

Today we will begin the fourth lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /At this time, we will begin with 1 Thessalonians 5:7.

/Read verse 7. /For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

/Normally, people sleep at night and get drunk at night. /It is normal not to sleep during the day. /In this way, believers are of the day. /Therefore, believers do not spiritually sleep in the world.

/If believers do sleep, it is like taking a nap. /We must always be awake in spirit. /Even if our bodies fall asleep, our spirits must remain awake. /We must also not be intoxicated by the world. /Ephesians 5:18. /We are people of the day, people of light.

/Verse 8. /But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

/We belong to the day. /We are children of light. /Therefore, we must be self-controlled. /We must put on faith and love as a breastplate. /A breastplate is put over the chest and protects the heart.

/Then when enemies shoot arrows, the breastplate blocks them. /We must fight the good fight with faith and love. /When enemies invade us, we must win with faith and love.

/Jesus loved even His enemies. /The deacon Stephen also loved his enemies. /In Ephesians 6:14, it says, put “the breastplate of righteousness in place.” /This means that we must be righteous. /We fight the good fight with righteousness.

/Next, it says, put on “the hope of salvation as a helmet.” /A helmet is worn over the head to protect the head. /This means that we must win with hope. /We have hope of salvation. /We have assurance of salvation.

/Again, we have hope in Jesus’ return. /We also have hope in resurrection that conquers death.

/Verse 9. /For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

/God appointed us. /God saved us. /God saved us with the blood of Jesus Christ. /Here, it says, “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath.”

/When believers fall to temptations and sin, God becomes angry. /God saved us. /Therefore, we must make God happy.

/Verse 10. /He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together

with him.

/Jesus died for us. /Jesus also rose to life for us. /Therefore, whether we live or die, we must live for the Lord. /Here, “awake” refers to live or resurrect.

/“Asleep” means to die. /John 11:11. /1 Corinthians 15:51. /We believers must live for the Lord whether we live or die, and we must die for the Lord. /Romans 14:8. /Therefore, we must live with faith.

/When we live, we must live with faith, /and when we die, we must die with faith. /How can we die with faith? /We die in faith when we live our lives in faith. /When we die with Jesus, we will live again with Jesus.

/Verse 11. /Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

/It is important that we build each other up. /We must build each other up in faith. /To build someone up means to help benefit the other. /We must love one another in the church, and build one another up.

/Verse 12. /Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.

/Here, there are “those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.” /These people are pastors in the church. /God appointed pastors. /Pastors work hard for the church. /They also guide and lead believers.

/Pastors also encourage believers. /Therefore, members of the church must know how much pastors work. /Members of the church must help pastors so that they do not face financial difficulties. /Believers must take care of pastors. /Matthew 10:42-44.

/Verse 13. /Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

/True pastors work hard. /When pastors work hard, believers will grow in spirit. /We must become true pastors. /Then we must consider pastors valuable in our love. /We must also live in harmony with them.

/God is the God of peace. /Matthew 5:9. /Therefore, pastors must lead the believers with love. /Pastors must encourage them in God’s word. /Then the believers must respect pastors.

/Believers must help pastors so that they do not encounter difficulties with living. /Pastors and believers must also love each other. /They must be at peace with each other. /Believers must also love other believers and be at peace with one another.

/Verse 14. /And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

/Those who are idle refer to those who do not keep their places. /They do not do what they are supposed to do, but complain and resent others. /We must not let such people be in the church.

/We must reprimand and discipline those who are idle in this way. /Pastors must properly lead those who are like this. /Here, it also says, “encourage the timid.” /These are people with weak faith.

/We must help those who are weak and comfort them. /We must encourage them so that they can keep their faith. /There are young believers with faith like this.

/There are believers who fall by small temptations, /and there are believers who fail to keep their faith in times of difficulties. /We must encourage and properly lead these people.

/It also says, “help the weak.” /We must pray and encourage the weak. /We must stand behind them and help them push forward so that they would run the race of faith.

/Verse 15. /Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

/We must not repay evil with evil. /We must defeat evil with goodness. /Even if others may treat us wrongly, we must not pay back with evil. /Galatians 5:15.

/We must defeat evil with goodness. /Romans 12:13-21. /When believers repay evil with evil, they become equally evil. /Then the faith of both of them will fall. /We must leave everything in God’s hands.

/We must leave everything to the Almighty God. /Joseph truly loved and forgave his brothers. /Genesis 50:15-21.

/Verse 16. /Be joyful always;

/1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 are very precious Bible verses. /You all like these verses, don’t you? /Now, let’s read verses 16-18 together. /“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

/These are very good Bible verses. /First, be joyful always. /This world is not only filled with joyful moments. /There are worries, concerns, sufferings, and pain. /There are times when things are unfair. /There are troublesome and sad events.

/Then how can we be joyful always? /In order to be joyful always, we must live in the spiritual world. /We must live in the spiritual world. /The spiritual world surpasses the

physical world.

/It is a world where I and the world fade away, and only the Redeemer Jesus becomes the focus. /Even if there are clouds over the earth, the clouds are nothing when planes fly over the clouds. /Therefore, everyone! Lay down your worries and anxieties before the Lord.

/Then we can enter deep into Christ. /Then there will always be joy there. /There will be spiritual joy. /Ecclesiastes 2:24. /Habakkuk 3:17. /Philippians 4:4.

/We can be joyful even when we encounter trials. /James 1:2. /Therefore, we must live in the world of Jesus, the spiritual world. /When we live in the spiritual world, we will have joy even if we die for the Lord. /Philippians 2:17.

/Hence, the spiritual world surpasses the physical world. /We can find joy in God. /Next, verse 17 says, pray continually. /This means that we must always be in spiritual communication with God and pray.

/Prayer is like spiritual air. /Therefore, we stop praying, the life of our faith will become cut off. /Then we will lose faith. /Therefore, we must always pray and continue to spiritually communicate with God. /1 Corinthians 14:15. /Furthermore, in order to pray continually, we must pray from early in the morning.

/This does not mean that we need to pray 24/7. /This means that we must choose a time of prayer and pray. /We pastors must pray over two hours each day. /We must also think about Jesus through the day.

/When we do worldly works, we must think, “What would Jesus have done?” /We must think of Jesus when we do worldly works, /when we take the train, /and when we take the bus, /and we must always meditate on God’s word.

/Recite the Lord’s Prayer as you commute. /Then we can always walk with God. /We must also repent of our sins. /Our spirits must be awake. /We must receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /Galatians 5:16.

/We must always love God, and always strive to pray. /1 Samuel 12:23. /Therefore, it is a sin to cease to pray. /Matthew 26:41. /Mark 9:29. /We must choose a specific time and pray. /Matthew 6:13.

/We must not be disheartened, but pray. /Luke 18:1. /We must pray in the Holy Spirit. /Ephesians 6:18. /We must work hard to pray. /Colossians 4:2. /Prayer is very important in our spiritual lives.

/Everyone! We must pray like Hezekiah. /We must pray like Elijah. /We must pray like Daniel. /These great servants of faith prayed hard. /Next, in verse 18, it says, give thanks in all circumstances.

/Read verse 18. /give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

/When believers are thankful in all circumstances, it makes God happy. /There are many spiritual benefits when we give thanks. /We become physically healthy. /Yet, there are many things in this world that is hard to be thankful for.

/Then how can we be thankful in all circumstances? /First, /we must throw away greed. /We must throw away complaints, dissatisfaction, and resentment. /1 Timothy 6:9, 10. /James 1:14, 15. /Second, we must learn to be self-content.

/We must be satisfied with our lives. /We came into this world empty-handed, and we will leave empty-handed. /1 Timothy 6:7, 8. /We must be satisfied with food to eat and clothes to wear each day.

/Next, we must believe in God, which works for the good of those who love him. /God ultimately works for the good of those who love him, even if we encounter difficulties. /Romans 8:28. /A student took an entrance exam for a prestigious school, but did not pass.

/He became discouraged. /Yet, later, he was accepted to a better school the next year. /Do not look at just one thing. /Do not look only at the physical things /or the things of the world, /but put God at the center.

/We must put faith at the center. /We must put the spirit at the center. /We must also think about the future. /It might seem as if we face losses at the moment, /but there will be better things when God works. /2 Corinthians 6:8-10.

/Joseph was thrown into prison. /However, later it turned out to be a good thing that he was imprisoned. /It was terrible that Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. /It was painful for him.

/However, because Joseph was sold to Egypt, he was able to later become a prime minister of Egypt. /Therefore, we must always be satisfied as we live. /We must believe in God's sovereignty. /We must not give thanks only in good circumstances, but in difficult circumstances as well.

/How much did God bless us with? /God sent us Jesus. /We received salvation through faith in Jesus. /We became children of God. /We will enter eternal heaven and live with God forever.

/How much grace did God give us as we live here on this earth? /God gave us the church, /the truth, /and allowed us to always learn his word. /There will be some of you who do not have freedom of religion.

/How thankful is it that we can believe in Jesus in the midst of it? /We received much grace in the spiritual sense. /We received special grace. /We received free grace.

/God gave us food to eat and clothes to wear. /We may be unhealthy, but we are healthy in other ways. /God gave us homes. /He gave us clothes. /He gave us families.

/God also gave us nations. /He gave us jobs. /We are lacking, but how much grace did the Lord give us? /Everyone! Take the time to write down everything that God gave us in his grace.

/How many things will there be for us to be thankful for? /True believers give thanks. /We must give thanks to God for the tens of thousands of things that he gave us. /We must not complain about the couple of things that we lack.

/Even if we do not have some things, we have God, who himself is the source of all blessings. /Even if we do not have some things, we have heaven if we have Jesus, /and we can give thanks.

/When we give thanks for the small things, God will give us bigger things. /When we give thanks for a candle, God will give us greater light. /When we give thanks for the starlight, God will give us the moonlight, /when we give thanks for the moonlight, God will give us the sunlight, /and when we give thanks for the sunlight, God will give us the blessing of the heavenly light, which is millions of times brighter than the sun.

/God is pleased with those who give thanks. /It says, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” /It is God’s will that we give thanks in all circumstances.

/Verse 19. /Do not put out the Spirit's fire;

/It says, “Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.” /The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is priceless. /1 Corinthians 12:3. /We must not ignore the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit moves us through the good conscience.

/We must immediately obey the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /Acts 20:22. /However, when we feel something when we pray, we must not immediately think that it is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/The Holy Spirit guides us in the truth. /John 16:13. /Therefore, anything that does not agree with the Bible is not inspiration from the Holy Spirit. /Therefore, we must always follow the Holy Spirit through prayer.

/We must follow the good conscience as the Holy Spirit leads us. /If the Holy Spirit tells us, “Go evangelize to that person,” we must evangelize. /If the Holy Spirit tell us, “Go do mission work,” we must do so. /If God tells us to give, we must give.

/If God tells us to love our enemies, we must love our enemies. /If the Holy Spirit tells us

to hold back, we must hold back. /The Holy Spirit moves us through the good conscience and through God's word.

/When we obey, we experience God's works. /John 16:13. /Acts 5:32. /Thus, we must pray a lot in order to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /Acts 1:14.

/Verse 20. /do not treat prophecies with contempt.

/Prophecies refer to God's word. /Revelation 1:3. /1 Timothy 1:18. /Some people speak of the future through fortune tellers. /Some people pray and then say, "Go to this school." /"Go move to the eastern side."

/"Go to this hospital." /The Holy Spirit does not speak in this way. /These come from man's subjective emotions. /These are not prophecies. /"Prophecies" here refer to the Bible.

/We must follow the Bible. /The Bible is a prophecy. /"You will be saved if you believe the Bible." /"You will be blessed if you obey the Bible." /"You will go to heaven if you believe in Jesus." /The Bible is the word of prophecy.

/"Jesus will return." /"We will be resurrected." /These are prophecies. /The Bible is a prophecy. /We must not look down on the Bible. /We must obey God's word. /We must keep Sundays holy. /We must also properly give tithes as the Bible says.

/Verse 21. /Test everything. Hold on to the good.

/We must follow what is good. /We must understand what God's good will is. /We must not chase after personal gains. /We must not chase after the physical things.

/We must follow and obey God's good will. /We must chase after what is good. /We must not chase after wickedness, but chase after what is good.

/Verse 22. /Avoid every kind of evil.

/We must avoid every kind of evil. /Believers are holy people. /We must avoid anything that makes us feel guilty in conscience. /We must not do anything that the Bible forbids. /We must not go near places with wrong things.

/If there is a stub of a cigarette, we must throw it away even if we don't smoke. /There once was gum that was shaped like a cigarette. /Those are not good. /One person collected pretty alcohol bottles at home.

/There are people who display their alcohol bottles in fancy cabinets. /Even if they do not drink, they must get rid of such forms. /We believers must not make jokes. /We must not go near places where people sin.

/We must not gamble. /We must not drink alcohol. /We must not smoke cigarettes. /We must not go to places where there is gambling. /We must not buy lottery tickets. /We must not go near places where there are bad things.

/Verse 23. /May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

/God is the God of peace. /He gives us spiritual peace. /He gives us everlasting peace. /Here it talks about the believers' spirit, soul and body. /The "spirit" here is "Pneuma" in Greek. /This is the spirit of believers.

/This spirit always communicates with God. /This spirit is born again when we believe in Jesus. /The "soul" here is "Psyche" in Greek. /This refers to life and the heart. /Our hearts must always communicate with God.

/Then we must remove the filthy things in our hearts. /Next, the body. /Our bodies are God's temple. /The Holy Spirit resides within us.

/Therefore, when Jesus returns, we must be clean and kept blameless in our spirit, soul, and body. /We must throw away sin and greed. /We must glorify God with all that we are and have.

/We must become holy. /We must become more and more like the Lord. /We must meet the Lord in all His glory when He returns. /We must make sure that we are sinless and blameless before God. /We must become clean in body and heart.

/Verse 24. /The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

/God is the one who calls us. /God called us from the world. /God called us from sin and death. /We became God's children. /Here, "faithful" means that God is trustworthy and loyal.

/Our God is unchanging. /He is the same yesterday and today. /Hebrews 13:8. /God chose us. /God called us. /The Lord forgave us of our sins. /The Lord saved us.

/This salvation will never change. /God surely saved you who believe in Jesus. /The Lord holds onto you and your faith, and He will save you. /Do you believe in Jesus? /Yes, we believe in Jesus.

/Do not doubt your salvation. /God chose us, /called us, /and redeemed us. /Thus, God made us his children.

/God will surely save you who became God's children. /Nothing can separate us from the love of God. /Romans 8:35.



/Verse 25. /Brothers, pray for us.

/We must pray for those who preach the gospel. /Paul asked the believers of the church at Thessalonica to pray for him. /Pastors must pray for the believers. /Believers must always pray for the pastors. /They must help and pray for each other so that God's works will be accomplished.

/Verse 26. /Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

/It says to greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. /This means to love our brothers. /I'm sure that each of you have ways of greeting others. /When we Koreans greet one another, we do not kiss one another. /Koreans shake hands.

/This is a kind way to greet someone. /Each country and society have different ways in which they greet one another. /We must greet one another with kindness and with love. /We must be at peace with our brothers. /We must love our brothers. /We believers have been bought with the blood of Jesus.

/Verse 27. /I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

/Paul told the believers to read his letter. /This meant that they were to diligently read the Bible. /We must also not read by ourselves, but read with others as well. /Those who read the Bible will be blessed. /Those who obey will be blessed. /We must also diligently teach. /We must obey the Bible.

/Verse 28. /The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

/We must always reside in the grace of Jesus Christ. /Then we will have life. /I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus that you would always remain in grace. /I pray that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ will be with you always. /Amen.

/With this we will conclude the fourth lecture on 1 Thessalonians. /Thank you.