**1 John 2, 4/20/2018**

**Opening**

* Have you heard about the idiom “叶公好龙”? What does it mean? Implications?
	+ 春秋的时候，楚国叶县有一个名叫沈储梁的县令，大家都叫他叶公。叶公非常喜欢有关龙的东西，不管是装饰品、梁柱、门窗、碗盘、衣服，上面都有龙的图案，连他家里的墙壁上也画着一条好大好大的龙，大家走进叶公的家还以为走进了龙宫，到处都可以看到龙的图案！「我最喜欢的就是龙！」叶公得意地对大家说。有一天，叶公喜欢龙的事被天上真的龙知道了，真龙说：「难得有人这么喜欢龙，我得去他家里拜访拜访呀！」真龙就从天上飞来叶公的家，把头伸进窗户中大喊说：「叶公在家吗？」叶公一看到真正的龙，吓得大叫：「哇！怪物呀！」真龙觉得很奇怪，说：「你怎么说我是怪物呢？我是你最喜欢的龙呀！」叶公害怕的直发抖，说：「我喜欢的是像龙的假龙，不是真的龙呀，救命呀。」叶公话没说完，就连忙往外逃走了！留下真龙一脸懊恼地说：「哼，叶公说喜欢龙这件事是假的，他根本是怕龙嘛！害我还飞来拜访他！」 后来，大家就用“叶公好龙”来形容一个人对外假装自己很好，其实私底下什么都不会！(https://zhidao.baidu.com/question/38077253.html)
	+ What are fake or pretending to be, and what are true? How to differentiate them?
* How important is a champion (or advocate) in a competition, in a proposal review, or in a hiring process?
	+ Do you know Bill Gates? What does it mean by “knowing” him? Will he be a champion for you if you apply for a job at Microsoft?
	+ Do we have a champion working on our behalf?
* Where do you live? What does “abide in Him” (住在主裡面) mean? Is that good? How can that be done?
* Do you remember what we discussed last time? 1 John 1. The word of life. Walking in the light. What is next?
* Outline (ESV Study Bible)
1. God Is Light and Christ Is the Way ([1:1–2:6](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B1-2%3A6/))
	1. Prologue ([1:1–4](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B1%3A1-4/))
	2. God’s nature and human sin ([1:5–10](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B1%3A5-10/))
	3. Jesus Christ in everyday life ([2:1–6](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A1-6/))
2. The Abiding Commandment in a Transient World ([2:7–17](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A7-17/))
	1. The primacy of love ([2:7–11](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A7-11/))
	2. The confidence of God’s people ([2:12–14](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A12-14/))
	3. The lure of this fleeting age ([2:15–17](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A15-17/))
3. Overcoming Antichrist by Confession of the Son ([2:18–3:10](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A18-3%3A10/))
	1. Warning and assurance ([2:18–27](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A18-27/))
	2. Christians as children of God ([2:28–3:3](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B2%3A28-3%3A3/))
	3. Children of God and the forsaking of sin ([3:4–10](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B3%3A4-10/))
4. Overcoming Evil by Listening to the Apostle ([3:11–4:6](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B3%3A11-4%3A6/))
	1. Overcoming Cain’s malice ([3:11–24](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B3%3A11-24/))
	2. Overcoming the Antichrist’s deception ([4:1–6](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B4%3A1-6/))
5. The Assurance of God through the Love of God ([4:7–21](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B4%3A7-21/))
	1. The perfecting of God’s love ([4:7–12](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B4%3A7-12/))
	2. The assurance of God’s Spirit ([4:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B4%3A13-21/))
6. Faith in the Son as the Way to Life ([5:1–12](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A1-12/))
	1. Faith keeps the commandments of God ([5:1–5](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A1-5/))
	2. Faith receives the testimony of God ([5:6–12](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A6-12/))
7. Final Call to Faith and Understanding ([5:13–21](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A13-21/))
	1. The confidence that faith furnishes ([5:13](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A13/))
	2. The prayer that faith enables ([5:14–17](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A14-17/))
	3. The understanding that faith grants ([5:18–21](https://www.esv.org/1%2BJohn%2B5%3A18-21/))

**Christ Our Advocate (2:1-6)**

* 1 John 2:1–6 Jesus Christ in Everyday Life. The light (1:5) that God sheds on daily living comes through his Son. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:2 Propitiation means “a sacrifice that bears God’s wrath and turns it to favor.” As the perfect sacrifice for sin, Jesus turns away God’s wrath. For the sins of the whole world does not mean that every person will be saved, for John is clear that forgiveness of sins comes only to those who repent and believe the gospel (see 2:4, 23; 3:10; 5:12). But Jesus’ sacrifice is offered and made available to everyone in “the whole world,” not just to John and his current readers. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:3 Assurance of salvation is possible. First John gives numerous means of self-diagnosis (cf. 1 John 1:7; 2:5; 3:14; 4:13; 5:2). Here the test is ethical: do professing Christians have a changed life and keep the Lord’s commandments? Obedience to God does not bring about justification (which comes by faith alone), but obedience as a pattern of life does give evidence that one has been born again. To know him involves a personal relationship that transforms practical behavior. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:6
	+ NIV: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
	+ KJV: He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
	+ 中文和合本: 人若說他住在主裡面，就該自己照主所行的去行。
	+ Direct translation from Greek Bible: 說住在他裡面的人 應該照著那人所行的 他自己也如此行。Abide, 01722, in 1874, by 141, with 134, among 117, at 112, on 46, through 37, misc 321; 2782. 介系詞, 後接間接受格，意思是「在...裡面、藉著」. (https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/1Jo/2/6)
* Discussion
	+ Do we have the confidence that we are saved and have eternal life?

**The New Commandment (2:7-17)**

* 1 John 2:7–17 The Abiding Commandment in a Transient World. John’s focus shifts to the love commandment and the challenge of living out the Christian message in a world where “darkness” (vv. 8, 9, 11) and “the evil one” (vv. 13, 14) seem to dominate. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:7–11 The Primacy of Love. It is easy to lose touch with the basics of knowing the God who is love (4:8). ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:7 The old commandment is love for God and love for others, both of which are commanded in the OT (Lev. 19:18; Deut. 6:5). Jesus confirmed (Matt. 22:34–40) but also renewed these teachings, so they also constitute a new commandment (John 13:34). It is what the apostles were given from the beginning. ESV Study Bible.
	+ Leviticus 19:18. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.
	+ John 13:34. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
* 1 John 2:8 the darkness is passing away. The age to come has not yet fully arrived, but it is progressively advancing in this world, for the true light is already shining. God’s people can reflect his light by embracing the new commandment to love. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:12–14 The Confidence of God’s People. John knows his message is greater than the sinister realities against which he warns. I am writing to you … I write to you. The emphatic, repeated direct address points to John’s strong feeling and determination to bring assurance to his readers. He expresses his confidence in the role of the Father and the word of God in their lives. Some view (little) children, fathers, and young men as symbolizing the stages of spiritual maturity in a Christian’s life. Others think “little children” refers to all of John’s readers, while “fathers” refers to older believers and “young men” to those newer in the faith. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:12
	+ NIV: I am writing to you,
	+ KJV: I write unto you,
	+ 中文和合本: 我寫信給你們，
	+ Direct translation from Greek Bible: 我寫(信)給你們，現在 主動 直說語氣 第一人稱 單數(https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/1Jo/2/12)
* 1 John 2:14
	+ NIV: I write to you,
	+ KJV: I have written unto you,
	+ 中文和合本: 我曾寫信給你們，
	+ Direct translation from Greek Bible: 我寫給你們，第一簡單過去 主動 直說語氣 第一人稱 單數，(https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/1Jo/2/14)
* 1 John 2:15–17 The Lure of This Fleeting Age. The love of the Father implants a desire to break with idolization of the world. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:17
	+ NIV: The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
	+ KJV: And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
	+ 中文和合本: 這世界和其上的情慾都要過去，惟獨遵行　神旨意的，是永遠常存。
	+ Direct translation from Greek Bible: 然而, 世界和它的貪慾消失，但實行上帝的旨意的人持續到永遠。Abide, 01519, into 573, to 281, unto 207, for 140, in 138, on 58, toward 29, against 26, misc 321; 1773. 介系詞, 後接直接受格，意思是「直到、進入」(https://bkbible.fhl.net/NUI/#/bible/1Jo/2/17)
* Discussion
	+ What are the differences between commandment in the Old Testament and those in the New Testament?

**Warning Concerning Antichrists (2:18-29)**

* 1 John 2:18–27 Warning and Assurance. The existence of “antichrist” (v. 18) and those trying to deceive (v. 26) Christians is alarming. But John is confident that they can find the resources to abide in Christ (v. 29). ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:18 The last hour began with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; his second coming could occur at any time. Antichrist is mentioned with this name in the NT only here and in 1 John 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7. Broadly, an “antichrist” is anyone “who denies that Jesus is the Christ” (1 John 2:22). More specifically, John understands such a person to be a human representative of the “evil one” of whom Jesus spoke (John 17:15). ESV Study Bible.
	+ John 17:15. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.
* 1 John 2:19 John’s readers had recently seen people leave the church (out from us). Though they outwardly belonged to the church, their departure revealed that they were not truly of us; that is, they did not have genuine faith. If they had been of us, that is, if they had been genuine Christians, they would have continued with us. This implies that those who are truly saved will never abandon Christ, for they will be kept by his grace. That it might become plain shows divine purpose behind the departure of this group. ESV Study Bible.
* 1 John 2:20 Anointed by the Holy One probably means being regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
* 1 John 2:28 Maintaining one’s personal relationship with Christ will prevent straying into doctrine or conduct of which one will be ashamed at his coming. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion

**Wrapping up**

* Do you want to abide in Him?
* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?

Peter Luh and Chunlong Liu, 4/18/18

Copyright UCBSG, UConn Chinese Bible Study Group, 2018