.

/We must not allow any form of cultic behavior, and to do this, we must not engage in anything to do with cults. /John tells us not to greet them at all, to be firm when dealing with cults.

/When Satan appeared before Eve in the form of a serpent, Eve gave in to the temptation. /When we allow cults to enter our houses, we listen to their stories, and when their stories are heard, they spread like a plague.

/The purpose of cults is to break down our true faith. /There is an old story that the apostle John, bathing in a sauna, saw a cult enter the same sauna. He cursed the cult and fled from the scene.

/You can see how John firmly kept his watch against cults. /If we tolerate cults one or two times, they will affect our lives. /When this happens, we will be polluted by their doctrine and eventually perish.

/Cultic teachings and doctrine are very much in line with human knowledge and is pleasing to hear. /However, the Bible does not stand in line with human intelligence on many things. /We must accept those differences with faith and practice what God's Word says.

/What are we to do when a family member has become a member of a cult? /We must not associate with them spiritually and must not debate with them. /They must be viewed only as a beloved family member.

/The end of the world is near and many cults are infiltrating churches and confusing believers. /During these times, we must be firm in our faith, and love and follow the truth. /We will perish if we follow whatever sounds good to the ear. /Cults disease our souls and lead us to destruction.

/Verses 12-13. /I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

/The apostle John gives one last message. /John did not wish to write with ink and paper, but wished to meet in person and speak. /Speaking in person has many benefits over writing on paper.

/When we speak directly to a person, the Holy Spirit works in greater ways. /It is important to teach how to speak to a person directly. /Why did John want to visit these people? He wished to give them more joy.

/John wrote a letter saying he was the child of the sister of the recipients of his letter. /He begins the letter with a blessing and ends it with a blessing.

/We believers in Christ must give our regards to one another, and bless one another in prayer.

/This concludes our lecture on 2 John. /Thank you.