



LETTERS FROM HEAVEN

Studies in the New Testament Letters

In our study of Acts we looked at how people became Christians and this quarter we will be over-viewing some of the twenty-two letters written to those who became Christians.

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Recipients of the Letters



Remembrance Passages

Lessons 1-4

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Romans 1:16-17

Lessons 5-8

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Lessons 9-13

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Lesson One: Trust and Obey

Romans

1. Romans was written from Corinth during the three months mentioned in Acts 20:3.
2. This is the first epistle from Paul addressed to a church he had not been personally involved with.
3. Take note of this brief outline from *Go Tell the Good News*, Bob and Sandra Waldron, p. 168.
 - The theme of the book: The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, **for the just shall live by faith** (1:1-17).
 - God's plan for righteousness:
 - Is revealed in the gospel (1:1-17).
 - Is needed by all (1:18—3:20).
 - Is given through faith (3:21—5:11).
 - Solves the problem of sin (5:12—6:23).
 - Overcomes the curse of the law (7:1-25).
 - Provides for all man's spiritual needs (8:1-39).
 - Fulfills the hope of true Israel (9:1—11:36).
 - Demands righteous lives (12:1—15:13).
 - Paul's plans for the near future. (15:14-33).
 - Greetings and closing remarks (16:1-24).
4. The _____ is the power of God to salvation for _____ who believes.
5. What is said to be revealed in the gospel?
6. What is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness?
7. Why were the sinful Gentiles without excuse?
8. Ch. 2 shows that the Jews were as guilty of sin as the Gentiles. Though they made their boast in the _____, they dishonored God by breaking it.
9. What advantage did the circumcision (i.e. the Jews) have? Ch. 3
10. Though all had sinned, by His grace God provided for redemption in _____.
11. Men are not justified by perfect works, but by believing in the One who justifies the _____.
12. God loved us while we were still _____, and reconciled us when we were _____.
13. When do people die to sin? 6:1-14
14. What are the wages of sin? What is God's free gift?

15. We are dead to the _____ in order to be _____ to another.
16. While the law brought guilt, there is no condemnation to those who are _____
_____.
17. Rather than the spirit of _____, we have received the spirit of _____ and
are able to say, “_____.”
18. What can separate us from the love of God?
19. What Old Testament brothers did Paul use to show that God doesn't automatically accept one who is
a physical descendant of Abraham?
20. What was Paul's great desire and prayer for Israel?
21. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile, but all who _____ on His _____
will be saved.
22. Those who call on the Lord must _____, and faith can only come by _____
the _____ of God.
23. What is a remnant?
24. Therefore consider the _____ and _____ of God. 11:22
25. Rather than being conformed to this world, we should be what?
26. How are we to overcome evil?
27. Who is God's minister to execute wrath?
28. What is said to be the fulfillment of the law?
29. What were some of the differences among brethren mentioned in ch. 14?
30. Pursue the things which make for _____ and the things by which we may
_____ one another.
31. We need to be likeminded so that with one _____ and one _____ we might
glorify God.
32. Why was Paul going to Jerusalem?
33. When were Priscilla and Aquila first mentioned in connection with Paul?
34. Whom were they to note (mark—KJV; watch out for—ESV)?
35. What significant phrase is found at the beginning of the book in 1:5 and at the end in 16:26?

Lesson Two: Christians Working Together

1 Corinthians

1. When we compare 1 Cor. 16:5-9 with Acts 19:21-22, we learn that the writing of 1 Corinthians took place around the time of the events of Acts 19:22.
2. List three things that triggered the writing of this epistle. 1 Cor. 1:10-12; 7:1; 16:1-4
3. An emphasis upon unity runs throughout the book, but the first four chapters give the greatest emphasis to it.
4. Why was Paul thankful to have personally baptized very few of the Corinthians? Cf. Acts 18:8.
5. Why did the apostle not seek to use persuasive words of human wisdom?
6. What was said to demonstrate the carnal, fleshly nature of the Corinthian saints in ch. 3?
7. “I _____, Apollos _____, but _____ gave the increase.
8. How was Timothy described in 4:17?
9. What problem did Paul deal with in ch. 5?
10. With whom were they instructed not to keep company?
11. What shameful thing was taking place in the first half of ch. 6?
12. List the 10 sinners named in ch. 6 who could not inherit the kingdom of God.
13. Could those named in 6:9-10 be forgiven?
14. Your body is the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
15. Ch. 7 deals with some questions about marriage and some of the “judgments” related to the special circumstances they were dealing with. 7:25-26
16. At that time remaining unmarried had some advantages, but because of the temptation to _____, many would still choose to marry.
17. Were believers to put away their unbelieving spouses in order to remain holy?
18. Be sure to read ch. 8-10 as a unit dealing with things offered to idols.
19. How was “knowledge” becoming a stumbling block for some?
20. What did Paul say he would do if eating meat made his brother stumble?
21. What rights had Paul given up in his preaching of the gospel?
22. Though free from all, he had made himself a _____ to all, that he might win souls.

23. Why did Paul bring up the example of Israel and its exodus and wandering?
24. Ch. 11:2-16 is the most controversial section of the book and while this survey won't get into the various views of what was intended in the section, do read it carefully and thoughtfully.
25. The head of every man is _____, the head of woman is _____, and the head of Christ is _____.
26. What was wrong with their observance of the Lord's Supper?
27. Where were the hungry to eat?
28. The bread was to be eaten and the cup drank in _____ of Jesus.
29. Ch. 12-14 form another lengthy section, this one dealing with spiritual gifts.
30. Ch. 12 urges unity and appreciation for one another. The body is not one _____, but _____.
31. Ch. 13 stressed the need for love. The gifts of prophecy, tongues, and (miraculous) knowledge would come to an end, but what three things would remain?
32. Ch. 14 stressed that everyone's gifts should be used for the _____ of the body.
14:4-5, 12, 26
33. All things should be done _____ and in _____.
34. How did Paul summarize the gospel in 15:1-4?
35. Some of the Corinthians were saying that there was no _____ of the dead.
36. What is the last enemy that will be destroyed?
37. Be _____, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work, for your labor is not in _____ in the Lord.
38. What instructions did Paul give regarding the collection for the saints?
39. Why had Apollos not yet returned to Corinth?
40. What had Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus done for Paul?

Lesson Three: God's Family—His Church

Ephesians

1. Ephesians is one of four prison epistles believed to have been written from Rome ca. AD 62. Cf. Acts 28:30-31.
2. This letter emphasizes the grace of God that is manifested in Jesus Christ. It holds forth Jesus and His gospel as the Savior and uniter of both Jew and Gentile in the body of Christ.
3. Where is every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places found?
4. Redemption is accomplished through Jesus' _____.
5. What three things did Paul pray that the Ephesians would know in 1:15-23?
6. How is the condition of the Gentile world before God intervened described in 2:1-5?
7. List the different ways God's goodness toward mankind is described in 2:4-8.
8. How did God unite the Jews and Gentiles in one body?
9. The house(hold) of God is said to be built upon what foundation?
10. How could the Ephesians come to share Paul's understanding of the mystery of Christ?
11. God accomplished His _____ in Christ. 3:10-11
12. Paul praised God for being able to do what in 3:20-21?
13. What are we to if we are to walk worthy of the calling? 4:1-3
14. List the seven "ones" of 4:4-6.
15. Why were apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers given to the church?
16. How is the walk of the Gentiles described in 4:17-19?
17. List the different things to be put off or avoided in 4:25—5:7.
18. Christians are to be imitators of _____ and walk in _____. 5:1-2
19. What are some things involved in a wise walk? 5:15-21

- 20 How did Christ show His love for the church?
21. What must one do if he is going to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil?
22. List the different pieces that constitute the armor of God.

Lesson Four: Pleasing God in Our Homes

Ephesians 5:22—6:9; Titus 2:1-8; 1 Peter 3:1-12; Matthew 19:1-9

1. What was Jesus asked in Matt. 19:3?
2. What two Old Testament passages did Jesus quote?
3. “What God has _____, let not man _____.”
4. Wives...
 - a. _____ to your husbands. Eph. 5:22-24
 - b. _____ your husbands. Eph. 5:33
5. Husbands...
 - a. _____ your wives. 5:28, 33
 - b. _____ and _____ your wives. 5:29
6. What are children commanded to do?
7. Fathers are not to _____ their children; instead, they are to do what?
8. What were the older women to teach/admonish the younger women to do? Titus 2
9. How is a younger man to conduct himself? Titus 2
10. What kind of conduct might win over an unbelieving husband? 1 Pet. 3
11. Husbands are to dwell with their wives with _____ and give _____ to them. 1 Pet. 3
12. List the things Christians are called upon to do/be in 1 Pet. 3:8-9 and think about how these things could make a difference in a marriage.

Lesson Five: Rejoice in the Lord!

Philippians

1. Paul's relationship with the Philippians began on his second journey (Acts 16) and he probably visited them twice during the third journey. Acts 20
2. This prison epistle was written, at least in part, to thank the Philippians for aid they had sent him. Phil. 4:10-20
3. What did Paul single out as a reason for his thankfulness in 1:3-5?
4. What would be the result of their love abounding more and more?
5. How had Paul's imprisonment resulted in more preaching of the gospel?
6. What would conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ look like according to 1:27-28?
7. How could the Philippians fulfill (complete) Paul's joy? 2:1-4
8. When we think of the mind of Christ, we might think of several different things, but what was singled out in 2:5-11?
9. They were to _____ out their own salvation, even as God was _____ in them.
10. Why did Paul have such a deep appreciation for...
 - a. Timothy?
 - b. Epaphroditus?
11. "Beware of dogs." To whom was Paul referring when he called them canines?
12. How did he regard his fleshly pedigree in comparison to being found in Christ?
13. What was he pressing toward?
14. Some were enemies of the cross because their god was _____, they gloried in _____, and their mind was set on _____.
15. The Christian's citizenship is in _____.
16. Eudokia and Syntyche were urged to be of the _____ in the Lord.
17. "_____ in the Lord always. Again, I will say _____!"
18. How can we overcome anxiety and find peace?
19. On what things should we meditate?
20. Though thankful for the help they had sent, Paul had learned to be _____ in every circumstance.
21. The gift the Philippians sent to Paul was _____ that abounded to their own account.

22. “Greet _____ in Christ Jesus.”
23. What saints sent a special greeting to the Philippians?

Lesson Six: Being Ready When Jesus Comes Again

1 & 2 Thessalonians

1. The internal evidences found within 1 & 2 Thessalonians point to their having been written fairly soon after Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia in Acts 18.
2. Who joined with Paul in the salutations of 1 & 2 Thessalonians?
3. Why was Paul so thankful for the Thessalonian disciples?
4. The word had sounded forth from Thessalonica into _____ and _____, and even beyond.
5. Review: how was Paul spitefully (shamefully) treated at Philippi?
6. How had Paul conducted himself while in Thessalonica?
7. The Thessalonian saints had received the message as the word of _____, and not the word of _____.
8. What did the church of the Thessalonians have in common with the churches of Judea?
9. What was Paul's hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
10. Why had Paul chosen to be left in Athens alone?
11. What would have caused Paul's labor to have been in vain?
12. Paul was praying night and day that he might be able to do what?
13. They were to abstain from _____ and possess their _____ in sanctification (holiness) and honor.
14. In what were they to increase more and more?
15. Though Paul had not been gone long, questions had arisen about those who had _____.
16. What will happen when the Lord descends?
17. Upon whom would sudden destruction come?
18. How can we test (prove) all things?
19. Though the exact time is uncertain, 2 Thessalonians seems to have been written no more than a few months after the first epistle.
20. How did 2 Thes. 1 serve to encourage them to endure persecutions?
21. The Thessalonians were urged not to be shaken by false teachings about what subject?
22. What had to happen before the return of Christ?

23. What kind of people fall prey to strong delusions and believe lies?
24. What traditions were they to hold?
25. From whom were they to withdraw?
26. What special sign (of genuineness—ESV; token—KJV) did Paul add to all his epistles?

Lesson Seven: Keep the Faith!

1 Timothy 1:1—2:15; 3:14—6:21; 2 Timothy

1. Read through 1 Timothy and as you read try to decide what Paul's main purpose(s) in writing was.
2. When had Timothy first become Paul's travel companion? What do we know about his family, hometown, upbringing, etc.?
3. What charge (or command) was Timothy to give some?
4. What is the purpose or aim of God's commandment?
5. Be sure you understand and can define the sins listed in 1:9-10.
6. How did Paul describe his manner of life before being put into the ministry (service)?
7. Christ Jesus came into the world to _____.
8. List two reasons Paul gave for his having received mercy.

9. What charge did Paul lay on Timothy?
10. What had some done concerning the faith (or to their faith)?
11. Why are we to pray for those in positions of authority?
12. God's desire is for all men to do what?
13. What is a mediator?
14. Who is our ransom, and what does the word ransom mean?
15. Where are men to pray?
16. How are the women to adorn themselves?
17. Define the terms used in 1 Tim. 2:9 to describe the woman's adornment.
18. What two reasons are given for the woman learning in silence (quietness, quietly) with all submission?
19. Why was Paul writing to Timothy? 3:14-15
20. The Spirit warned explicitly that some would _____ from the faith.
21. What does it mean to have a seared conscience? How does this happen? What can we do to be sure it doesn't happen to us?
22. What two things were specified as part of the false teaching Timothy needed to warn against?
23. What sanctifies our food and makes it acceptable to eat?
24. What makes godliness more valuable than bodily exercise (training)?

25. How was Timothy to keep his youth from becoming a reason for people to look down on him?
26. How would Timothy be able to save both himself and his hearers?
27. How was Timothy to deal with...
 - a. Older men?
 - b. Younger men?
 - c. Older women?
 - d. Younger women?
28. The church was not to take on the care of a widow who had _____ or _____ able to care for her.
29. How is the one who is “really a widow” (widow indeed; truly a widow) described in 5:5, 9-10?
30. What man is described as having denied the faith and being worse than an unbeliever?
31. Though our good works may not be conspicuous, they cannot be _____.
32. Why were bondservants (or slaves) to count their masters as worthy of all honor?
33. Rather than teach something different from Paul and the other apostles, we are to remain true to the wholesome (healthy) words of _____, and the doctrine (teaching) which accords with _____.
34. What does an obsession for disputes and arguments over words produce?
35. List some of the evils to which the love of money can lead.
36. Instead of pursuing wealth, Timothy was to pursue what?
37. Timothy was to keep the Lord’s commandment _____ and _____ until the Lord’s appearing.
38. The rich were instructed to do what things?
39. What had been committed or entrusted to Timothy?
40. From 2 Timothy, list all...
 - a. The people mentioned in this letter who had failed and/or disappointed Paul.
 - b. Those cited for their faith, commitment, service, etc.

41. What might have tempted Timothy or anyone to be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, or of Paul?
42. Salvation was...
 - a. Not according to _____.
 - b. But according to His own _____ and _____.
 - c. And was given in _____.
43. Why was Paul not ashamed?
44. Timothy was to hold fast the _____ of _____.
45. In what city of Asia had Paul labored for several years?
46. Why was Paul especially grateful to Onesiphorus?
47. What message was Timothy to commit (entrust) to faithful men and what were they to do with it?
48. As a good soldier of Jesus Christ, what was Timothy expected to endure or share in?
49. Though Paul was in chains, the _____ of _____ was not in chains.
50. What was Timothy to warn others about and avoid himself? Vv. 14, 16
51. If Timothy was to be an unashamed worker for God, what did he need to do?
52. What were Hymenaeus and Philetus teaching? What impact was this having on others?
53. Though the faith of some was overthrown, the _____ of God stood.
54. From what was Timothy to flee? What was he to pursue?
55. List the qualities possessed by the servant of the Lord (vv. 24, 25).
57. When would the perilous (difficult) times come?
58. List the different sins that would characterize men during the difficult times.
59. Who would be especially vulnerable to the deceptions of these wicked men?
60. Why will all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus suffer persecution? Cf. John 15:18-25.
61. Though some would grow worse and worse (go from bad to worse), what was Timothy to do?
62. When had Timothy first become acquainted with the Scriptures?
63. List and define the four things the Scriptures were profitable for.
64. List and define the five terms used in v. 2 to describe the preaching Timothy was to do.
65. How much longer did Paul expect to live? 4:6, 9, 21

66. "I have _____ the good _____, I have finished the
_____, I have _____ the faith."
67. Who will receive the crown of righteousness?
68. Why had Demas forsaken Paul?
69. What things was Timothy to bring with him when came to Paul?
70. Why was Timothy warned to beware of Alexander?
71. Who stood with Paul at his first defense?
72. Read 4:18 carefully. In what sense would the Lord deliver Paul from every evil work?

Lesson Eight: Elders and Deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

1. Peter described himself as a fellow _____ and a witness of the _____ of Christ, and also a partaker of the _____ that will be revealed.
2. Elders are to shepherd (feed—KJV) the flock. What did a shepherd typically do for a flock?
3. What flock are elders to shepherd?
4. What three warnings did Peter give regarding the oversight of elders in 5:2, 3?
5. Since Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, list some things elders could learn from Jesus about being good shepherds.
6. Why should all of us have a spirit of submission?
7. Define humility.
8. To whom did Paul instruct the Ephesian elders to take heed (pay careful attention)? Acts 20:28
9. The elders of the church at Ephesus were warned against savage _____.
10. From 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1, list the qualifications of a bishop/elder...
 - a. In regard to family.
 - b. As it relates to ability.
 - c. That deal with experience.
 - d. Which describe his overall character.
11. What is meant by double honor and who was worthy of it?
12. Under what circumstances was Timothy to listen to accusations (admit a charge) against elders?
13. Why were sinning elders to be publicly rebuked?
14. What solemn charge did Paul give Timothy in 5:21?

15. What do the words “lay hands on” mean in 1 Timothy 5:22?
16. What does the word deacon mean?
17. List the qualifications given for deacons.

18. What four things must be true of their wives?

Lesson Nine: Running the Race

Hebrews

1. Aim of the epistle.
 - a. Be faithful to Jesus Christ no matter what happens.
 - b. The intended recipients are not specifically named, though it seems clear that the book was written to Jewish Christians who were in danger of growing weary and losing faith in Jesus.
 - c. To accomplish that, the writer stresses the superiority of Jesus.
 - 1) Jesus is better than the _____. Ch. 1
 - 2) Jesus is greater than _____. 3:1-6
 - 3) Jesus is a better High Priest than those of the order of _____. 7:5-11
 - 4) Jesus established a better _____ on better _____. 8:6
 - 5) Jesus ministers in the true _____. 9:11, 12, 23, 24
 - 6) Jesus offered a better _____ than the blood of bulls and goats. 9:11, 12; 10:1-4, 11, 12
 - 7) Jesus provides a way into the _____ of all. 9:6-8; 10:19-22
2. Time of writing.
 - a. Probably prior to A.D. 70 when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, thus ending the sacrificial system referred to in this book.
3. Author?
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17
 - b. Some believe it was written by Paul, but serious objections have been raised to that.
 - 1) The Greek is said by scholars to be the most formal of the New Testament.
 - 2) The style of writing is different from Paul's other epistles.
 - 3) In 2:4 the writer appears to indicate that he learned of Jesus from the apostles. Contrast that with Paul in Gal. 1:11—2:10.
 - c. Though names such as Barnabas and Apollos have been suggested as potential authors, we simply don't know who the human penman was.
4. Understanding this book requires a thorough knowledge of the Old Testament.
 - a. More than 50 verses contain at least a partial quotation from the Old Testament.
 - b. Most of the book is based on a knowledge of the laws, rituals, and events of the Old.

5. Ch. 1, 2 emphasize the incomparable nature of Jesus Christ.
 - a. List the different ways Jesus is described in 1:2-4.
6. Ch. 3-10 focus on the Better (Superior) High Priesthood of Jesus.
 - a. In conjunction with His Priesthood these chapters also develop the superior nature of the new covenant, Jesus' sacrifice, and the true tabernacle which He has made accessible.
 - b. This section also contains several strong warnings.
 - 1) They were not to allow unbelief to keep them from the reward. 3:7—4:13.
 - 2) The readers were rebuked for failing to grow and mature as they should have. 5:11—6:8
 - 3) Warned against willful sin and drawing back from Jesus. 10:25-39
 - c. There are also some great exhortations. 4:14-16; 10:19-25
7. Based on the logical arguments of ch. 1-10, ch. 11, 12 provide a strong emotional appeal to put one's faith in Jesus and run with endurance.
8. Ch. 13 begins with some exhortations and then contains the writer's concluding remarks.
9. How had God spoken in previous times? How has He spoken to man in the last days?
10. What could happen if the readers failed to give the more earnest heed (pay closer attention) to the things they had heard?
11. How did God confirm that the message of the gospel was true?
12. While ch. 1 focuses on the exalted nature of Jesus, ch. 2 explains why Deity took on a form lower than the angels.
13. Why did Jesus have to become a man? 2:9
14. Having become a man Jesus is not ashamed to call us His _____. 2:11, 12
15. In His death Jesus destroyed/rendered powerless the _____. 2:14
16. What was an apostle? Why is Jesus called our Apostle? 3:1
17. Why is Jesus worthy of more glory than Moses? 3:2-6
18. Why did those whom Moses had led out of Egypt perish in the wilderness without receiving their promised rest?
19. Do not be hardened by the _____ of sin. 3:13
20. What must be done to enter God's rest? 4:11
21. Jesus as our High Priest should encourage us to do what things? (4:14-16)
22. Jesus is said to have learned obedience and been perfected through His _____. 5:7-10

23. Being perfected, He is the author of eternal salvation to whom?
24. Why did the writer feel that his readers would have a difficult time understanding the concept of Jesus as a priest after the order of Melchizedek? 5:10, 11
25. What did they need to do if they wished to inherit the promises? 6:9-12
26. Where has Jesus gone as the forerunner? 6:19, 20
27. The name Melchizedek meant “king of _____,” and as king of Salem he was also “king of _____.”
28. “The lesser is blessed by the greater” (7:7). Who was the lesser and who was the greater in this passage?
29. Why did the law have to be changed before Jesus could serve as High Priest? 7:11-14
30. Why is Jesus able to “save to the uttermost” those who come to God through Him? 7:23-28
31. Jesus is a Minister of the true _____. 8:1-5
32. Read 8:7, 8 along with Rom. 7:7-12. Why did the old covenant need to be replaced with a better one?
33. 8:8-12 is a quotation from what OT passage?
34. List the different pieces of “furniture” in the tabernacle.
35. What sacrifice did Jesus take into the Most Holy Place?
36. When does a testament take effect?
37. Note the three appearances of Jesus in 9:23-28.
 - a. He first appeared to put away _____ by the _____ of Himself. 9:26
 - b. Then he appeared in _____ himself in the presence of _____ for us. 9:24
 - c. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from _____, for _____. 9:28
38. Why was the death of Jesus necessary? 10:1-4
39. Based on the better sacrifice that brought about a new covenant and was offered in the true tabernacle by our better High priest, thus giving us access to God, let us... (10:19-25)
 - a. _____ with a true heart.
 - b. _____ the confession of our hope without wavering.
 - c. _____ one another.
40. What happens to those willfully practice sin after having come to know the truth?

41. Instead of drawing back to _____, we are to _____ to the saving of the soul. 10:38, 39
42. How does Abel still speak to us today? Or to put it another way, what is he telling us?
43. What two things must we believe about God if we are to please Him?
44. Why was Abraham willing to leave his home country and dwell in tents in a foreign country?
45. The Lord is sometimes described as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Why was the Lord not ashamed to be called their God?
46. The great faith of Moses...
 - a. Made him willing to suffer affliction with the _____ of _____ rather than to enjoy the passing/fleeting _____ of sin.
 - b. Valued the _____ of Christ more than the _____ in Egypt.
 - c. Was able to endure because it saw Him who is _____.
47. What caused the walls of Jericho to fall?
48. Take a moment to savor the description of sacrificial faith found in 11:32-38. Be inspired and motivated to develop a deeper faith.
49. Running the race with endurance requires that we do what things? 12:1-2
50. What is the end result of God's chastening?
51. Why was Esau unable to inherit the blessing?
52. List all that we have come to according to 12:22-24?
53. God's kingdom cannot be _____
54. Our God is a _____.
55. List some practical ways brotherly love may be demonstrated.
56. What will happen to fornicators and adulterers?
57. What promise should help us avoid covetousness (love of money)?
58. "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." 13:7 (ESV) While God's word is our standard, those who taught us that word and remained faithful to it themselves can and should be a source of encouragement and inspiration to us.
59. What did the instruction to "go forth outside the camp" mean to the original recipients of Hebrews?
60. We no longer offer animal sacrifices, but God does desire a sacrifice of _____ to His name, along with doing _____ and _____ with others. 13:15, 16

Lesson Ten: I Want to Be a Worker

James

1. Identifying the author of this epistle.
 - a. How did James describe himself in 1:1?
 - b. What happened to James the son of Zebedee and brother of John? Acts 12
 - c. Which James was prominent in the church at Jerusalem? Gal. 1:19; cf. Matt. 13:55.
 - d. Ca. A.D. 62/63 James the brother of Jesus was killed by the Jews of Jerusalem.
2. Time of writing.
 - a. Sometime before the death of James in A.D. 62/63.
 - b. Other than knowing it was before A.D. 63, nothing in the book allows a firm date to be fixed.
3. Style of the book.
 - a. A very straightforward epistle dealing with practical matters of living by faith on a daily basis.
 - b. Though some have misunderstood this book, James does not contradict Paul's writings regarding salvation by grace and faith (see Eph. 2:8, 9), but it does emphasize that faith must be more than a mental process. Faith must be reflected in the way one deals with trials and temptations; it must deal impartially with others; demonstrate itself in works; control the tongue; be humble; restore the erring brother, etc.
4. To whom did James address this letter?
5. How can Christians find joy in times of trial (temptation)?
6. Who is the infallible source of wisdom for daily living? Cf. Prov. 3:5-8.
7. In prayer, we must ask in _____, with no _____.
8. Who is the blessed man of 1:12?
9. What must we do if we wish to receive the crown of life?
10. Temptation to sin comes from our own _____.
11. God is not the tempter; instead, He is the giver of every _____ and _____ gift.
12. Our salvation began with the will of _____ and we were brought forth (begat) by the _____ of truth.
13. Be swift to _____, slow to _____, and slow to _____.
14. Does 1:19 refer to listening to the word of God (1:18, 21), or does it have general reference to humbly listening when others speak?

15. Reacting to the word of God. 1:21-25
 - a. We are to lay aside what?
 - b. Receive the implanted word with _____.
 - c. Do not be _____ only, but be _____ of the word.
 - d. To what does James compare one who hears the word of God, but chooses not to act on it?
 - e. God's word is described as the _____ law of _____.
16. Failure to bridle the _____ is proof that one's religion is useless.
17. What two things are said to constitute pure and undefiled religion?
18. James 1:27 and church-supported orphans' homes.
 - a. Does James 1:27 outline duties we as individuals are responsible for or does it assign responsibilities to the church as a collective body?
 - b. Does James 1:27 provide any authority (Col. 3:17) for the church to send contributions from its treasury to benevolent organizations such as orphans' homes or homes for the care of widows?
19. The partiality of James 2 involved what distinctions? What are some common reflections of partiality today?
20. Why was it especially foolish for them to show partiality toward the rich? 2:5-7
21. What does the royal law require of us?
22. What was James' answer to those who might say partiality is a small sin?
23. How did James first illustrate the emptiness of faith without works?
24. Even the _____ believe—and tremble.
25. When was Abraham's faith said to have been made perfect?
26. When were the words, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" first spoken? (Give the Scripture reference and also describe the point in Abraham's life at which it was said.)
27. How long had Abraham been known as a faithful servant of God when he offered Isaac on the altar?
28. What was Rahab's profession before her faith led her to protect the spies?
29. Why did James urge Christians to be cautious about deceding to become teachers (masters)?
30. How does James illustrate the fact that the tongue is a powerful part of the body even though it is such a small part?
31. What misuse of the tongue is James' chief concern in this chapter?
32. List at least three other ways in which our speech can become sinful.

33. List at least three good and wholesome ways our power of speech can be used.
34. How can a man show himself to possess wisdom and understanding? Cf. what is said about faith in 2:14-26.
35. Envy and self-seeking (strife) result in what?
36. Study the description of the true wisdom in 3:17 and be able to define each characteristic.

37. What was the source of the wars (quarrels) and fights (conflicts) among James' readers?
38. Why were some unable to obtain the things they desired?
39. What is meant by the world in 4:4?
40. God resists (opposes) the _____, but gives _____ to the humble.
41. Define humble.
42. How can we get the devil to flee from us?
43. What do we have to do if we want the Lord to draw near to us?
44. Who is to lament, mourn, and weep in 4:9?
45. What will the Lord do for those who humble themselves in His sight?
46. What is wrong with making the type of plans described in 4:13?
47. When should we do the good we know we need to do?
48. What sins had the rich committed? 5:1-6
49. As these brethren suffered, they were urged to consider the example of the _____.
51. Who is counted blessed (happy)?
52. What lesson did James want his readers to take from the suffering of Job?
53. James urged his brethren not to swear by _____ or _____.
54. What were the following urged to do? The suffering (afflicted)? _____ The cheerful (merry)? _____ The sick? _____
55. Why should we confess our trespasses to one another, and pray for one another?
56. When using Elijah as an example of the power of prayer, how does James describe him?
57. Why is important to turn back the one who has wandered from the truth?

Lesson Eleven: Obeying Jesus Even When It's Hard

1 Peter

1. Introduction to 1 Peter.
 - a. To whom was the letter addressed?
 - 1) Students of this epistle have questioned whether 1:1 refers to Jewish Christians or all Christians. While the question cannot be conclusively answered, I believe the weight of evidence points to all Christians.
 - 2) “The figure of the Dispersion of the Jews throughout the world is applied to the Gentile Christians to whom the letter is addressed....The metaphor of the church as the new Israel is likewise predominant (2:4-10), with non-Christians being considered the true Gentiles (2:12; 4:3).” Thomas H. Hamilton, *The Present Truth* (Florida College Annual Lectures, 2000), p. 43
 - b. Conditions at the time of writing? 1:6, 7; 4:12-14
 - c. Key themes: Be strong in the face of persecution.
 - 1) We are temporary sojourners.
 - 2) Glory must be preceded by suffering.
 - d. Date? Likely between A.D. 64 and 68.
2. In 1:1 the letter is addressed to pilgrims (strangers, exiles). What does this suggest about the attitude the Christian is to take toward this world?
3. Define sanctification.
4. Why is God to be blessed (praised) in 1:3?
5. How is the Christian's inheritance described in Peter's opening words?
6. How can we rejoice even as we are being “grieved by various trials?”
7. The prophets of old spoke of the _____ of Christ and the _____ that would follow.
8. They were not to be conformed to the former _____.
9. With what was the Christian redeemed?
10. How had the readers purified their souls?
11. How does Peter describe the love we are to have for our brethren?
12. By what means had they been born again?
13. Before we can grow spiritually, we must lay aside what?

14. To what does Peter compare the way a Christian should desire the word of the Lord?
15. Christians are to be built up a spiritual _____ and a holy _____.
16. Christ is described as the chief _____ which the _____ rejected.
17. God called men out of darkness that they might proclaim what?
18. Why are Christians to submit to every ordinance of man? (2:13-17 gives more than one reason.) Cf. Romans 13:1-7.
19. What should our attitude toward the brotherhood be?
20. What were servants to do if they had to deal with a harsh master?
21. What did Jesus do when He was reviled and suffered?
22. Jesus bore our _____ in His own body on the tree so it might be said that by His _____ we are healed.
23. What possible outcome of a wife's exemplary behavior does Peter mention in 3:1, 2?
24. What kind of beauty is said to be precious in the sight of God?
25. What term of respect did Sarah use in reference to Abraham?
26. Husbands are told to dwell with their wives with (according to, in an) _____.
27. Husbands are also to give (show) _____ to their wives.
28. While the husband has been assigned the leadership role, both husband and wife are _____ of the grace of life.
29. Study 3:8 and be able to define each of these qualities.
30. How is a Christian supposed to respond to mistreatment?
31. To love life and see good days we must turn away from what things? What Psalm is being quoted?
32. The righteous are promised that the Lord's _____ are on them and His _____ are open to their _____.
33. But the Christian who does suffer for righteousness' sake is still _____.
34. In the face of opposition, the Christian should be able to give an explanation for the _____ that is in him and motivates him.
35. If it is God's will that we suffer, let's make certain it is not because we have done what?
36. Christ suffered (died) once for _____ that He might bring us to _____.
37. To better understand the role God has assigned water baptism read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27.

38. Having suffered (died) once, where is Jesus now?
39. We are to imitate Christ in living not for the _____ of _____, but for the _____ of God.
40. Be sure you can define the list of sins found in 4:3.
41. Why were some speaking evil of the saints? 4:4
42. Have _____ love for one another.
43. They were to practice hospitality without _____.
44. People may have different gifts, but all should be used so that God is _____.
45. How can a Christian rejoice in a time of suffering?
46. If we suffer we should _____ our souls to God in doing _____.
47. We can cast our cares on God knowing that He _____ for us.
48. Why is it important for Christians to be sober and vigilant (watchful)?
50. To what animal does Peter compare the devil?
51. What would God do for these heavenly citizens after they had suffered a while?

Lesson Twelve: God Is Love

1 John

1. Background of 1 John.
 - a. Though the apostle John does not identify himself by name in the epistle, both the internal comparisons with the gospel account of John and the testimony of Christians in the second century leave little doubt about the authorship.
 - b. Several different sources say that John's last years were spent in Ephesus and this is consistent with the setting of the Revelation. Rev. 1:9; 2:1
 - c. Most scholars date this book somewhere between A.D. 85 and 95.
 - d. The book is not addressed to any specific church, yet John seems to have had a personal acquaintance with his readers. The most likely scenario is that 1 John was a circular letter that was intended for circulation among the various churches of Asia. (Cf. Rev. 1:4, 11).
 - e. Purpose for writing? It seems to be set against the background of Gnosticism and Docetism.
2. More on Gnosticism.
 - a. This philosophy became more developed in the second century, but in the last twenty-five or so years of the first century it began to have a major impact on the churches of Asia.
 - b. Derived from the Greek word for knowledge, Gnosticism was a complicated philosophy that took different forms in different places, though always sharing certain principles.
 - c. Gnostics believed they possessed a higher knowledge than that which was available to the common man. This superior knowledge could not be found through the simple study of God's word.
 - d. They also believed that all things physical were evil.
 - e. The Gnostic views on the evil nature of physical matter affected their views of Christ and man.
 - 1) Some denied that Jesus was ever a man. They contended that He only seemed to be man. This view came to be called Docetism. (The Docetic view of Christ sometimes existed apart from Gnosticism, but the two often went together.)
 - 2) Others contended that the Divine Spirit came on Jesus at His baptism and left Him before the cross.
 - 3) Gnostics often contended that sins of the body didn't count against a person because the body was evil and it couldn't be helped.
3. Key themes of 1 John. While Gnosticism itself is of little interest to us today, the truths taught in answer to it are just as relevant today. Note these four key themes as you study this epistle.
 - a. Jesus Christ came in the flesh and thereby manifested God.
 - b. One cannot claim to love God and hate his brother.

17. What did John want his readers to have abiding in them? If they had this abiding in them, what would be the result?
18. If we abide in Christ we can have _____ at His coming, but if we do not abide in Him we will be _____ before Him.
19. The greatness of the Father's love is seen in our being called _____ of _____.
20. The hope described in 3:1, 2 should lead one to _____ himself.
21. Sin is described in 3:4 as _____.
22. Why was Jesus manifested (*ESV*, why did He appear)? 3:5, 8
23. The *ESV* has "keeps on sinning" in 3:6 and "makes a practice of sinning" in 3:8.
24. The child of God must not only practice righteousness, but he must also _____.
25. One who does not love his brother abides in _____.
26. Who is the standard by which love is measured? How was that love demonstrated?
25. We must not love in _____ and _____, but in _____ and _____.
26. What does it mean to abide (dwell) in God?
27. Rather than believe every spirit, the readers were urged to _____ them. What reason is given for this?
28. How were John's "little children" able to overcome the false teachers?
29. The false teachers were of the _____ and the _____ heard them, but those who knew _____ listened to John and the other apostles.
30. We must love one another because love is of _____. One who does not love does not know _____. God is _____.
31. Those who respond to God's love by loving Him and His children have boldness in the day of _____.
32. To be born of God one must believe that Jesus is the _____.
33. For this is the _____ of God, that we keep His _____.
34. What is the key to our overcoming the world?
35. What reason did John give for the writing of this epistle in 5:13? What reason did he give for writing his gospel account in John 20:30, 31?
36. God will surely hear our prayers and grant our petitions if we ask according to His _____.

37. Whoever is born of God does not _____ and the wicked one does not touch him.
38. While we are of God, the whole world lies under the sway of _____. (KJV—lieth in _____).
39. What was the apostle's closing admonition?

Lesson Thirteen: Jesus Wins!

Revelation

1. The word overcomes is found in all seven letters in ch. 2, 3. Saints then, as saints now, faced some great difficulties and this book was intended to help them find strength to overcome (conquer) and share in the victory.
2. The Revelation is a difficult, challenging book, but it needs to be studied.
 - a. The overall message can be grasped and is profitable for our study. **2 Tim. 3:16-17**
 - 1) Failure to study this book leaves us vulnerable to the distortions of the false teacher.
 - 2) We are also neglecting a part of our birthright.
 - b. Studying the OT prophets can be of tremendous help in understanding this book.
3. Some call this the Apocalypse from the Greek *apokalupsis*, a word signifying to uncover and reveal.
 - a. The term apocalyptic came to be used of a genre of literature with visions, symbols, etc. utilized in telling of the conflict between good and evil. Cf. Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah.
 - b. Though never stated, it is likely that the style was used to both conceal and reveal. Saints would get the message of Rome's overthrow, but if the Roman authorities had read the book it would have seemed like nonsense to them.
 - c. How can we understand these symbols, visions, etc.?
 1. Begin by paying careful attention to the context.
 2. Then look for similar usage elsewhere. Revelation does not contain many Old Testament quotes, but is filled with allusions to the OT. The Revelation may give a new twist to a symbol, but the OT usage will be of great help.
4. Theme.
 - a. It was a time of tribulation (**1:9**) and saints were going to suffer (**2:10; 17:6**).
 - b. But God's people emerge victorious because of their Leader. **17:14**
 - 1) In the second part of the book we will see enemies rise and fall before the Lamb.
 - 2) The book shows who the winners and losers are so the reader might choose the right side.
 - 3) We must see that the thrust of the book dealt with the issues of the day (**1:1**), but it should enable us to see some great, lasting principles.

5. Time of its writing?
 - a) Some argue for ca. AD 66-68 and make the thrust of the book about the fall of Jerusalem. While that event was prophesied in Mt. 24 and other passages, the book seems to deal with a widespread Roman persecution and focus on the defeat of that enemy and not the Jewish nation.
 - b) I believe the later date of ca. AD 96 during the reign of Domitian is more likely. There is evidence of a much broader persecution at this time, along with an expectation of Caesar worship.
6. The book is addressed to the seven churches of Asia, but in a book where seven is often used of completeness, it seems likely these are intended to represent all the churches, for Colosse and Hierapolis are not included. **Col. 1:2; 4:13**
7. Though John was the human author, he opens the book by calling it the Revelation of _____.
8. Who is called blessed in 1:3?
9. Where was John when he received the Revelation?
10. Take note of the glorious appearance of Jesus in ch. 1 and how He described Himself in 1:18.
11. Read ch. 2, 3 and list the commendations (if any) and criticisms (if any) of the seven churches.
12. The great enemies are depicted in ch, 13, 17, but before the enemies are revealed, God's people are able to see the Lord on His throne in ch. 4. Read Rev. 4 and stand in awe of the Almighty!
13. Of what was the Lamb said to be worthy in ch. 5?
14. How many were sealed in ch. 7? How many stood before the throne in ch. 7?
15. What message was proclaimed when the seventh trumpet sounded in ch. 11?
16. The dragon had _____ heads and _____ horns.
17. How many heads and horns did the beast from the sea have?
18. The harlot was said to be drunk with the _____ of the _____.
19. What happened to Babylon in ch. 18?
20. Who led His army to victory over the beast and the false prophet?
21. The devil was bound for _____ and then ultimately cast into the _____ of _____.
22. Who stood before the great white throne for judgment?

23. List all the blessings given to God's people in 21:1-7.
24. Who is mentioned first among those cast into the lake of fire? 21:8
25. Why does the new Jerusalem need no temple? Why no sun and moon?
26. What is found in the middle of the street and either side of the river in ch. 22?
27. Whom was John told not to worship?
28. What is the final warning in this book? 22:18, 19