

We will begin the third lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /Today we will begin with chapter 4. /The title is, "Hope for Jesus' Second Coming." /Let's look at the main points. /First, be holy. /Verses 1-8. /Second, love your brothers. /Verses 9-12. /Third, hope of the believers. /Verses 13-18.

/Read verse 1. /Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

/The church at Thessalonica did as Paul instructed them. /Still, Paul wanted to encourage them to be more and more obedient. /There is an old Korean saying, "Flog a running horse."

/It means that even though the horse is already running, one must flog it to run faster. /In the same way, Paul urged the obedient believers to be even more obedient. /Those who obey God's word are blessed.

/Those who receive discipline, rebuke, and teachings will be blessed. /We already obey God, but we must work harder to obey God's word even more. /This pleases God.

/Verse 2. /For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

/The authority of the Bible comes from God. /We must preach the word of the Lord Jesus as it is. /The word of Jesus is the word that Jesus gave us. /We must be strengthened by Jesus and preach.

/The Holy Spirit works through the Bible. /Paul preached the truth that believers were to live by. /The instructions given to them were God's commands. /Therefore, no one has the choice to either obey or disobey God's commands. /We must obey because Jesus gave us these commands.

/Verse 3. /It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

/What is God's will? /God is holy, therefore, we must be holy. /We must become like the holy God. /Thus, it says we must avoid all worldly immorality.

/Verse 4. /that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,

/We each have a husband or a wife so that we could avoid committing sexual immorality. /We must be legally married and live holy lives. /Therefore, a husband must choose his wife with faith. /A wife must choose her husband with faith. /1 Corinthians 7:2.

/Verse 5. /not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

/We must not chase after passions like heathens. /We must not fall to the sin of sexual immorality. /When we leave God, we commit spiritual adultery. /Believers must get married according to God's will.

/In the times of Noah, God's sons married daughters of men just by looking at their appearances. /The people who had faith married people who did not have faith, and as a result, their faith became corrupted. /Genesis 6:1-2.

/The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged before God because of their sin of homosexuality. /Genesis 19:4-9. /Jesus said that anyone who looks lustfully at another person has already committed adultery in his heart. /Matthew 5:28.

/When we commit adultery in our hearts, we already committed adultery. /This means that the heart has left God. /Because the heart left God, sexual immorality entered that person's heart. /Therefore, we must always walk with God.

/Verse 6. /and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

/Here it says, "in this matter." /"This matter" refers to taking a wife in marriage. /It says, "no one should wrong his brother." /This means that one must not commit adultery with his brother's wife.

/When one commits adultery with another man's wife, he wrongs his brother and takes advantage of him. /Those who commit sexual immorality will receive judgment before God. /They will surely receive punishment by God for the wages of their sins. /Romans 12:19. /Psalm 94:1.

/Verse 7. /For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

/God called us. /God called us to be his children. /What was the purpose for why God called us? /It was so that we would be holy, rejoice in God, and glorify GOD.

/"To be impure" means to chase after carnal and sexual desires. /We have been called as children of God. /Therefore, we must live holy lives as children of God. /We must live a married life through proper marriage.

/Verse 8. /Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

/To "reject" means to reject teachings about godliness. /However, this does not refer to rejection of those who instruct, but rejection of the Bible.

/Let's say someone encouraged us with the Bible. /We must not reject his

encouragement. /Rejecting his encouragement is rejecting God who gave us the Holy Spirit. /Therefore, anyone who rejects his wife, rejects God who gave him his wife. /Matthew 5:31, 32.

/A husband and wife, who come together through God, must not separate. /When husband and wife separate, they throw away God's commands. /They also throw away trust between them and also humanly ethics and loyalty.

/Therefore, divorce is the rejection of God's will. /Divorce is the rejection of promise and loyalty between people. /Therefore, anyone who rejects his wife cannot receive blessings.

/Verses 9-10. /Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

/We must love our brothers. /The church at Thessalonica already loved its brothers. /1:3. /Still, Paul encouraged the believers to love their brothers even more. /We must not be satisfied with a certain amount, but we must work hard to be filled to the fullness of Christ's love.

/Love between believers must grow more and more. /It must grow to the love of Jesus. /When love grows, faith grows as well. /Believers' souls grow.

/Macedonia is a region located north of Greece. /The church at Philippi and the church at Thessalonica was located in that region.

/Verse 11. /Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,

/The believers in the early church received the gospel. /The believers at Thessalonica specially hoped and waited for Jesus' return. /However, some people stopped caring about their work as they waited for Jesus.

/No one knows when Jesus will return. /We must live each day with faith and wait for the Lord's return. /Therefore, we must do the work given to us every day. /Here it says, "mind your own business."

/This means that one must carry out the responsibilities given to him. /We must do our work in the church and in our homes. /We must do the work given to us at our jobs. /We must also be responsible as parents.

/Students must study hard. /Some cults say, /"The end of the world is near." /"Quit school." /"Quit your jobs." /"Get divorces." /There are people who make claims of such wrongful things.

/Even if Jesus were to return tomorrow, we must do the tasks given to us today. /Labor is

sacred. /Labor is God's command. /Genesis 2:15. /God told man to eat food by the sweat of his brow. /Genesis 3:18, 19.

/In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, it says, /"If a man will not work, he shall not eat." /We must not rely on other people. /We must work hard and earn money and eat. /We must also try and help others.

/Verse 12. /so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

/"Outsiders" are unbelievers, those who do not believe. /We must be upright before unbelievers. /We must be upright. /We must work hard so that we do not depend on others.

/We must make sure that we are not criticized or pointed fingers at by unbelievers. /We must work hard and help others.

/Verse 13. /Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

/From verse 13, Paul writes about hope of believers. /We believers have hope even if we die. /We believers must not be sad about the deaths of other believers.

/We must not be overly sad about those who die. /It is most certainly sad when people we love die. /We can be sad and cry. /However, we must not be overly grieved.

/We must not be overly sad. /We must not be sad to the point where our bodies suffer. /We must believe in God's sovereignty, and be comforted with hope. /Here, the death of believers is referred to as "those who fall asleep."

/Why does it say that believers who die are those who fall asleep? /First, life does not end for them, but it is the world that changes. /When we sleep at night, we are still alive. /When people sleep at night, they are still alive.

/We have life when we wake up the next morning. /Therefore, when believers of Jesus die physically, their spirits are still alive. /Our spirits believe in Jesus, and therefore, we have been born again. /Our spirits came to life then. /Our spirits will never die.

/Our spirits gained eternal life from the moment we believed in Jesus. /Our physical bodies will grow old and die. /Our physical bodies will die, but our spirits will never die, and we will go to heaven. /We will remain alive.

/We will have moved from this world into heaven. /Therefore, the death of us believers is referred to as sleep. /Revelation 14:13. /Next, second, those who fall asleep go to sleep on the premise that they would wake up.

/We work during the day, rest in the evenings, and then go to sleep at night. /Before we sleep, we think, "I will sleep and wake up healthy tomorrow morning." /We believers will grow old and physically die.

/However, on the day of Jesus' return, our rotted physical bodies will be transformed into spiritual bodies. We have hope in this. /When Jesus returns, we will have resurrected bodies like Jesus. /Our physical bodies will come alive from our graves.

/Then our spirits in heaven will come together with our rotted physical bodies. /Hence, we will have resurrected bodies. /In this way, we will all wake up on the day of Jesus' return. /We have hope of resurrection. /We have hope of eternal life.

/Our current physical bodies are like tent houses. /When they get old, they will break down. /Then our spirits will go to heaven. /Yet, we will be resurrected when Jesus returns. /The death of believers is not something to grieve about.

/The death of believers is not a curse. /When our days are cut short on this earth, our days in heaven grow longer. /When we die, we go to heaven to see Jesus face-to-face.

/We will have rest from the toils and burdens of this world, and we will find rest in heaven in the arms of God. /Therefore, we have hope even if our physical bodies will die.

/Verse 14. /We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

/Jesus resurrected. /Jesus defeated death. /Who in this world can defeat death? /All men must die for their sins. /However, Jesus defeated death and resurrected.

/Thus, all who believe in Jesus' resurrection will be resurrected. /The dead will come back to life at Jesus' return. /If we are alive on the day of Jesus' return, we will be transformed while we are alive. /We will all become resurrected bodies. /Verse 17.

/Verse 15. /According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

/When Jesus returns, believers who have already died will be resurrected first. /Then the believers who are alive will be transformed into spiritual bodies. /Thus, all believers will meet Jesus in the air.

/Verse 16. /For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

/When the Lord returns, He will come in all his glory. /The Lord will come with all the believers. /The angels will escort Jesus at His return. /Jesus will come again on clouds.

/The Lord will come with a loud command with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. /When the Lord returns, He will come with all people in the world to see with their own eyes. /Jesus will not come in secret.

/Jesus will return on clouds for all people in the world to see with their physical eyes. /The Lord's command is the calling of believers. /Christ's command will call the dead to life. /John 5:28, 29.

/The dead will come to life with the Lord's one command. /John 11:43, 44. /It says, "the voice of the archangel." /The archangel most likely refers to the angel Michael. /He is the archangel who removes the enemies and keeps them away.

/The archangel will block off the works of the devil. /Then, the trumpet call of God will sound. /This will be God calling all the chosen believers from one end of the earth to the other. /Matthew 24:31.

/Again, Jesus will publicly return for all peoples to see. /Acts 1:10, 11. /The Bible says that Jesus will come as the disciples saw. /The Lord ascended on clouds and will return again on clouds.

/The Lord ascended for all people to see, and therefore, all people will see Jesus when He returns. /Matthew 25:26, 27.

/Verse 17. /After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

/When Christ returns, the dead believers will first be resurrected. /Then those who are alive will be transformed into spiritual bodies. /Thus, all believers will meet Jesus in the air.

/Then the believers will judge the world while in the air. /1 Corinthians 2:6. /Revelation 2:26-27. /When Jesus returns, we will meet Jesus in the air. /We will be with the Lord.

/Then we will judge this world. /Then we will come down to the ground with Jesus. /Then, we will enter the Millennial Kingdom, /and after the Millennial Kingdom comes to an end, we will enter eternal heaven.

/Verse 18. /Therefore encourage each other with these words.

/Here, Paul meant that we must have faith about Jesus' Second Coming and the resurrection of us believers. /We must have assurance of faith. /The time of Jesus' return is near. /Therefore, we must have hope.

/We must be well prepared. /Then we believers must encourage one another.

/We will continue with chapter 5. /The title of chapter 5 is, "Preparations for Jesus' Second Coming."

/First, prepare for Jesus' return. /Verses 1-11. /Second, life in the church. /Verses 12-15. /Third, spiritual life. /Verses 16-22. /Fourth, God will sanctify believers. /Verses 23-24. /Fifth, greetings and blessings. /Verses 25-28.

/Read verse 1. /Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

/"Times" here refer to the Last Days. /"Dates" refer to the time of Jesus' return.

/Verse 2. /for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

/"The day of the Lord" is the day of Jesus' Second Coming. /It is said that Jesus will come like a thief. /Matthew 24:42, 43. /23:43, 44. /Jesus Himself said that He would come like a thief in the night.

/This means that Jesus will return when no one expects it. /Jesus will come like a thief to those who do not prepare for Jesus' return.s

/However, Jesus will not come like a thief to those who prepare and wait every day for Jesus' return. /We do not know when Jesus will return. /Therefore, we must always be awake and prepared.

/Verse 3. /While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

/Jesus will come suddenly when no one expects Him to. /People will think, there is "Peace and safety." /In the times of Noah, people ate and drank, and married and gave into marriage. /Then a flood came.

/Noah told the people in advance that there would be a flood, but they did not listen. /Sodom and Gomorrah were also stained with sins. /Lot told his sons-in-law to run away because the cities would be destroyed. /However, his sons-in-law thought that he was joking.

/Today, we evangelize and say, "Jesus will soon return." /However, unbelievers consider this a joke. /It says here that destruction would come on people suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman.

/Nobody knows the day or time of when a pregnant woman will give birth. /They can only predict that she will give birth at a certain month. /However, nobody knows the day or time of when a child will be born.

/In the same way, we know that Jesus' return is near /and the end of the days are near,

/but no one can know in what year, month, or day Jesus will return. /Matthew 23:36.
/Matthew 24:7, 8.

/Therefore, we must know that the Lord's return is near through all these signs. /Matthew 24:34. /Today, this generation is filled with sin. /People have forsaken God. /People chase after idols.

/They chase after humanism. /They chase after materialism. /They chase after hedonism. / Thus, we can know that the Lord's return is near.

/Verse 4. /But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

/We are of the light. /Unbelievers are of the darkness. /"Darkness" is sin and death. /We are children of the light. /We received righteousness and life. /We received salvation. /We are children of the light.

/We are people of the day. /Therefore, the day Jesus returns will not surprise us like a thief. /We are of the day, and therefore, we are always awake. /Our spirits are awake.

/We must remain awake and prepared as we see the signs of the Last Days. /Then we can receive Jesus whenever He comes. /We will be prepared like the five wise virgins.

/God taught us about the signs. /Amos 3:7. /God told Noah in advance that a flood would come. /Therefore, we know that the signs of the Last Days are coming true.

/We must know that Jesus' return will be upon us. /We must have faith to always be awake and prepared.

/Verse 5. /You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

/God is light. /1 John 1:5. /God is a spiritual light. /We believers have also become children of light. /Therefore, we must throw out the things of darkness. /We must throw out sins and greed.

/Verse 6. /So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

/Believers must not sleep but remain awake. /Of course, our bodies need to sleep. /However, our spirits must always remain awake. /We must pray. /Yet, there are times in the faith of believers falls asleep.

/Elijah's faith fell asleep, and he asked God to take his life as he sat under the broom tree. /In this way, there are times when believers' faith falls asleep. /However, we must always remain awake.

/To fall asleep in this world also means to fall to physical hedonism. /Hence, people self-indulge and fall to debauchery. /They chase after money and pleasures. /We must remain awake.

/We must pray. /Our spirits must communicate with the Lord. /Matthew 24:42. /1 Corinthians 16:13. /Ephesians 5:14.

/Here it says, “be alert and self-controlled.” /This means that believers must not get drunk in the world or self-indulge. /We must be godly and self-controlled. /We must throw away our greed and we must control ourselves.

/The end of the creation is near. We must be alert and stay awake and pray. /1 Peter 4:7.

/Here we will conclude the third lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /Thank you.