

# **NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY II**

**BIB112**

Compiled by

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### **Syllabus**

- 1) The Epistles to the Corinthians
- 2) The Epistles to the Galatians and Ephesians
- 3) The Epistles to the Philippians and Colossians
- 4) The Epistles to the Thessalonians
- 5) The Epistles to Timothy
- 6) The Epistles to Titus and Philemon
- 7) The Epistle to the Hebrews
- 8) The Epistles of James and Jude
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- 11) Revelation I
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# LESSON ONE

## The Epistles to the Corinthians

### First Corinthians

**Writer:** The Apostle Paul.

#### **Historical Occasion.**

The church at Corinth was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. It had become infected with the evils which surrounded it in a licentious city.

The Greeks were proud of their learning and philosophy, but at the same time were addicted to gross immorality.

They were especially fond of oratory.

It is apparent that Apollos, an eloquent Christian Jew, had come to Corinth and captured the imaginations of the Greek Christians.

(Acts 18:24 KJV) And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. (Acts 18:25 KJV) This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. (Acts 18:26 KJV) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. (Acts 18:27 KJV) And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: (Acts 18:28 KJV) For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

This fact led to the drawing of comparisons between him, with his silver tongue, and other religious leaders. Especially to the discredit of Paul, whose bodily presence seems not to have been impressive.

(2 Cor 10:10 KJV) For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

This is probably the clue to the schisms in the church.

(1 Cor 1:11 KJV) For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. (1 Cor 1:12 KJV) Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. (1 Cor 1:13 KJV) Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

It was the desire of Paul to purify the church from partyism and immorality, which was the primary cause of the writing of the epistle.

### **The Epistle May be Divided into Two Parts**

The cleansing of the church.  
Doctrinal instructions and advices.

#### **Part 1: The cleansing of the Church from**

False conceptions of the ministry.

Intellectual pride.

Social evils.

Litigation condemned, especially before heathen judges.

The sanctity of the body.

Marital duties and obligations.

Limitation of Christian liberty.

Ordinances of social customs (head covering)

#### **Part 2: Doctrinal Instructions and advices.**

The diversity of spiritual gifts. Cha. 12:1-31.

The preeminence of love. Chap. 13.

The preeminence of prophecy over the gift of tongues, and the importance of maintaining proper order in the public assemblies. Chap 14:1-40.

The doctrine of the resurrection. Chap 15:1-58.

The false conceptions of the ministry.

(1 Cor 1:12 KJV) Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. (1 Cor 1:13 KJV) Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor 1:14 KJV) I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; (1 Cor 1:15 KJV) Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. (1 Cor 1:16 KJV) And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. (1 Cor 1:17 KJV) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (1 Cor 3:4 KJV) For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? (1 Cor 3:5 KJV) Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (1 Cor 3:6 KJV) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (1 Cor 3:7 KJV) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

(1 Cor 3:21 KJV) Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; (1 Cor 3:22 KJV) Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

(1 Cor 4:6 KJV) And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. (1 Cor 4:7 KJV) For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

There was no effort on Paul's part to display worldly wisdom, but to declare the wisdom of God in a message revealed to him by the Holy Spirit.

## THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

**Writer:** The apostle Paul.

**Main Theme:** It seems apparent that Paul had in mind the vindication of his apostleship when he was writing this book. Both spistles to the Corinthians indicate that there was an element in this church which tended to discredit his ministry and authority.

### Contents

This is one of the most personal of all of Paul's epistles. He dwells largely upon his own ministry. He opens his heart and discloses his motives, his spiritual passion, and his tender love for the church.

## **Key Chain**

(2 Cor 3:1 KJV) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

(2 Cor 5:12 KJV) For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

(2 Cor 7:2 KJV) Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

(2 Cor 10:2 KJV) But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. (2 Cor 10:3 KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (2 Cor 11:5 KJV) For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

(2 Cor 11:6 KJV) But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

(2 Cor 12:11 KJV) I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

(2 Cor 13:3 KJV) Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

## **Choice Selections**

### **The Ministry of Spirit and Life - Chapt 3**

#### **Troubled on every side**

(2 Cor 4:8 KJV) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (2 Cor 4:9 KJV) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (2 Cor 4:10 KJV) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (2 Cor 4:11 KJV) For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. (2 Cor 4:12 KJV) So then death worketh in us, but life in you. (2 Cor 4:13 KJV) We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; (2 Cor 4:14 KJV) Knowing that he which raised

up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. (2 Cor 4:15 KJV) For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. (2 Cor 4:16 KJV) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (2 Cor 4:17 KJV) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (2 Cor 4:18 KJV) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

### **Treasures in earthen vessels.**

### **If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.**

7:2. Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. (This was not true of the old Paul).

### **Triumph over death**

### **Law of sowing and reaping**

### **Weapons not carnal, but mighty**

### **Vision of the Third Heaven**

### **Call to separation from the world.**

(2 Cor 6:14 KJV) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Cor 6:15 KJV) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (2 Cor 6:16 KJV) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (2 Cor 6:17 KJV) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

(2 Cor 6:18 KJV) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The list of sufferings endured by Paul.

Chapter 1:24-33.

(2 Cor 11:24 KJV) Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. (2 Cor 11:25 KJV) Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; (2 Cor 11:26 KJV) In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of

robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; (2 Cor 11:27 KJV) In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. (2 Cor 11:28 KJV) Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. (2 Cor 11:29 KJV) Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? (2 Cor 11:30 KJV) If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. (2 Cor 11:31 KJV) The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. (2 Cor 11:32 KJV) In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: (2 Cor 11:33 KJV) And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.



## LESSON TWO

### The Epistles to the Galatians and Ephesians

#### Galatians

**Writer:** The apostle Paul.

**Date:** Probably between 55 and 60 A.D.

**To Whom Addressed:** To the churches in Galatia, a district in Asia Minor, the exact boundaries of which are uncertain.

#### Main Themes

A defense of the doctrine of justification by faith, warnings against reversion to Judaism and a vindication of Paul's apostleship.

#### The Magna Charta of the Church

This epistle has been so called by some writers. The main argument is in favor of Christian liberty in opposition to the teachings of the Judaizers. These false teachers insisted that the observance of the ceremonial law was an essential part of the plan of salvation.

#### Key Text

(Gal 5:1 KJV) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

#### Key Chain Showing the Current of Thought

(Gal 1:6 KJV) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

(Gal 2:11 KJV) But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. (Gal 2:12 KJV) For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. (Gal 2:13 KJV) And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. (Gal 2:14 KJV) But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter

before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? (Gal 2:15 KJV) We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, (Gal 2:16 KJV) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

(Gal 3:1 KJV) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? (Gal 3:2 KJV) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal 3:3 KJV) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Gal 3:4 KJV) Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (Gal 3:5 KJV) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal 3:6 KJV) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. (Gal 3:7 KJV) Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. (Gal 3:8 KJV) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. (Gal 3:9 KJV) So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (Gal 3:10 KJV) For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. (Gal 3:11 KJV) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

(Gal 4:9 KJV) But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? (Gal 4:10 KJV) Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. (Gal 4:11 KJV) I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

(Gal 5:1 KJV) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (Gal 5:2 KJV) Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. (Gal 5:3 KJV) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. (Gal 5:4 KJV) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (Gal 5:5 KJV) For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. (Gal 5:6 KJV) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (Gal 5:7 KJV) Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (Gal 6:15 KJV) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

**Emphatic Words: Faith, Grace, Liberty, The Cross**

**Paul's Defense of the Doctrine of Justification by Faith**

By showing the folly of Christian Jews abandoning their new faith and light, and returning to the old legalism.

By appealing to the former spiritual experience of the Galatians.

(Gal 3:1 KJV) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? (Gal 3:2 KJV) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal 3:3 KJV) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? (Gal 3:4 KJV) Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. (Gal 3:5 KJV) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

By showing that Abraham was justified by faith.

(Gal 3:6 KJV) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. (Gal 3:7 KJV) Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. (Gal 3:8 KJV) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. (Gal 3:9 KJV) So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

By showing that the law had no redeeming power, but brought a curse upon the disobedient, from which Christ redeemed believers.

(Gal 3:10 KJV) For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. (Gal 3:11 KJV) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. (Gal 3:12 KJV) And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. (Gal 3:13 KJV) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Gal 3:14 KJV) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

By proving that the law could not disannul the covenant of salvation by faith.

(Gal 3:15 KJV) Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. (Gal 3:16 KJV) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal 3:17 KJV) And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. (Gal 3:18 KJV) For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

By indicating the purpose of the law as a schoolmaster to prepare the way for Christ.

By showing the losses of those who surrender their faith in Christ, and relapse into legalism.

They lose the blessing of their inheritance as children of God, and return to the bondage of ceremonialism.

(Gal 3:26 KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:27 KJV) For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal 3:28 KJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:29 KJV) And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

They are in danger of becoming the children of Abraham after the flesh, instead of children of promise.

(Gal 4:19 KJV) My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, (Gal 4:20 KJV) I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. (Gal 4:21 KJV) Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? (Gal 4:22 KJV) For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. (Gal 4:23 KJV) But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. (Gal 4:24 KJV) Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. (Gal 4:25 KJV) For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. (Gal 4:26 KJV) But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. (Gal 4:27 KJV) For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. (Gal 4:28 KJV) Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. (Gal 4:29 KJV) But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. (Gal 4:30 KJV) Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. (Gal 4:31 KJV) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

#### Exhortations Concerning the Spiritual Life

##### *The conflict between the flesh and Spirit.*

(Gal 5:17 KJV) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Gal 5:18 KJV) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

##### *The works of the flesh which exclude from the kingdom of God.*

(Gal 5:19 KJV) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (Gal 5:20 KJV) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations,

wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (Gal 5:21 KJV) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

***The fruit of the Spirit which should be manifest in Christian life.***

(Gal 5:22 KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (Gal 5:23 KJV) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal 5:24 KJV) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (Gal 5:25 KJV) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal 5:26 KJV) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

**The characteristics of the spiritual life.**

***Charitableness, and burden bearing.***

(Gal 6:1 KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (Gal 6:2 KJV) Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

***Humility, self-examination, self-reliance and benevolence.***

(Gal 6:3 KJV) For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. (Gal 6:4 KJV) But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. (Gal 6:5 KJV) For every man shall bear his own burden. (Gal 6:6 KJV) Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

***The law of sowing and reaping holds good in the moral realm.***

(Gal 6:7 KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Gal 6:8 KJV) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Gal 6:9 KJV) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS**

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

**Date:** Probably written at Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

**Paul's Ministry at Ephesus**

## **His first visit**

(Acts 18:18 KJV) And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. (Acts 18:19 KJV) And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. (Acts 18:20 KJV) When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; (Acts 18:21 KJV) But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

## **On His Second Visit, the Holy Spirit is Given to Believers**

(Acts 19:2 KJV) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. (Acts 19:3 KJV) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. (Acts 19:4 KJV) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:5 KJV) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:6 KJV) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:7 KJV) And all the men were about twelve.

## **His Continuance of the Work with Remarkable Success**

(Acts 19:9 KJV) But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. (Acts 19:10 KJV) And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. (Acts 19:11 KJV) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: (Acts 19:12 KJV) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. (Acts 19:13 KJV) Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. (Acts 19:14 KJV) And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. (Acts 19:15 KJV) And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? (Acts 19:16 KJV) And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. (Acts 19:17 KJV) And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (Acts 19:18 KJV) And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. (Acts 19:19 KJV) Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (Acts 19:20 KJV) So

mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

### **His Conflict with the Silversmiths**

(Acts 19:23 KJV) And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. (Acts 19:24 KJV) For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; (Acts 19:25 KJV) Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. (Acts 19:26 KJV) Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: (Acts 19:27 KJV) So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. (Acts 19:28 KJV) And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. (Acts 19:29 KJV) And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. (Acts 19:30 KJV) And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. (Acts 19:31 KJV) And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. (Acts 19:32 KJV) Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. (Acts 19:33 KJV) And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. (Acts 19:34 KJV) But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. (Acts 19:35 KJV) And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? (Acts 19:36 KJV) Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. (Acts 19:37 KJV) For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. (Acts 19:38 KJV) Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. (Acts 19:39 KJV) But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. (Acts 19:40 KJV) For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. (Acts 19:41 KJV) And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

### **Historical Occasion of the Writing**

The converted Jews in the early churches were inclined to be exclusive, and separate themselves from their Gentile brethren. This condition of affairs in the church at Ephesus may have led to the writing of this epistle, the keynote of which is Christian unity.

## **Key Verse:**

(Eph 4:13 KJV) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

## **Main Theme: The Unity of the Church**

Especially between the Jew and Gentile believers. This is shown by the recurrence of certain words and phrases, as:

The word, "Together;" gathered together, quickened together; raised together; sitting together; builded together.

The word, "one," indicating unity; one new man; one body; one Spirit; one hope; one Lord; one faith; one baptism; one God and Father of all.

### **Our Position in Christ**

(Eph 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

(Eph 2:6 KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

## **Part 1: The Divine Plan of God**

### **Through the redemptive work of Christ**

(Eph 1:7 KJV) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (Eph 1:8 KJV) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

### **Universal in Scope**

(Eph 1:9 KJV) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (Eph 1:10 KJV) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

### **Insuring a Rich Spiritual Inheritance**

(Eph 1:11 KJV) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (Eph 1:12 KJV) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (Eph 1:13 KJV) In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom



also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Eph 1:14 KJV) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

### **The Plan Provides for a Spiritual Resurrection from Sin and the Exaltation of the Believer**

(Eph 2:1 KJV) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: (Eph 2:2 KJV) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (Eph 2:3 KJV) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph 2:4 KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (Eph 2:5 KJV) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (Eph 2:6 KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

### **It is Wholly of Grace and Not of Works**

(Eph 2:7 KJV) That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:8 KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (Eph 2:9 KJV) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph 2:10 KJV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

### **It Embraces the Gentiles Who Were Far from God**

(Eph 2:11 KJV) Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; (Eph 2:12 KJV) That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: (Eph 2:13 KJV) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

### **It Removes All Barriers between Jews and Gentiles and Unites Them into One Body**

(Eph 2:14 KJV) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (Eph 2:15 KJV) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; (Eph 2:16 KJV) And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: (Eph 2:17 KJV) And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. (Eph 2:18 KJV) For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (Eph 2:19 KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (Eph 2:20 KJV) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the

chief corner stone; (Eph 2:21 KJV) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (Eph 2:22 KJV) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

## **Part 2: Practical Application**

### **Consistent Christian Life**

#### **In Newness of Life**

(Eph 4:22 KJV) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (Eph 4:23 KJV) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (Eph 4:24 KJV) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph 4:25 KJV) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. (Eph 4:26 KJV) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (Eph 4:27 KJV) Neither give place to the devil. (Eph 4:28 KJV) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (Eph 4:29 KJV) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (Eph 4:30 KJV) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Eph 4:31 KJV) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (Eph 4:32 KJV) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

#### **Walking in Love and Purity**

(Eph 5:1 KJV) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; (Eph 5:2 KJV) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Eph 5:3 KJV) But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (Eph 5:4 KJV) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (Eph 5:5 KJV) For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (Eph 5:6 KJV) Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (Eph 5:7 KJV) Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

### Walking in the Light

(Eph 5:8 KJV) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (Eph 5:9 KJV) (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) (Eph 5:10 KJV) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. (Eph 5:11 KJV) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. (Eph 5:12 KJV) For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. (Eph 5:13 KJV) But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. (Eph 5:14 KJV) Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

### Walking Circumspectly

(Eph 5:15 KJV) See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, (Eph 5:16 KJV) Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Eph 5:17 KJV) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Eph 5:18 KJV) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (Eph 5:19 KJV) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Eph 5:20 KJV) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; (Eph 5:21 KJV) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

### **The Home Life**

Duties of husbands and wives.

Duties of children, fathers, servants, and masters.

### **Spiritual Armor**

## LESSON THREE

### The Epistles to the Philippians and Colossians

#### The Book of Philippians

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

**Date:** Uncertain. Probably written from Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

#### The Church

The Philippian church was an ideal one in many respects. It was very appreciative and benevolent.

(2 Cor 8:1 KJV) Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; (2 Cor 8:2 KJV) How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

(Phil 4:15 KJV) Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. (Phil 4:16 KJV) For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

The church was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, in the midst of a storm of persecution. The beginnings of the work were small, among a few women at the river side. Lydia, a seller of purple, was the first convert, and she was soon joined by the Philippian jailor and his family. These, and perhaps a few others, became the nucleus of the church.

#### Characteristics of the Epistle

It is a spiritual love letter to the church. It contains outbursts of warm affection and gratitude.

It was written under hard circumstances, while Paul was a prisoner, he strikes the keynotes of victory and joy.

#### *Rejoicing in prayer.*

(Phil 1:4 KJV) Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

#### *Rejoicing in the gospel.*

(Phil 1:18 KJV) What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

***Rejoicing in Christian fellowship.***

(Phil 2:1 KJV) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, (Phil 2:2 KJV) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

***Rejoicing in sacrifices for the cause.***

(Phil 2:17 KJV) Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. (Phil 2:18 KJV) For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Rejoicing in the Lord.

(Phil 3:1 KJV) Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

Rejoicing for the loving care of the church.

(Phil 4:10 KJV) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

**Central Message: Jesus Christ**

***As the source of spiritual fruit.***

(Phil 1:11 KJV) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

***As the theme of preaching.***

(Phil 1:18 KJV) What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

***As the highest motive of Christian service.***

(Phil 1:20 KJV) According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. (Phil 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

***As exhibiting the only perfect spirit.***

(Phil 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Phil 2:6 KJV) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (Phil 2:7 KJV) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (Phil 2:8 KJV) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Phil 2:9 KJV) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (Phil 2:10 KJV) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (Phil 2:11 KJV) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***The knowledge of whom, is the supreme prize for which to struggle in life.***

(Phil 3:7 KJV) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (Phil 3:8 KJV) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (Phil 3:9 KJV) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (Phil 3:10 KJV) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (Phil 3:11 KJV) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Phil 3:12 KJV) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (Phil 3:14 KJV) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

**Further Exhortations to the Church**

***To follow the apostolic example***

(Phil 3:15 KJV) Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (Phil 3:16 KJV) Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. (Phil 3:17 KJV) Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

***To be aware of enemies of the cross.***

(Phil 3:18 KJV) (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (Phil 3:19 KJV) Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

***To be heavenly citizens, looking forward to a great change at the coming of the Lord.***

(Phil 3:20 KJV) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (Phil 3:21 KJV) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

***To steadfastness, unity, helpfulness, moderation, freedom from anxious care, prayerfulness, high thinking.***

(Phil 4:1 KJV) Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. (Phil 4:2 KJV) I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. (Phil 4:3 KJV) And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. (Phil 4:4 KJV) Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. (Phil 4:5 KJV) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. (Phil 4:6 KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil 4:7 KJV) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

## **THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS**

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

**Date:** Probably written from Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

**To Whom Addressed:** The church at Colosse, a city of Asia Minor.

### **Purpose**

General, a message of good will, to exhort and edify believers.

Special, to counteract doctrinal errors growing out of the mixture of Judaistic teaching, combined with the vagaries of oriental and philosophic speculation. These heresies tended to obscure the divine glory of Christ.

### **Characteristics.**

The epistle presents a considerable resemblance to Ephesians both in thought and language, yet has a distinct message of its own. In Ephesians Paul dwells upon the thought of the church as the body of Christ, while in Colossians, the emphasizes Christ as the head of the church. The warning against trusting in worldly wisdom which appears in 1 Corinthians, reappears in Colossians.

## **The Glory of the Person and Work of Christ: His glorious preeminence.**

### ***As the image of God.***

(Col 1:15 KJV) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

The creator of all things.

(Col 1:16 KJV) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

### ***His preexistence.***

(Col 1:17 KJV) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

### ***His headship of the church.***

(Col 1:18 KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

### ***His divine fulness.***

(Col 1:19 KJV) For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

### ***His reconciling work.***

(Col 1:20 KJV) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. (Col 1:21 KJV) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (Col 1:22 KJV) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: (Col 1:23 KJV) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

### ***The mystery of his indwelling in believers proclaimed in Paul's ministry.***

(Col 1:24 KJV) Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: (Col 1:25 KJV) Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; (Col 1:26 KJV) Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (Col 1:27 KJV) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Col 1:28 KJV) Whom we preach, warning every man, and



teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: (Col 1:29 KJV) Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

## **Doctrine**

### ***The peril of worldly philosophy and legalism.***

(Phil 2:8 KJV) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

### ***The transcendent glory of Christ and the power of his spiritual ordinances, contrasted with those of the ceremonial system.***

(Col 2:4 KJV) And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. (Col 2:5 KJV) For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. (Col 2:6 KJV) As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: (Col 2:7 KJV) Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (Col 2:8 KJV) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Col 2:9 KJV) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Col 2:10 KJV) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Col 2:11 KJV) In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: (Col 2:12 KJV) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (Col 2:13 KJV) And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

### ***The liberating power of the cross of Christ in abolishing the old ceremonialism.***

(Col 2:14 KJV) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Col 2:15 KJV) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Col 2:16 KJV) Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: (Col 2:17 KJV) Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

### ***Warnings concerning angel worship, and false mysticism which dishonor Christ as the Head of the church.***

(Col 2:18 KJV) Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, (Col 2:19 KJV) And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands

having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

### ***Warnings against ceremonialism and asceticism.***

(Col 2:20 KJV) Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Col 2:21 KJV) (Touch not; taste not; handle not; (Col 2:22 KJV) Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? (Col 2:23 KJV) Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

### **Exhortations**

#### ***1) To heavenly aspirations and affections.***

(Col 3:1 KJV) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (Col 3:2 KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (Col 3:3 KJV) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Col 3:4 KJV) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

#### ***2) To be ruled by the spirit of peace, unity and thankfulness.***

(Col 3:15 KJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

#### ***3) To seek an infilling of the truth.***

(Col 3:16 KJV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col 3:17 KJV) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

### **The Family**

Duties of the various members of the Christian household: wives, husbands, children, fathers, servants, masters.

- 1) (Col 3:18 KJV) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
- 2) (Col 3:19 KJV) Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
- 3) (Col 3:20 KJV) Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

4) (Col 3:21 KJV) Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

5) (Col 3:22 KJV) Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

(Col 3:23 KJV) And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; (Col 3:24 KJV) Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (Col 3:25 KJV) But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

6) (Col 4:1 KJV) Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

## **LESSON FOUR**

### **The Epistles to the Thessalonians**

#### **First Thessalonians**

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

**Date:** Time and place is uncertain. It is generally thought that this was the earliest of Paul's epistles and was probably written from Corinth between 49 and 54 A.D.

#### **The Church**

The church at Thessalonica was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. He met with violent opposition in his work, but he succeeded in winning some Jews and a multitude of Greeks which enabled him to establish a faithful church.

#### **Historical Occasion**

Paul had sent Timothy to encourage and strengthen the church. On his return, the report that he gave apparently inspired the apostle to write the epistle.

(1 Th 3:6 KJV) But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

#### **Main Themes**

This is one of the most personal of all of Paul's epistles. It is not so doctrinal or polemical as some of the others.

The body of the epistle consists chiefly of commendations, personal reminiscences, counsels, and exhortations.

The central truth which is especially emphasized, is the future hope of the advent of Christ.

#### **Synopsis**

##### **The Commendation of the Church**

7) *For its faith and loving service.*

(1 Th 1:2 KJV) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; (1 Th 1:3 KJV) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (1 Th 1:4 KJV) Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

8) *For spiritual receptivity.*

(1 Th 1:5 KJV) For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. (1 Th 1:6 KJV) And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

9) *For exemplary influence.*

(1 Th 1:7 KJV) So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. (1 Th 1:8 KJV) For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

10) For abandonment of idolatry and for spiritual hope.

(1 Th 1:9 KJV) For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; (1 Th 1:10 KJV) And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

## **Exhortations**

1) *Exhortations concerning personal and social purity.*

(1 Th 4:1 KJV) Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. (1 Th 4:2 KJV) For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. (1 Th 4:3 KJV) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (1 Th 4:4 KJV) That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (1 Th 4:5 KJV) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: (1 Th 4:6 KJV) That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. (1 Th 4:7 KJV) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (1 Th

4:8 KJV) He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

**2) *Exhortations in respect to brotherly love and industry.***

(1 Th 4:9 KJV) But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. (1 Th 4:10 KJV) And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; (1 Th 4:11 KJV) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; (1 Th 4:12 KJV) That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

## **The Future Hope**

**1) *The comforting hope for the bereaved.***

(1 Th 4:13 KJV) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (1 Th 4:14 KJV) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

**2) *The order of the resurrections.***

(1 Th 4:15 KJV) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

**3) *The manner, and accompanying events of Christ's appearance.***

(1 Th 4:16 KJV) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (1 Th 4:17 KJV) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Th 4:18 KJV) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

**4) *The time of the Advent unknown.***

(1 Th 5:1 KJV) But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (1 Th 5:2 KJV) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

**5) *Unexpected by unbelievers.***

(1 Th 5:3 KJV) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

#### 6) *Children of the light should be ready for.*

(1 Th 5:4 KJV) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (1 Th 5:5 KJV) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (1 Th 5:6 KJV) Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Th 5:7 KJV) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (1 Th 5:8 KJV) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

#### 7) *Safety of believers at.*

(1 Th 5:9 KJV) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Th 5:10 KJV) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (1 Th 5:11 KJV) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

### **The Duty Section**

#### **Exhortations concerning the practical duties of the Christian life.**

(1 Th 5:12 KJV) And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (1 Th 5:13 KJV) And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. (1 Th 5:14 KJV) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. (1 Th 5:15 KJV) See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. (1 Th 5:16 KJV) Rejoice evermore. (1 Th 5:17 KJV) Pray without ceasing. (1 Th 5:18 KJV) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Th 5:19 KJV) Quench not the Spirit. (1 Th 5:20 KJV) Despise not prophesyings. (1 Th 5:21 KJV) Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (1 Th 5:22 KJV) Abstain from all appearance of evil.

**(This is a companion passage to the 12th chapter of Romans.)**

### **Second Thessalonians**

Writer: The apostle Paul

Date: Probably written from Corinth shortly after the first epistle.

Historical Occasion

It is apparent that certain expressions in Paul's first epistle to this church, had been

misinterpreted. When he had referred to the uncertainty of the time of Christ's coming, his words had been understood as teaching that the day of the Lord was just at hand.

(2 Th 2:2 KJV) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

This resulted in undue excitement. The converts were "shaken in mind." They were entertaining wrong views as to the nearness of the Lord's advent which unsettled their lives.

Some have thought from the wording of verses two and three, of chapter two, that the church had received a forged letter which had added fuel to the fire. This is purely conjectural. There is not much doubt that the epistle was the outcome of an excited state of the church.

Central Theme: The second coming of Christ.

Key Text: (2 Th 3:5 KJV) And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

### **Synopsis**

1) Words of comfort to the church in persecution.

(2 Th 1:4 KJV) So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: (2 Th 1:5 KJV) Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: (2 Th 1:6 KJV) Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

2) Sharp contrast between the glorious destiny of believers at the advent of Christ and the fate of the impenitent wicked.

(2 Th 1:7 KJV) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (2 Th 1:8 KJV) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (2 Th 1:9 KJV) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (2 Th 1:10 KJV) When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Th 1:11 KJV) Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (2 Th 1:12 KJV) That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3) Warnings against unrest concerning the Lord's speedy coming.



(2 Th 2:1 KJV) Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2 Th 2:2 KJV) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

- 4) Announcement of events prior to the advent.
  - a) The coming apostasy

(2 Th 2:3 KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- b) Self-exaltation of man of sin.

(2 Th 2:3 KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (2 Th 2:4 KJV) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- c) Lawless one revealed.

(2 Th 2:5 KJV) Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (2 Th 2:6 KJV) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. (2 Th 2:7 KJV) For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. (2 Th 2:8 KJV) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (2 Th 2:9 KJV) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

- d) This lawless one destroyed by brightness of His coming.

(2 Th 2:8 KJV) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

- e) Mighty delusion shall deceive the wicked.

(2 Th 2:10 KJV) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (2 Th 2:11 KJV) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (2 Th 2:12 KJV) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## LESSON FIVE

### The Epistles to Timothy

#### First Timothy

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

**Date:** Uncertain

**Main Themes:** Counsels and exhortations to a young pastor respecting his personal conduct and ministerial work.

**Key Text:** (1 Tim 3:15 KJV) But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

#### Synopsis

##### Doctrinal Counsels

**Dealing with legalistic teachers.**

- 1) *Who emphasize non-essentials rather than real godliness; which, instead of building up character, stir up strife.*

(1 Tim 1:3 KJV) As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, (1 Tim 1:4 KJV) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. (1 Tim 1:5 KJV) Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: (1 Tim 1:6 KJV) From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

- 2) *Who desire to be teachers of the law without understanding its significance.*

(1 Tim 1:7 KJV) Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. (1 Tim 1:8 KJV) But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; (1 Tim 1:9 KJV) Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, (1 Tim 1:10 KJV) For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for

perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; (1 Tim 1:11 KJV) According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

### **The first solemn charge to Timothy**

(1 Tim 1:18 KJV) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; (1 Tim 1:19 KJV) Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: (1 Tim 1:20 KJV) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

### **Spiritual Oversight**

#### ***1 The qualifications of a bishop.***

##### **a Personal character and habits.**

(1 Tim 3:2 KJV) A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1 Tim 3:3 KJV) Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

##### **b Attitude toward his family.**

(1 Tim 3:4 KJV) One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (1 Tim 3:5 KJV) (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

##### **c Experience and good reputation.**

(1 Tim 3:6 KJV) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Tim 3:7 KJV) Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

#### ***2 The qualifications of deacons.***

##### **a Character, habits, and Christian experience.**

(1 Tim 3:8 KJV) Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; (1 Tim 3:9 KJV) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

##### **b Tested for a period.**

(1 Tim 3:10 KJV) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

**c            Having faithful wives, and proper authority in their own homes.**

(1 Tim 3:11 KJV) Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

(1 Tim 3:12 KJV) Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

**d            The advantages of the diaconate.**

(1 Tim 3:13 KJV) For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

**Counsels as to teaching, ministerial conduct**

**3            *The marks of a good minister of Christ.***

(1 Tim 4:6 KJV) If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

**4            *The preeminence of godliness***

(1 Tim 4:7 KJV) But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. (1 Tim 4:8 KJV) For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

**5            *The importance of a godly example***

(1 Tim 4:12 KJV) Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**6            *The duty of diligence in reading and teaching, and the exercise of personal gifts.***

(1 Tim 4:15 KJV) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. (1 Tim 4:16 KJV) Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

**7            *The importance of meditation and entire consecration, coupled with watchfulness over personal conduct, for the sake of a saving influence.***

(1 Tim 4:15 KJV) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. (1 Tim 4:16 KJV) Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

**Ministerial Administration**

### *Courtesy to old and young.*

(1 Tim 5:1 KJV) Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; (1 Tim 5:2 KJV) The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

#### **1**      *The attitude of the church toward widows.*

(1 Tim 5:3 KJV) Honour widows that are widows indeed. (1 Tim 5:4 KJV) But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. (1 Tim 5:5 KJV) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. (1 Tim 5:6 KJV) But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. (1 Tim 5:7 KJV) And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. (1 Tim 5:8 KJV) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (1 Tim 5:9 KJV) Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, (1 Tim 5:10 KJV) Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. (1 Tim 5:11 KJV) But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; (1 Tim 5:12 KJV) Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. (1 Tim 5:13 KJV) And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. (1 Tim 5:14 KJV) I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. (1 Tim 5:15 KJV) For some are already turned aside after Satan. (1 Tim 5:16 KJV) If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

#### **2**      *The duty to the church elders.*

(1 Tim 5:17 KJV) Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (1 Tim 5:18 KJV) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. (1 Tim 5:19 KJV) Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. (1 Tim 5:20 KJV) Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

#### **3**      *The blessings of contentment.*

(1 Tim 6:6 KJV) But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Tim 6:7 KJV) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1 Tim 6:8 KJV) And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

#### **4**      *The peril of riches and the duty of the minister to avoid covetousness; to seek Christian virtues, and "fight the good fight of faith."*

(1 Tim 6:9 KJV) But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish

and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 Tim 6:10 KJV) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim 6:11 KJV) But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (1 Tim 6:12 KJV) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

5 *An exhortation to warn the rich against pride and self-confidence, and to urge them to benevolence and heavenly investments.*

(1 Tim 6:17 KJV) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; (1 Tim 6:18 KJV) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (1 Tim 6:19 KJV) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

## SECOND EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY

**Writer:** The apostle Paul.

**Place and Date:** Probably written from Rome between 65 and 67 A.D.

It contains the last recorded words of the apostle.

### Purpose

1 *General*

To encourage and instruct a young pastor in his ministerial work.

2 *Special*

To request Timothy, his son in the gospel, to hasten to Rome in order that he might have the comfort of his companionship.

(2 Tim 1:4 KJV) Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

(2 Tim 4:9 KJV) Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

(2 Tim 4:21 KJV) Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

## **Historical Occasion**

It is generally believed that Paul suffered two imprisonments at Rome, and that it was during the second that this epistle was written. Formerly he had had a certain degree of liberty and lived in his own hired house (Ac. 28:30).

At that time he had been accessible to his friends, but now he is in close confinement and Onesiphorus had difficulty in finding him.

(2 Tim 1:17 KJV) But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

He had been deserted by many of his former associates and was expecting very soon to be led out to execution.

(2 Tim 1:15 KJV) This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

(2 Tim 4:6 KJV) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

There is a pathetic strain of loneliness running through the epistle, and it is not surprising that he was anxious to see his beloved Timothy.

## **Peculiarities of the Epistle**

Both epistles to Timothy contain urgent exhortations. It has been surmised that Timothy was not robust

(1 Tim 5:23 KJV) Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Perhaps he was temperamentally timid.

(2 Tim 1:6 KJV) Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. (2 Tim 1:7 KJV) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Hence, the word "ashamed" appears prominently in the epistle.

He was urged not to be ashamed of his testimony, his prisoner friend, or his workmanship.

(2 Tim 1:8 KJV) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

He was exhorted to regard himself as a soldier in the midst of a hard campaign.

(2 Tim 2:3 KJV) Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 2:4 KJV) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

## Synopsis

### Chiefly Counsels to the Young Servant of the Lord

1 *As a spiritual soldier, athlete, and husbandman.*

a **To be strong in divine grace and select faithful helpers.**

(2 Tim 2:1 KJV) Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 2:2 KJV) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

b **To manifest soldierly qualities of endurance and separation from worldly entanglements.**

(2 Tim 2:3 KJV) Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 2:4 KJV) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

c **As a spiritual athlete to keep the rules of the game.**

(2 Tim 2:5 KJV) And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

d **As a husbandman expecting fruits.**

(2 Tim 2:6 KJV) The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

2 *Truths to be kept in mind.*

a **The resurrection of Christ.**

(2 Tim 2:7 KJV) Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. (2 Tim 2:8 KJV) Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: (2 Tim 2:9 KJV) Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

b **Suffering for the church, and dying with Christ, lead to eternal life and**



## **spiritual honor.**

(2 Tim 2:9 KJV) Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. (2 Tim 2:10 KJV) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (2 Tim 2:11 KJV) It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: (2 Tim 2:12 KJV) If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

### **3 *Counsels in respect to dealing with heresy and religious controversy.***

#### **a *By earnest admonitions to the contentious.***

(2 Tim 2:14 KJV) Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

#### **b *By seeking to become a skillful expositor of the truth.***

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

#### **c *By remembering the strength of divine foundations and that Christians must separate themselves from evil.***

(2 Tim 2:19 KJV) Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

## **Predictions of Apostasy and Social Corruption**

### **1 *The various evil characteristics of men in the last days, who under the guise of religion will practice sensuality.***

(2 Tim 3:1 KJV) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2 Tim 3:2 KJV) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (2 Tim 3:3 KJV) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (2 Tim 3:4 KJV) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (2 Tim 3:5 KJV) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Tim 3:6 KJV) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

### **2 *Their stupidity will one day be manifest to all men.***

(2 Tim 3:7 KJV) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim

3:8 KJV) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. (2 Tim 3:9 KJV) But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

3 ***An appeal to Timothy to be steadfast in view of his spiritual opportunities and early training in the Scriptures.***

(2 Tim 3:14 KJV) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (2 Tim 3:15 KJV) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

4 ***The power of the inspired Word of God to equip and perfect the Christian worker for his task.***

(2 Tim 3:16 KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Tim 3:17 KJV) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

### **The Solemn Charge**

1 ***Concerning faithfulness in delivering the message.***

(2 Tim 4:1 KJV) I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; (2 Tim 4:2 KJV) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2 ***Predictions of a time when men would despise the truth and seek teachers who would pander to their own lusts.***

(2 Tim 4:3 KJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (2 Tim 4:4 KJV) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

3 ***The exhortation to an earnest and faithful ministry.***

(2 Tim 4:5 KJV) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

### **The Close of Paul's Career**

1 ***Ends in the spirit of victory.***

(2 Tim 4:6 KJV) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (2 Tim 4:7 KJV) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (2 Tim 4:8 KJV) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

## 2 *In perfect confidence in the Lord.*

(2 Tim 4:17 KJV) Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. (2 Tim 4:18 KJV) And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## LESSON SIX

### The Epistles to Titus and Philemon

#### The Book of Titus

**Writer:** The apostle Paul

#### Facts Concerning Titus

He was a Gentile, a beloved friend and helper of Paul.

(2 Cor 2:13 KJV) I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

(2 Cor 7:6 KJV) Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

(2 Cor 7:13 KJV) Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

(2 Cor 8:23 KJV) Whether any do inquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be inquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

(Gal 2:3 KJV) But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

He was a messenger of the church at Corinth.

(2 Cor 8:16 KJV) But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

(2 Cor 8:17 KJV) For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.

(2 Cor 8:18 KJV) And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;

He was thoroughly trustworthy and unselfish.

(2 Cor 12:18 KJV) I desired Titus, and with him I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you?

walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?  
A companion of Paul and Barnabas on a journey to Jerusalem.

(Gal 2:1 KJV) Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

He was left in Crete by Paul to superintend the churches.

(Titus 1:5 KJV) For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

He was in Rome with Paul during the latter's imprisonment.

(2 Tim 4:10 KJV) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

He seems to have been a more sturdy man than Timothy and probably more mature.

**Main Theme:** Counsels and Exhortations relating to ministerial duties and doctrines, with special emphasis laid upon the maintenance of good works.

### **Key Verses**

(Titus 1:5 KJV) For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

(Titus 3:8 KJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

### **Emphatic Thought**

The emphasis upon good works is seen in:

(Titus 1:16 KJV) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

(Titus 2:7 KJV) In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

(Titus 2:14 KJV) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

(Titus 3:1 KJV) Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates,

to be ready to every good work,

(Titus 3:8 KJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

(Titus 3:14 KJV) And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

This is a sufficient answer to those who claim that there is a conflict of doctrine between Paul's epistles and that of James.

The character of the Cretians was such that Paul thought it necessary to advise their minister to insist upon consistent Christian living. Nevertheless this epistle does not teach salvation by works.

(Titus 3:5 KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

## **Synopsis**

### **Instructions Concerning Church Organization and Discipline**

1 The purpose of the assignment of Titus to Crete.

(Titus 1:1 KJV) Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; (Titus 1:2 KJV) In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (Titus 1:3 KJV) But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; (Titus 1:4 KJV) To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

2 Church order and discipline.

a The character and qualifications of elders and bishops.

(Titus 1:6 KJV) If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.(Titus 1:7 KJV) For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; (Titus 1:8 KJV) But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; (Titus 1:9 KJV) Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

b The duty of suppressing mercenary teachers.

(Titus 1:10 KJV) For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: (Titus 1:11 KJV) Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

c The evil character of the Cretians demanding stern treatment and steadfast adherence to the truth.

(Titus 1:12 KJV) One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. (Titus 1:13 KJV) This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; (Titus 1:14 KJV) Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

## **Sound Doctrine and Good Works**

1 Apostolic Instructions

a Respecting the spirit and behavior of aged men and women.

(Titus 2:2 KJV) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. (Titus 2:3 KJV) The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

b Teachings adapted to young men and women.

(Titus 2:4 KJV) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (Titus 2:5 KJV) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. (Titus 2:6 KJV) Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

c Exhortation to Titus concerning his personal example.

(Titus 2:7 KJV) In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, (Titus 2:8 KJV) Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

d The duties of servants.

(Titus 2:9 KJV) Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; (Titus 2:10 KJV) Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

2 The universal opportunity of salvation demand:

a Self-denial and godliness in this world.

(Titus 2:11 KJV) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (Titus 2:12 KJV) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

The looking for the fulfillment of the blessed hope of Christ's coming.

(Titus 2:13 KJV) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

### **Additional Information**

1 Social obligations and duties.

(Titus 3:1 KJV) Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, (Titus 3:2 KJV) To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. Good works not the basis of salvation, but cleansing grace through Christ. (Titus 3:4 KJV) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (Titus 3:5 KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (Titus 3:6 KJV) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; (Titus 3:7 KJV) That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2 The importance of good works should be constantly taught.

(Titus 3:8 KJV) This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

## **THE EPISTLE TO PHILEMON**

**Writer:** The apostle Paul.

A private letter of intercession written by Paul probably from Rome, and sent to Philemon at Colosse.

(Col 4:7 KJV) All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: (Col 4:8 KJV) Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; (Col 4:9 KJV) With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.

### **Facts Concerning Philemon**



He was apparently a member of the church at Colosse, which seems to have held its assemblies in his house.

(Phile 1:2 KJV) And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

His benevolence and Paul's request for him to prepare a lodging indicate that he was a man of some means.

(Phile 1:5 KJV) Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; (Phile 1:6 KJV) That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. (Phile 1:7 KJV) For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

(Phile 1:22 KJV) But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

As Paul had never been in Colosse, Philemon must have met him elsewhere, possibly in Ephesus, which was not far away.

(Col 2:1 KJV) For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

It would seem that he owed his conversion to the apostle.

(Phile 1:19 KJV) I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

### **The Story of Onesimus**

He was a runaway slave of Philemon. It is inferred that he robbed his master and fled to Rome.

(Phile 1:18 KJV) If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

Here he came under the influence of Paul and was converted.

(Phile 1:10 KJV) I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

He became a devoted disciple of Christ.

(Col 4:9 KJV) With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.

Paul would have chosen to have detained him in Rome as a helper, but not having the consent of Philemon, he felt it to be his duty to send the slave back to his master.

(Phile 1:13 KJV) Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: (Phile 1:14 KJV) But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

So the apostle writes this beautiful letter of intercession, pleading with Philemon to forgive and restore Onesimus to favor.

## **Synopsis**

### **The testimonial concerning the changed character of Onesimus.**

(Phile 1:10 KJV) I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: (Phile 1:11 KJV) Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

### **The tender appeal for forgiveness of the returning slave.**

(Phile 1:12 KJV) Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: (Phile 1:13 KJV) Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: (Phile 1:14 KJV) But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly. (Phile 1:15 KJV) For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; (Phile 1:16 KJV) Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord? (Phile 1:17 KJV) If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. (Phile 1:18 KJV) If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; (Phile 1:19 KJV) I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

## **Spiritual Lessons from Paul's example**

The importance of sympathy for the lowly.

The duty of obedience to the law on the part of converts: Onesimus must return to his master.

Christian brotherhood obliterates all social and class distinctions.

## LESSON SEVEN

### THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

#### Authorship and Date Uncertain

The epistle is anonymous and has been ascribed to Paul, Barnabas, Luke, Apollos and various other persons. The most that can be said is that the weight of opinion seems to favor the Pauline authorship.

#### Purpose

The epistle was apparently written primarily to Hebrew Christians. These converts were in constant danger of relapsing into Judaism, or at least of attaching too much importance to ceremonial observances. The chief doctrinal purpose of the writer was to show the transcendent glory of the Christian dispensation, as compared with that of the Old Testament.

**Key Word:** “Better.” By following this word the reader will discover the main current of thought.

#### Other recurrent words and phrases:

*“Sat down,” referring to Christ’s finished work.*

(Heb 1:13 KJV) But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

(Heb 10:12 KJV) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

(Heb 12:2 KJV) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*“Let us.”*

Fear.

(Heb 4:1 KJV) Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Labor.

(Heb 4:11 KJV) Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Come boldly to a throne of grace.

(Heb 4:16 KJV) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Go on.

(Heb 6:1 KJV) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Draw near.

(Heb 10:22 KJV) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hold fast.

(Heb 10:23 KJV) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Consider one another.

(Heb 10:24 KJV) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Lay aside every weight and run with patience.

(Heb 12:1 KJV) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Have grace.

(Heb 12:28 KJV) Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Go forth.

(Heb 13:13 KJV) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Offer the sacrifice of praise.

(Heb 13:15 KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is,

the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

### **The Epistle May be Divided into Two Parts:**

Chiefly doctrinal.

Chiefly practical.

### **Synopsis**

#### **The Preeminence of Christ.**

*Over the prophets, because of his divine glory.*

(Heb 1:1 KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (Heb 1:2 KJV) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (Heb 1:3 KJV) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

*Over the angels.*

Having a better name.

(Heb 1:4 KJV) Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Acknowledged as the only begotten son by the Father.

(Heb 1:5 KJV) For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Angels commanded to worship him.

(Heb 1:6 KJV) And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Exalted above the angels to the eternal throne at the right hand of God.

(Heb 1:8 KJV) But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Heb 1:9 KJV) Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Heb 1:10 KJV) And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the

earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: (Heb 1:11 KJV) They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; (Heb 1:12 KJV) And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. (Heb 1:13 KJV) But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? (Heb 1:14 KJV) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Jesus made a little lower than the angels, dies for mankind that he may bring many sons into his glory with the Father, and destroy him who had the power of death.

(Heb 2:9 KJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Heb 2:10 KJV) For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Heb 2:11 KJV) For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, (Heb 2:12 KJV) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (Heb 2:13 KJV) And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (Heb 2:14 KJV) Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

### **The Preeminence of Christ's Priesthood**

He assumed human nature.

Preparatory for his work of reconciliation.

(Heb 2:16 KJV) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. (Heb 2:17 KJV) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

His temptation prepared him to succor the tempted.

(Heb 2:18 KJV) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

His preeminence over Moses. Moses was a servant; Jesus was a son.

(Heb 3:2 KJV) Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. (Heb 3:3 KJV) For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. (Heb 3:4 KJV) For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. (Heb 3:5 KJV) And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be

spoken after; (Heb 3:6 KJV) But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Parenthesis: The failure of Israel.

To enter in to the Canaan-rest.

(Heb 3:7 KJV) Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, (Heb 3:8 KJV) Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (Heb 3:9 KJV) When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. (Heb 3:10 KJV) Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. (Heb 3:11 KJV) So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

They were excluded because of unbelief.

(Heb 3:12 KJV) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (Heb 3:13 KJV) But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb 3:14 KJV) For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; (Heb 3:15 KJV) While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. (Heb 3:16 KJV) For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. (Heb 3:17 KJV) But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? (Heb 3:18 KJV) And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? (Heb 3:19 KJV) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

A warning to the church not to follow the example of unbelief.

(Heb 4:1 KJV) Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. (Heb 4:2 KJV) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Heb 4:3 KJV) For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (Heb 4:4 KJV) For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. (Heb 4:5 KJV) And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. (Heb 4:6 KJV) Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: (Heb 4:7 KJV) Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Heb 4:8 KJV) For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

The believer rests in the work of redemption and ceases trusting in his own works.

(Heb 4:9 KJV) There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. (Heb 4:10 KJV) For he

that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. (Heb 4:11 KJV) Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

### **The Priesthood of Melchisedec a Type of Christ's**

Having a great name and belonging to an eternal order.

(Heb 7:1 KJV) For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; (Heb 7:2 KJV) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; (Heb 7:3 KJV) Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Honored with tithes by Abraham, and superior to the Aaronic priesthood.

(Heb 7:4 KJV) Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. (Heb 7:5 KJV) And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: (Heb 7:6 KJV) But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. (Heb 7:7 KJV) And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. (Heb 7:8 KJV) And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. (Heb 7:9 KJV) And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. (Heb 7:10 KJV) For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

### **The Summary of the Preeminent Qualities of Christ's Priesthood.**

Like that of Melchisedec, it belonged to an eternal order, and was confirmed by a divine oath.

(Heb 7:11 KJV) If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? (Heb 7:12 KJV) For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. (Heb 7:13 KJV) For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. (Heb 7:14 KJV) For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. (Heb 7:15 KJV) And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, (Heb 7:16 KJV) Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. (Heb 7:17 KJV) For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. (Heb 7:18 KJV) For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. (Heb 7:19 KJV) For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in



of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. (Heb 7:20 KJV) And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: (Heb 7:21 KJV) (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) (Heb 7:22 KJV) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Is unchangeable and infinite in power.

(Heb 7:23 KJV) And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: (Heb 7:24 KJV) But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. (Heb 7:25 KJV) Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Was sinless and perfect, and made one complete sacrifice.

(Heb 7:26 KJV) For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; (Heb 7:27 KJV) Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. (Heb 7:28 KJV) For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Is now exercised in the heavenly sanctuary.

(Heb 8:1 KJV) Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; (Heb 8:2 KJV) A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. (Heb 8:3 KJV) For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. (Heb 8:4 KJV) For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: (Heb 8:5 KJV) Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.

Mediates through a better covenant.

(Heb 8:6 KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. (Heb 8:7 KJV) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. (Heb 8:8 KJV) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: (Heb 8:9 KJV) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. (Heb 8:10 KJV) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

(Heb 8:11 KJV) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. (Heb 8:12 KJV) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (Heb 8:13 KJV) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

The ancient rites and ceremonies, and the sacrifices performed by the priests were only types.

The redemptive work of Christ, and his blood cleansing from sin, are sublime realities.

(Heb 9:11 KJV) But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (Heb 9:12 KJV) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (Heb 9:13 KJV) For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: (Heb 9:14 KJV) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:15 KJV) And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The oft-repeated Jewish sacrifices were not effectual to take away sin. While Christ, by his one great sacrifice, completed the redemptive work for mankind, and “sat down at the right hand of God,” awaiting the consummation of the divine plan.

(Heb 10:1 KJV) For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. (Heb 10:2 KJV) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. (Heb 10:3 KJV) But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. (Heb 10:4 KJV) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (Heb 10:5 KJV) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (Heb 10:6 KJV) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (Heb 10:7 KJV) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (Heb 10:8 KJV) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; (Heb 10:9 KJV) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (Heb 10:10 KJV) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb 10:11 KJV) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (Heb 10:12 KJV) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (Heb 10:13 KJV) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (Heb 10:14 KJV) For by one

offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (Heb 10:15 KJV) Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, (Heb 10:16 KJV) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (Heb 10:17 KJV) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Heb 10:18 KJV) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

## **Chiefly Practical Teachings and Exhortations**

### **Exhortations**

To draw near in worship with full assurance, having prepared the heart.

(Heb 10:22 KJV) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

To steadfastness, mutual encouragement, and faithful attendance upon the means of grace.

(Heb 10:23 KJV) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

(Heb 10:24 KJV) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

(Heb 10:25 KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### **A Roll Call of Heroes and Heroines of Faith**

Abel

Enoch.

Noah.

Abraham and Sara.

Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Moses and his parents.

Joshua and Israel.

Rahab.

Other worthies.

Gedeon.

Barak.

Samson.

Jephthae.

David.

Samuel, and of the prophets.

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped

the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

## **Exhortations**

### ***Respecting peaceableness, purity, and watchfulness against evil influences.***

(Heb 12:14 KJV) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Heb 12:15 KJV) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

### **Contrast between Mount Sinai of the Old Testament and Mount Sion of the New.**

#### ***Mount Sinai with its awful manifestations of divine power.***

(Heb 12:18 KJV) For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, (Heb 12:19 KJV) And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (Heb 12:20 KJV) (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: (Heb 12:21 KJV) And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

#### ***Mount Sion with the glorious company within the heavenly Jerusalem.***

(Heb 12:22 KJV) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (Heb 12:23 KJV) To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, (Heb 12:24 KJV) And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

## **Final Exhortations Respecting Christian Duties**

### ***Social duties.***

(Heb 13:1 KJV) Let brotherly love continue. (Heb 13:2 KJV) Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Heb 13:3 KJV) Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. (Heb 13:4 KJV) Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. (Heb 13:5 KJV) Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Heb 13:6 KJV) So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

### ***Duty to religious leaders.***

(Heb 13:7 KJV) Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

### ***The duty of Christian separation.***

(Heb 13:10 KJV) We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. (Heb 13:11 KJV) For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. (Heb 13:12 KJV) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. (Heb 13:13 KJV) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (Heb 13:14 KJV) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

### ***The duty of thanksgiving, benevolence and obedience to rulers.***

(Heb 13:15 KJV) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Heb 13:16 KJV) But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Heb 13:17 KJV) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

# LESSON EIGHT

## The Epistles of James and Jude

### The Book of James

#### Authorship Uncertain

There are three prominent persons named James, in the New Testament. It is quite generally agreed that James, called by Paul “the Lord’s brother,” was the writer of the epistle. (Gal 1:19 KJV) But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

#### To Whom Addressed

Apparently to the Jewish converts who lived outside the Holy Land, possibly also to the devout Jews of the dispersion. (James 1:1 KJV) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

#### Main Theme

Practical religion, manifesting itself in good works, contrasted with mere profession of faith.

#### Key Texts

(James 1:27 KJV) Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

(James 2:26 KJV) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

#### Imaginary Doctrinal Conflict Between Paul and James

Some have seen a conflict of doctrine between the teachings of this epistle and that of Romans. This is purely imaginary.

Paul, harassed by Judaistic teachers in the churches, naturally laid great stress upon justification by faith apart from trust in ceremonial observances. Nevertheless, when writing to Titus, he made the importance of good works the main subject of his epistle, thus showing his perfect harmony with the teachings of James. It is evident that the latter, when he seems to depreciate faith, is referring to mere intellectual assent to truth, and not to “saving faith” spoken of by Paul.

#### Synopsis

This epistle does not easily lend itself to analysis, but most of the material may be arranged under two headings, true and false religion.

### **The Marks of True Religion**

#### **1      *Joy and patience in the midst of trials.***

(James 1:2 KJV) My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (James 1:3 KJV) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (James 1:4 KJV) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

#### **2      *Unwavering faith and singleness of mind.***

(James 1:5 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (James 1:6 KJV) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (James 1:7 KJV) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (James 1:8 KJV) A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

#### **3      *Acceptance of the providential allotments of life.***

(James 1:9 KJV) Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: (James 1:10 KJV) But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. (James 1:11 KJV) For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

#### **4      *The endurance of temptation.***

(James 1:12 KJV) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

#### **5      **The recognition of the sources of temptation and the results of yielding thereto.****

(James 1:13 KJV) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: (James 1:14 KJV) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. (James 1:15 KJV) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

#### **6      *The recognition of the divine source of all blessings.***

(James 1:16 KJV) Do not err, my beloved brethren. (James 1:17 KJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (James 1:18 KJV) Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**7      *Spiritual hearing, deliberation in speech, and patience under provocation.***

(James 1:19 KJV) Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (James 1:20 KJV) For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

**8      *Forsaking all evil, and the meek reception of saving truth.***

(James 1:21 KJV) Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

**9      *Good works as a demonstration of faith.***

10

(James 2:18 KJV) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

**11     *Good works cooperating with, and perfecting faith.***

(James 2:21 KJV) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (James 2:22 KJV) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (James 2:23 KJV) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (James 2:24 KJV) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (James 2:25 KJV) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

**The Marks of False Profession**

**1      *Careless and forgetful hearing of the Word.***

(James 1:22 KJV) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (James 1:23 KJV) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (James 1:24 KJV) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

**2      *The semblance of religion, accompanied by the unbridled tongue.***

(James 1:26 KJV) If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

**3      *Respect of persons; honoring the rich and despising the poor.***

(James 2:1 KJV) My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory,



with respect of persons. (James 2:2 KJV) For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; (James 2:3 KJV) And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: (James 2:4 KJV) Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (James 2:5 KJV) Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (James 2:6 KJV) But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? (James 2:7 KJV) Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? (James 2:8 KJV) If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: (James 2:9 KJV) But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

#### 4 *Mere profession of faith unaccompanied by acts of mercy and help.*

(James 2:14 KJV) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (James 2:15 KJV) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (James 2:16 KJV) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

#### 5 *Inactive faith.*

(James 2:17 KJV) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (James 2:18 KJV) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

#### 6 *Unbridled tongue, destructive in its influence.*

(James 3:1 KJV) My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. (James 3:2 KJV) For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. (James 3:3 KJV) Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. (James 3:4 KJV) Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. (James 3:5 KJV) Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! (James 3:6 KJV) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. (James 3:7 KJV) For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: (James 3:8 KJV) But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

#### 7 *Blessings and cursings proceeding from the same mouth.*

(James 3:9 KJV) Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. (James 3:10 KJV) Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. (James 3:11 KJV) Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? (James 3:12 KJV) Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

#### **8     *Pride, stubbornness, impurity, double-mindedness, and impenitence.***

(James 4:5 KJV) Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? (James 4:6 KJV) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (James 4:7 KJV) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:8 KJV) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. (James 4:9 KJV) Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

#### **9     *Evil speaking and uncharitable judgment.***

(James 4:11 KJV) Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. (James 4:12 KJV) There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

### **Warnings, Exhortations, and Instructions**

#### **1     *Concerning future misery.***

(James 5:1 KJV) Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. (James 5:2 KJV) Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

#### **2     *Respecting hoarded wealth, and withholding the wages of the poor.***

(James 5:3 KJV) Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. (James 5:4 KJV) Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

### **Instructions Respecting Prayer, Confession of Faults, and Soul-winning**

#### **1     *Prayer in time of trouble and for the sick.***

(James 5:13 KJV) Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. (James 5:14 KJV) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (James 5:15 KJV) And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

## 2 *The confession of faults and intercessory prayer.*

(James 5:16 KJV) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

## 3 *Effectual prayer illustrated by Elijah.*

(James 5:16 KJV) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:17 KJV) Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. (James 5:18 KJV) And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

## 4 *The duty of soul winning.*

(James 5:19 KJV) Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; (James 5:20 KJV) Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

## . THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

**Writer:** Probably Jude, the brother of James. If this is true he may have been a brother of our Lord.

(Mark 6:3 KJV) Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

(Gal 1:19 KJV) But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

The Lord's brothers did not believe in him at first, but after his resurrection they became his followers.

(John 7:5 KJV) For neither did his brethren believe in him.

(Acts 1:14 KJV) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

It is possible that Jude, because of his early unbelief, felt that he was not worthy to sign himself as brother of Jesus, so in writing the epistle he called himself a servant.

### **Main Purpose**

The epistle was evidently written especially to warn the church against immoral teachers and alarming heresies which were endangering the faith of believers.

### **Key Verses:**

(Jude 1:3 KJV) Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

(Jude 1:4 KJV) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Synopsis**

1) *The occasion of the epistle and an exhortation concerning the defense of the faith, because of the invasion of immoral and heretical teachers* (vv. 3 and 4).

2) *Warnings from God's dealings with sinners in the past.*

a) The punishment of Israel for unbelief.

(Jude 1:5 KJV) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

b) The fate of the fallen angels and the corrupt Sodomites.

(Jude 1:6 KJV) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

(Jude 1:7 KJV) Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

3) *The characteristics of the depraved teachers described, and a woe pronounced upon them.*

(Jude 1:8 KJV) Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

(Jude 1:9 KJV) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

(Jude 1:10 KJV) But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

(Jude 1:11 KJV) Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

(Jude 1:12 KJV) These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

(Jude 1:13 KJV) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

#### 4) *References to prophecies.*

- a) Of **Enoch**, who foretold the doom of ungodly men.

(Jude 1:14 KJV) And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

(Jude 1:15 KJV) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

(Jude 1:16 KJV) These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

- b) Of **the apostles**, concerning mockers in the last days.

(Jude 1:17 KJV) But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

(Jude 1:18 KJV) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

(Jude 1:19 KJV) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

#### 5) *A summary of Christian duties.*

- a) Mutual edification and prayerfulness.

(Jude 1:20 KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

b) Love toward God and trust in Christ for eternal salvation.

(Jude 1:21 KJV) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

c) Activity in soul-winning.

(Jude 1:22 KJV) And of some have compassion, making a difference:

(Jude 1:23 KJV) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

## LESSON NINE

### The Epistles of Peter

#### First Peter

**Writer:** The apostle Peter.

This was not the original Simon Peter, impulsive and full of weaknesses, whom Christ called, “Simon.” It was the Peter Christ prophesied should become a rock. The same man chastened by years of suffering and trial, and strengthened by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The epistle evidently belongs to the later period of his life.

#### Date and Place of Writing Uncertain

The Babylon referred to in 1 Peter 5:13, may or may not have been the city on the Euphrates river. Many think it was Rome, figuratively called Babylon.

**To Whom Addressed:** To the elect scattered throughout Asia Minor.

Probably to the whole body of Christians in that region, both Jew and Gentile converts. To the churches largely founded by Paul, Peter sends this spiritual message of encouragement, instruction, and admonition.

#### Purpose

In writing this epistle, Peter obeyed two specific commands which Jesus had given him.

1) To encourage and strengthen the brethren. (Luke 22:32 KJV) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

2) To feed the flock of God.

(John 21:15 KJV) So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (John 21:16 KJV) He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (John 21:17 KJV) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

**Key Word:** “Suffering,” it occurs fifteen, or more, times in the epistle.

**Key Text:** (1 Pet 4:1 KJV) Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

### **Central Theme**

Victory over suffering as exemplified in the Life of Christ.

### **Synopsis**

#### **The Glorious Salvation**

1 A living hope centering in the resurrection of Christ.

- a (1 Pet 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Pet 1:4 KJV) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (1 Pet 1:5 KJV) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- b Rejoicing in trials.

(1 Pet 1:6 KJV) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (1 Pet 1:7 KJV) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

2 The Mysterious Plan

- a The prophets inquired into, foretelling Christ’s sufferings and the glory that should be revealed in the latter times.

(1 Pet 1:10 KJV) Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: (1 Pet 1:11 KJV) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (1 Pet 1:12 KJV) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

- b Foreordained before the foundation of the world.



(1 Pet 1:20 KJV) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (1 Pet 1:21 KJV) Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

## **The Temple of God**

### 1 Lively Stones.

(1 Pet 2:4 KJV) To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, (1 Pet 2:5 KJV) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 2:6 KJV) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. (1 Pet 2:7 KJV) Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, (1 Pet 2:8 KJV) And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

### 2 A chosen generation.

(1 Pet 2:9 KJV) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Pet 2:10 KJV) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

### 3 Long life.

(1 Pet 2:10 KJV) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Pet 2:11 KJV) Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; (1 Pet 2:12 KJV) Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Pet 2:13 KJV) Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

## **Instructions and Encouragement Respecting Suffering**

### 1 Suffering for righteousness sake.

(1 Pet 3:14 KJV) But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (1 Pet 3:15 KJV) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Pet 3:16 KJV) Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good

conversation in Christ. (1 Pet 3:17 KJV) For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

2       Suffering with and for Christ.

(1 Pet 4:13 KJV) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Pet 4:14 KJV) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

3       Never to suffer as evil doers.

(1 Pet 4:15 KJV) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. (1 Pet 4:16 KJV) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (1 Pet 4:17 KJV) For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? (1 Pet 4:18 KJV) And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (1 Pet 4:19 KJV) Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

4       Suffering with and for Christ.

### **Significant Passages**

1       (1 Pet 2:24 KJV) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2       (1 Pet 5:5 KJV) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

3       (1 Pet 5:6 KJV) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

4       (1 Pet 5:7 KJV) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

5       (1 Pet 5:8 KJV) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

## **“Second Epistle of Peter”**

**Writer:** The apostle Peter

**Date:** Written probably between 64 and 70 A.D.

**Central Theme:** A warning against corrupt teachers and scoffers.

In order to counteract the influence of false doctrine, great emphasis is laid upon the Word of God and the certainty of the fulfillment of the divine promises.

**Key Text:** (2 Pet 3:1 KJV) This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

### **A Parallel between II Timothy and II Peter**

In these epistles each of the writers refers to the fact that his end is near.

(2 Tim 4:6 KJV) For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

(2 Pet 1:14 KJV) Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me.

### **Partakers of Divine Nature**

(2 Pet 1:4 KJV) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **Spiritual Growth and Fruitfulness**

(2 Pet 1:5 KJV) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; (2 Pet 1:6 KJV) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; (2 Pet 1:7 KJV) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (2 Pet 1:8 KJV) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet 1:9 KJV) But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (2 Pet 1:10 KJV) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (2 Pet 1:11 KJV) For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **New Heavens and New Earth**

(2 Pet 3:4 KJV) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Pet 3:5 KJV) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: (2 Pet 3:6 KJV) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (2 Pet 3:7 KJV) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Pet 3:8 KJV) But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Pet 3:9 KJV) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:10 KJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (2 Pet 3:11 KJV) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (2 Pet 3:12 KJV) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (2 Pet 3:13 KJV) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

## LESSON TEN

### The Epistles of John”

#### The First Epistle of John”

**Writer:** The apostle John

#### Place and Date Uncertain

Probably written from Ephesus near the end of the first century.

#### To Whom Addressed

Apparently to the church at large, as it has no greetings, farewells or other personal allusions; hence it belongs to the “general epistles.”

It calls believers by affectionate titles, as “little children” and “beloved.”

**Key Words:** “Fellowship,” “Know,” “Love.”

**Central Theme:** God is Life, Light, and Righteous Love.

#### Distinctive Characteristics

This may be entitled, “The Epistle of Certainties.”

It opens with a positive statement of experimental knowledge of Christ.

(1 John 1:1 KJV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;  
(1 John 1:2 KJV) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)  
(1 John 1:3 KJV) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

It lays great stress upon the spiritual knowledge obtainable by believers. The word “Know,” or its equivalent, appears over thirty times.

**Seven “Know” scriptures:**

- 1 We know that a righteous life indicates regeneration.
- 2 We know that we shall be like Christ at his coming.
- 3 We know that Christ came to take away our sins.
- 4 We know that brotherly love indicates that we have passed from death unto life.
- 5 We know that he abideth in us by the witness of the Spirit.
- 6 We know that we have eternal life.
  
- 7 We know our prayers are answered.

## **Synopsis**

### **1) *Walking in the light.***

(1 John 1:5 KJV) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:6 KJV) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (1 John 1:7 KJV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

### **2) *Obedience to the new commandment of love is abiding in the light.***

(1 John 2:7 KJV) Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. (1 John 2:8 KJV) Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. (1 John 2:9 KJV) He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (1 John 2:10 KJV) He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (1 John 2:11 KJV) But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

### **3) *An exhortation to abide in the truth.***

(1 John 2:24 KJV) Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. (1 John 2:25 KJV) And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. (1 John 2:26 KJV) These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. (1 John 2:27 KJV) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

4) *His love manifested in the exaltation of believers to sonship.*

(1 John 3:1 KJV) Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

(1 John 3:2 KJV) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

5) Brotherly love the distinguishing mark of spiritual life.

(1 John 3:11 KJV) For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (1 John 3:12 KJV) Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:13 KJV) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (1 John 3:14 KJV) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (1 John 3:15 KJV) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

## **The Second Epistle of John**

**Writer:** The apostle John

**To Whom Addressed:** To the "Elect lady and her children."

Some think this refers to a Christian matron and her family living in Ephesus, others that a church and its members are personified. If the first supposition is correct, this is the only book in the New Testament addressed to a woman.

**Emphatic Words:** "Love," which occurs four times, and "Truth," five times.

### **Purpose**

The epistle was apparently written to warn friends against heresy and association with false teachers.

(2 John 1:7 KJV) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (2 John 1:8 KJV) Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (2 John 1:9 KJV) Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (2 John 1:10 KJV) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: (2 John 1:11 KJV) For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

## “The Third Epistle of John”

**Writer:** The apostle John.

**Addressed to:** Gaius.

**Key Note:** Christian hospitality.

**Key Verse:** (3 John 1:8 KJV) We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

### Synopsis

The subject-matter centers around three characters, Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius.

#### *1) Gaius, to whom the epistle was written.*

The identity of this man cannot be positively determined. There are several persons by this name mentioned in the New Testament. The one spoken of by Paul may very likely be the same man to whom John writes but it is entirely uncertain.

(Rom 16:23 KJV) Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

#### **Characteristics of this man:**

a) *Worthy of the affection of John.*

(3 John 1:1 KJV) The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. (3 John 1:2 KJV) Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

b) *A consistent Christian, walking in the truth.*

(3 John 1:3 KJV) For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. (3 John 1:4 KJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

c) *Given to hospitality.*

(3 John 1:5 KJV) Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; (3 John 1:6 KJV) Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if



thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

**2) *Diotrephes, apparently a leading man in the church.***

a) Ambitious and bigoted.

b)

(3 John 1:9 KJV) I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

c) Assuming to be an over-lord of the vineyard, will receive a merited rebuke from the apostle when he comes.

(3 John 1:10 KJV) Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

**3) *Demetrius, in contrast to Diotrephes, a model churchman of excellent reputation.***

(3 John 1:12 KJV) Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

# LESSON ELEVEN

## The Book of Revelation

**Writer:** The apostle John

**Place:** Probably the Island of Patmos.

Off the western coast of Asia Minor, where John was banished “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

**Date Uncertain.** According to traditional opinion, about A.D. 96.

**Authority.** It is declared to be the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### Methods of Interpretation

These have been exceedingly varied, and often fantastic. Hundreds of volumes have been written upon this book, not one of which has been generally satisfactory. This is due to the widely diversified opinions concerning its meaning and teachings. There have been three principal schools of thought which have dealt with the subject matter.

- 1) **The Preterist.** They believe that the prophecies of Revelation have already been fulfilled.
- 2) **The Futurists.** They hold that the book contains a forecast of universal history.
- 3) **The Eclectics.** They lay stress upon the spiritual elements of the book, and do not attempt to dogmatize upon the meaning of the details of the more mysterious visions. They believe that there are three classes of passages in the Apocalypse. Those that are very clear in their spiritual teaching; those that are more mysterious, and yet contain an element of truth which is instructive; and finally there are some of the visions that are so veiled, that it is futile from our present standpoint of knowledge to give any positive interpretation of them. It is probable that some of the prophecies contain two elements, the near and the far. The former referring especially to the events during John's time, or in the immediate future; the latter, dealing with events of coming ages.

### Peculiar Features

- 1) The Apocalypse is the only book in the Bible that contains a special promise to obedient readers, and at the same time, pronounces a curse upon those who tamper with its contents..

(Rev 1:3 KJV) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and

keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

(Rev 22:18 KJV) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (Rev 22:19 KJV) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

2) The number Seven is the ruling number of the book:

- a) Seven candlesticks.
- b) Seven churches.
- c) Seven seals.
- d) Seven trumpets.
- e) Seven thunders.
- f) Seven vials.
- g) Seven Spirits.
- h) Seven stars.
- i) Seven “no mores.”

3) The closing chapters of Revelation contain a striking contrast to the opening chapters of Genesis.

- a) Genesis speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the world, the curse pronounced, Satan overthrown, admission to the “tree of life.”

### **Plan of Study**

Although this book has often been neglected because of its mysterious character, yet there are many viewpoints from which it may be profitably studied without any attempt at dogmatic or arbitrary interpretation. A suggestion for a profitable approach suggested:

1) **Central Figure:** The Lamb

At last victor over all the allied powers of evil. The Lamb is mentioned about thirty times.

2) **Epochal Events.** There are many such events in the book, but the following are two which should be kept in mind in studying the visions.

- a) The birth of the man child. Regarded by many as the incarnation of Jesus Christ (Chapter 12).
- b) The sounding of the seventh trumpet (Chapter 11:15), which heralded his world-wide victory.

## **Synopsis**

The book may be divided into a series of visions, some of which are partly or wholly veiled, others are comparatively clear in their teachings. It is not always possible to tell just where one vision ends and another begins, but for convenience they may be studied under various numbers, according to the view point of the student.

## **The Message to the Churches**

- 1) **Ephesus.** The backslidden church, persistent in service, strong in discipline, but with love growing cold.
- 2) **Smyrna.** The poor but truly rich church, facing a period of persecution.
- 3) **Pergamos.** The church of evil surroundings, steadfast, but infected with heresy.
- 4) **Thyatira.** The church of good works but harboring a false prophetess.
- 5) **Sardis.** The dying church.
- 6) **Philadelphia.** The weak, but faithful church.
- 7) **Laodicea.** The lukewarm, self-satisfied church, boasting of her wealth while poor and miserable and blind.

**Recurrent thought:** The promises to overcomers.

## ***Vision 1***

Of the glorified Christ. Rev. 1:9-16.

## ***Vision 2***

- 1) The vision of God in heaven upon his throne, the creator of the universe, receiving the worship of the living creatures and the 24 elders. Chapter 4.
- 2) The opening of the seven-sealed book by the Lamb, the singing of the New Song, and the universal worship of the Lamb. Conjectural interpretation--Christ in his redemptive office alone can unlock the deepest divine mysteries. (Chapter 5)
- 3) The opening of the six seals. There have been many widely different interpretations; it is not worth while to add another. One clear lesson, the saints tested by divine delays. (Chapter 6).

## ***Vision 3***

God's protection of his chosen people. (Chapter 7).

## ***Vision 4***

Comforting assurances (Chapter 7)

- a) The innumerable host of the redeemed.
- b) The means by which they appear in God's presence.
- c) Their activities and eternal felicity.

***Vision 5***

- 4) The opening of the seventh seal.
- 5) The sounding of the six trumpets in chapters 8 and 9 apparently announcing impending judgments.

***Vision 6***

Two witnesses (Chapter 11).

***Vision 7***

The birth of the manchild (Chapter 12)

The simultaneous manifestation of the Satanic powers arrayed to destroy him (Chapter 13)

***Vision 8***

Conflict between the Lamb and his enemies. 144 thousand (Chapter 14)

***Vision 9***

The harvest and vintage of grapes (Chapter 14:16-20)

***Vision 10***

The early victors and their song (Song of Moses) (Chapter 15)

The outpouring of the seven vials of wrath.

***Vision 11***

The doom of Babylon (Chapters 17-18)

***Vision 12***

The hallelujah chorus in heaven celebrating the spiritual victory (Chapter 19).

The marriage of the Lamb

***Vision 13***

Christ, the spiritual conqueror, upon the white horse, smites the nations with the Sword of the Spirit. (Chapter 19)

The beast, and the false prophet and their allies overcome by Christ.

***Vision 14***

(Chapter 20)

The binding of Satan.  
The first resurrection.  
Satan loosed and his evil activity.  
the doom of satan, the beast, and the false prophet.  
The last judgment.

### ***Vision 15***

The new heaven and the new earth. The holy city, a type of the church, the Lamb's wife  
(Chapters 21-22)

### **Characteristics of the new heaven and new earth.**

- 1) Heavenly origin.
- 2) Radiant.
- 3) Separated and protected.
- 4) Accessible.
- 5) Sure foundations.
- 6) Immovable.
- 7) Beautifully adorned.
- 8) Having a spiritual temple.
- 9) Divinely illuminated.
- 10) Glorified.
- 11) Undefined.

### **Paradise restored**

(Chapter 22)

- 1) The river of life.
- 2) The tree of life.
- 3) Removal of the curse.
- 4) The beatific vision and the divine impress upon saints.
- 5) Eternal day and saints' dominion.

### **The Last Teachings**

- 1) Emphasize the speedy coming of the Lord.
- 2) God only to be worshipped.
- 3) Character tends to final permanence.
- 4) The last promise.
- 5) The last invitation.
- 6) The last warning.
- 7) Benediction and prayer

# **LESSON TWELVE**

## **Review**