

PAULINE EPISTLES

Course #12



Leader's Guide

Dear Bible Study Leader,

I thank our Lord and Savior for you because of your faith and faithfulness in studying and leading others to study God's Word. As I write this letter, I feel like the Apostle Paul when he knew he was nearing the end of his life and he wrote to his disciple in the faith, "As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return." (2 Timothy 4:6-8) And Paul challenged him and I challenge you, "My dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

In our day, society places much value on learning. As we study the Pauline Epistles, or the letters that the Apostle Paul wrote, we will see that Paul places equal emphasis not only on what you know, but what you do with what you know. Paul will unfold many deep theological mysteries and how to apply those spiritual truths to our lives. Paul is going to teach us about the life in Christ and living for Christ by faith through grace and what that looks like in our relationships at home with our family, at church with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and with the rest of the world. My prayer for you is that you will be able to say, like Paul, that you have run the race of your life to win and have finished well.

In the next 18 lessons Paul will challenge you, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth. Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Pray continually. Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. Give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching." (2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:15, Galatians 6:9, 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Tim 4:13) I am so excited about all we will learn together.

This course is only a survey and my prayer is that these studies will encourage you to really go deep in God's Word, and that these studies will help God's Word go deep in you so that it impacts every aspect of your life. Remember when we study these Epistles of Paul to ask yourself and the group these three questions:

- What does it say? (Observation)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- What does it mean to me and to those I am leading? Or, what are we going to do with what we learn? (Application)

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow

in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 1:16-20, 3:16-21)

Dick Woodward
Pastor and Author of the Mini Bible College

LEADING THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the foundational books of the Bible. Your role as leader is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the truth, to discover the eternal principles, and most importantly, to apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take about three months, and it is designed to be more than just a course. This study is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to nurture and grow personally and to help your church grow both spiritually and numerically.

To help you, we have provided the following tools:

- This Leader's Guide
- Report forms
- Audio of the Pauline Epistles series (Audio Lessons NT 55 - 72)
- A study booklet on Pauline Epistles
- A set of workbooks for the students

Before Class

- Personally start inviting people to come to this spiritual banquet. "Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Matthew 22:9-10)
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. It would be best if both the husband and wife can attend together but if only one can or will come, it is better for one to come than neither of them. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. "Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1) If there is interest from women, or men, whose spouses do not wish to attend, consider starting a group just for the women and another one just for the men.
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two people to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material; listen, read, and study each lesson and memorize the Bible passages before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

During Class

(Remember to try to keep the class time to one and one-half hours.)

- Greet everyone as they arrive. Do you remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all. Have someone to serve as the greeter and to introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.
- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one to understand and apply God's Word to your lives.
- Recite the memory verse.

- Listen to the audio lesson.
- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust that the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is large (more than 10), consider dividing it into smaller groups of three or four people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God's Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance at the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

After Each Class

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms.
- If you are meeting in someone's home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

Special Instructions for Teaching Auditory Learners – Non-Readers

It is important to remember that those who do not read and write learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The auditory learners, even most of those who do know how to read, learn best from listening, discussing and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus' day. It is good to remember and even to tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel could not read or write.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down in order to remember it. Take the time, therefore, to allow your students to hear the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can "story back" — tell in their own words what they have heard and learned — it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the discussion time as they will help in the learning process. Ask the questions out loud and encourage all to participate. This will lead them into a deeper understanding of God's principles and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

The Absolute Gospel

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson: New Testament #55



Objective: To conclude thoughts from 2 Corinthians, introduce Paul's letter to the Galatians, and understand the major problem Paul is addressing in Galatians.



Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you...?

– 2 Corinthians 13:5

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

– Galatians 1:6-9

In 2 Corinthians, Paul answered the accusations that the church of Corinth made against him and his ministry. They could not attack the logic of Paul's counsel to them in 1 Corinthians, so they attacked Paul and his ministry. He answered them by writing about the ministry and the credentials of the minister.

Also in 2 Corinthians, Paul spoke of his ministry and the hardships he had endured as an example to the Corinthian church. The Philippians supported him financially so he could minister to people like the Corinthians without having to make tents to earn a living. He praised the Philippians' openness and honesty in giving and the quality of their giving. Then he exhorted the Corinthians to take part in a love offering he was collecting for the suffering saints in Jerusalem. He instructed them to have men from their church take this gift to Jerusalem and make sure the money was given to those who were suffering. Paul emphasized honesty and accountability in stewardship and finance.

At the end of 2 Corinthians, Paul strongly urged them to examine themselves to make sure they were Christians.

Paul's letter to the Galatians focused on a more serious problem. Paul had heard that some Jewish leaders were teaching the people a different gospel, an apostate gospel. They were teaching that people had to follow the Jewish laws in addition to following Christ. Paul opened his letter to the Galatians by stating firmly that no other gospel exists but the one he preached when he was with them: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That Gospel, the true gospel, says that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, plus nothing.

The church at Galatia was listening to and following false teachers. Paul reminded them that he had been called by God to preach. Paul also wrote that the Gospel he received had come to him directly from Jesus Himself and not from any man. An important truth we learn in Galatians is that we need to know the absolute Gospel so that we do not follow false teachers.



1. **True** or False? At the end of 2 Corinthians, Paul told the church to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith.
2. True or **False**? Paul commended the Corinthians for their selfless giving to support him.
3. True or **False**? The problem confronting the church at Galatia was less serious than the problems of the church at Corinth.
4. **True** or False? Paul was chosen to be the apostle to the Gentiles.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul tell the Corinthians to send some men to take the offering to Jerusalem? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. He wanted to make sure the money made it to the suffering saints.
 - b. Sending several men with the money would make them accountable to deliver it.**
 - c. He wanted his own integrity to be an example to the Corinthians.**
 - d. He did not want to be bothered with delivering it.
6. How was Paul's letter to the Galatians different from other letters? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. It was filled with warmth and affection (kind and gentle words).
 - b. It was filled with emotion (forceful words).**
 - c. It was filled with righteous indignation (warnings of false teachers).**
 - d. It was filled with jokes (funny stories).

7. Why was Paul astonished?
- a. The church had sent him a large sum of money for his ministry.
 - b. The church was allowing sexual immorality in its midst.
 - c. The church had been blessed with a tremendous outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit.
 - d. The church was turning away from the Gospel of Christ to a perverted gospel.**
8. What does the Gospel of Jesus Christ say about salvation? (Choose all that apply)
- a. It is not necessary.
 - b. It is by the grace of God.**
 - c. It is earned by many works.
 - d. It is available to all.**
9. The “perverted” Gospel that others preached to the Galatians is considered apostasy. What does the word *apostasy* mean?
- a. “To stand away from”**
 - b. “To stand with”
 - c. “To join with”
 - d. “To believe wholeheartedly”
10. Who did Paul receive the absolute Gospel from?
- a. His rabbi, Gamaliel
 - b. The other apostles
 - c. The Old Testament prophets
 - d. Jesus Christ Himself**
11. After Paul’s time in Damascus and Arabia, who did Paul meet with? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Matthew
 - b. James**
 - c. Timothy
 - d. Peter**
12. Why do you think that Paul was so upset with the Galatians? (Choose all that apply)
- a. The message of grace that he had preached was being added to.**
 - b. The Gospel was being confused.**
 - c. The Jewish leaders were teaching that Jesus’ death and resurrection were not enough to be saved.**
 - d. He was jealous that the Jewish leaders who were preaching the apostate gospel were becoming popular.



How do people try “perverting” the absolute Gospel today? What are some ways that you can be on guard against false teachers? What can you do to share the absolute Gospel with others?



Praise God for Jesus' sacrifice, which makes salvation by grace through faith possible. Praise God that His gift of salvation is free and that you can do nothing to earn it or to lose it. Thank God that the Bible teaches us about Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation. Ask God to help you recognize false teachers so you will not be confused and led away from the Truth. Ask God to help you teach others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Going Deeper

1. Why was Paul so angry and emotional when he wrote this letter to the Galatians? _____

2. What is Paul claiming about the gospel he preached when he was with the Galatians?

(Consider 1:1, 11) _____

3. Why is Paul so emphatic in verses eight and nine of chapter 1? _____

4. Precisely what is Paul claiming about his experience in Arabia? _____

5. How do you think Paul persuaded the apostles in Jerusalem that he was as much an apostle as they were? _____

6. Why do you think God sent the former Rabbi and scholar, Paul, to the barbarian Gentiles, and He sent the illiterate fisherman, Peter, to the Jewish Rabbis? _____

7. How and why does Paul, who wrote half the New Testament, force us to come to a verdict about these claims he is making in verse 20 of the first chapter of this letter? _____

The Gospel in Reverse

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: New Testament #56



Objective: To understand the Gospel, that we are not saved by obeying the law but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.



Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified...I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

– Galatians 2:16, 20-21

In chapter 2 of Galatians, Paul tells the story of when he visited Peter and the believers in Antioch. The Jewish Christians there observed Jewish food restrictions even though they knew they did not have to do so to be saved. Peter and some of the other Jewish church leaders chose to eat with the Gentiles.

One day, while they were eating, some Jewish men came in. These men were false teachers because they had been telling Gentiles that they must become Jewish before they could be saved. When Peter saw them, he quickly separated himself from the Gentiles, because he allowed himself to be intimidated by the false teachers.

When Paul saw what happened, he became angry at Peter and confronted him in front of everyone. Paul reminded Peter that a person is not saved by observing the law but by faith in Christ. The purpose of the law was to show us our need for a Savior. We cannot save ourselves through our own efforts. We must be miraculously born again by the Holy Spirit to be saved, by grace through faith.

Paul concludes this section with this great statement: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” Christ died so we might live, and now we must “die” to our sinful nature so Christ might live His life through us. That is the Gospel in reverse.

1. True or **False**: The purpose of the law is to help us be good.
2. **True** or False: Paul was upset with Peter and confronted him in front of the church at Antioch.
3. **True** or False: If we could be saved through the law, then Christ died for nothing.
4. True or **False**: Prayer is telling God what we want Him to do.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What did the Jewish and Gentile believers in Antioch do?
 - a. They argued constantly.
 - b. They lived immoral lives.
 - c. They ate at separate tables.**
 - d. They argued about what to eat.

6. Why did Peter move back to the Jewish table?
 - a. There was not a seat for him.
 - b. He did not like the food the Gentiles had prepared.
 - c. Jewish teachers of the law had come to visit.**
 - d. Paul told him to move.

7. What did Paul explain to Peter and everyone at the church in Galatia that day? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. We must follow strict dietary laws in order to be saved.
 - b. We are saved by faith in Christ.**
 - c. Christians have been crucified with Christ.**
 - d. Christians no longer live but Christ lives in them.**

8. If you belong to Christ, who are you? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. A child of Abraham**
 - b. A spiritual Jew**
 - c. A slave to the law
 - d. An heir according to the promise**

9. When Abraham's son Ishmael was born, what did it show? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. It was a work of the flesh.**
 - b. It showed a lack of faith in God.**
 - c. It was a work of the spirit.
 - d. It showed impatience with God.**

10. When Abraham and Sarah had their son Isaac, what did it show? (Choose all that apply)
- a. It was a work of the Spirit of God.**
 - b. God is faithful.**
 - c. Abraham had faith in God's promise.**
 - d. Abraham and Sarah were not that old.



Have you ever failed to trust God and taken control of a situation like Abraham and Sarah did? What were the consequences? What can you do to make sure you trust God next time?

What do you think it means to be crucified with Christ? How can you live in Christ?



Praise God for this study. Thank Him that we can learn how to live the Christian life from His Word and by studying the lives of people in the Bible. Thank God for Jesus Christ, who died to set us free from the law, and that salvation does not depend on what we do but on what Christ did for us. Ask God to help you trust Him and wait patiently for Him to work in your life.



Going Deeper

1. What is the significance of the fact that Paul calls the reality of Abraham's two sons an "allegory?" _____

2. How do you define, describe and apply what I call "The Gospel in Reverse?" (Consider 2:20)

3. How do you define, describe and apply what Paul labels as an "Allegory of the Flesh?" (Abraham's son Ishmael) _____

4. How do you define, describe and apply an "Allegory of the Spirit?" (Abraham's son Isaac)

5. Summarize and apply why Paul was so angry with Peter, which parallels why he was angry with the Galatians. (Consider chapter 2:11 to the end of that chapter) _____

6. Summarize and apply the argument Paul directed to Peter in 2: 11-21. _____

7. Summarize and apply the three experiences of Paul recorded in Acts 9, 2 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 1 and 2. (His conversion on the road to Damascus, his experience of being caught up into the third heaven, and his experience of being in the desert of Arabia for three years with the risen Christ.) _____

The Gospel Reaped

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: New Testament #57



Objective: To understand the difference between sowing with the seeds of the flesh and sowing with the fruit of the Spirit in the garden of your life.



The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

– Galatians 5:19-23

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

– Galatians 6:7-10

In chapter 5 of Galatians, Paul comes to what I believe is the heart of this letter. Paul tells us that those who are followers of Christ can live by the Spirit of God and not gratify the desires of our sinful nature. The old sinful nature is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit is contrary to sinful desires. Paul contrasted the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. Both the flesh and the Spirit are at war inside a believer. We can either sow the seeds of the flesh in our lives, or we can sow the seeds of the Spirit. The works of the flesh are easy to identify, and so is the fruit of the Spirit. We can find the first three fruit by looking inside ourselves: love, joy, and peace. The next three fruit of the Spirit show our relationships to others: patience, kindness, and goodness. We display the last three in how we relate to God: faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Make a commitment to Jesus Christ and surrender to Him. When you become a follower of Christ, you will be dead to the world so that the things of the world are dead to you. We can choose to walk in the flesh or live and walk in the Spirit. Christians are to walk in victory. Fruit of the Spirit is what is normal for those who are filled with the Spirit.

1. **True** or False? Paul's letter to the Galatians focused on the Gospel.
2. True or **False**? When we sow seeds of the flesh, we grow good fruit.
3. True or **False**? You have to obey the Law of God to become a new creation, to be born again.
4. True or **False**? It is possible for non-Christians to love others like God does.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. When you become a Christian, what happens to your flesh nature or natural man? (Choose all that apply)
- a. It is cast out.
 - b. It is still present.**
 - c. It is at war with your spiritual nature.**
 - d. It is still in control.
6. Who has the fruit of the Spirit?
- a. No one can have these spiritual fruit
 - b. Christians who are growing in the Lord**
 - c. Only certain Christians
 - d. Non-Christians who are good people
7. Which is not a fruit of the Spirit?
- a. Peace
 - b. Joy
 - c. Patience
 - d. Hospitality**
8. How can you practice kindness?
- a. By treating everyone as if they were part of your family**
 - b. By being as good as you can be
 - c. By focusing on yourself
 - d. By treating others like they treat you
9. How does a faithful person live? (Choose all that apply)
- a. He is dependable.**
 - b. He keeps his word.**
 - c. He has less faith than other Christians.
 - d. He is focused on what is best for himself.

10. Which question should you ask when you feel impatient with someone?

- a. How can I make this person give me what I want?
- b. How can I change the person who is annoying me?
- c. How can I make myself feel better?
- d. What can I do to become more patient?**

11. Which trait does not describe a gentle person?

- a. Tender
- b. Considerate
- c. Cruel**
- d. Soothing

12. Which of these does not show self-control?

- a. Being patient with others
- b. Using words that encourage others
- c. Getting jealous of someone else**
- d. Staying calm rather than getting angry

13. In the list below, circle the fruit of the Spirit that is growing in your life. Would your family and friends agree with you? Now put a check mark beside the fruit that you do not see in your life.

Love
Peace
Kindness
Faithfulness
Self-control

Joy
Patience
Goodness
Gentleness



In Galatians 6:7-8 we read, *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will harvest destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will harvest eternal life.”* What are you planting in the garden of your life? Remember that when you plant something, you always harvest what you planted and more than you planted. What will you plant to please the Spirit this week? How can you continue to plant good things in your life to please God?



Praise God for His Spirit who came to live inside you when you were converted. Thank Him for the fruit of the Spirit, and ask God to grow more fruit in your life. Ask God to help you stop sowing seeds of the flesh and sow more seeds to please the Spirit of God.



Going Deeper

1. When you look in, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: love, joy and peace? _____

2. When you look around, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: patience, kindness and goodness? _____

3. When you look up, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness, meekness and self-control? _____

4. How can you relate to and apply the reality that these nine qualities are called “the *fruit* of the Spirit?” and not “the fruits of the Spirit?” _____

5. How would you respond to a non-believer who may ask this question: “Do you not think that each of these spiritual qualities—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control—all sound good, but they don’t make good sense and don’t apply in today’s world?” _____

6. How can you personally apply what verse 7 of chapter 6, as well as the last verses of chapter 6, tell us about the difference between creation and corruption in the life of a believer? _____

7. What do the first five verses of chapter 6 teach us about the importance of caring for one another? (Compare these verses with Matthew 5: 21-24) _____

Charisma in Christ

Chapter 4

Audio Lesson: New Testament #58



Objective: To understand freedom in Christ as Paul mentioned in Galatians, and to introduce our study of Ephesians by talking about our spiritual blessings in Christ in the heavenly places.



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.

– Galatians 5:1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

– Ephesians 1:3

In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul rebuked the church for believing religious teachers who said that they had to follow the law in order to be saved. Paul asked if he had become their enemy for telling them the truth about the apostate gospel they had accepted. In 4:19, Paul wrote that he wanted Christ to be formed in the believers at Galatia. Paul finished his letter by talking about freedom in Christ. Paul wanted to make sure the Galatians stayed free and did not get chained again into slavery to Jewish laws and ceremonies, because Christ had set them free.

The letter to the Ephesians is Paul's masterpiece on the Church of Jesus Christ. Like Paul's other letters, the first half of the letter (Ephesians 1:1 - 4:16) is the doctrinal section and the last half (4:17 - 6:24) is the practical or application section of the letter. The heart of the letter is found in 1:3, where we read, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*" We have all the spiritual blessings we need to live as born-again, Spirit-controlled believers.

In the first three chapters of the letter, Paul often reminded the Ephesians to remember the truths he had taught them. Later, starting in chapter 4, Paul often used the word "walk." He wanted his readers to walk worthy — to walk in such a way that they demonstrated the truths he had taught them when he was in Ephesus. Paul was reminding them that it is possible to live here in this world but actually be living in Christ in the heavenly places, in a heavenly dimension.

In chapter 3, Paul wrote about the great mystery of the Church. Mystery means "a secret that is sooner or later revealed." Until Pentecost, no one had known that, one day, both Jews and Gentiles would be made one through Christ and be gathered together in His Church. In chapter 4:1-16, Paul taught great truths about how Christ's Church is supposed to function.

1. True or **False**? Paul said that his thorn in the flesh was a skin disease.



2. **True** or False? Paul spent more time in Ephesus than in any of the places where he had planted a church on his missionary journeys.
3. **True** or False? Paul taught daily in a seminary in or near Ephesus for over two years.
4. True or **False**? The church at Laodicea was the mother church of others in the area.
5. **True** or False? Heaven is not only a place where followers of Christ go to be with God, but it is also a dimension we can live in today.
6. True or **False**? Paul says it is impossible to live in Christ eternally until we die.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

7. What is the message of Galatians? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **Christ has made us free from the bondage of the law.**
 - b. **Paul was defending his apostleship.**
 - c. Test yourselves to see if you are saved.
 - d. We cannot stop living under the power of the flesh.
8. Paul's concern for the Galatians is evident in his letter. Why was he so concerned? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **The church's joy had disappeared.**
 - b. **They were turning back to legalistic bondage.**
 - c. The false teachers prevented Paul from coming to visit.
 - d. The church was filled with illness and disease.
9. Which of the following is not the message of Ephesians?
 - a. We have all the spiritual blessings we need to live as Spirit-controlled believers.
 - b. If we live in Christ, we can live in the heavenly dimension.
 - c. **Christ has set us free from pain and suffering.**
 - d. We can live in Christ as holy people even in the middle of the world's filth and sin.

10. What does Paul mean by the word “eternal” in his letter to the Ephesians? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Since Christ is eternal, we are eternal to the degree that we are living our lives in Christ.**
 - b. If we are in Christ, we have eternal life because we are united to Him and He is eternal.**
 - c. To be eternal means that you will not live forever.
 - d. We can enjoy eternal life only after we die.
11. What is the great mystery that was revealed at Pentecost and that Paul discusses in Ephesians?
- a. The Church**
 - b. Eternal life
 - c. The hope of glory
 - d. The fruit of the Spirit
12. What are two key words in Ephesians? (Choose the word pair that applies)
- a. Repentance and the Second Coming
 - b. Justification and Sanctification
 - c. Freedom and Bondage
 - d. Walk and remember**



As followers of Christ, how is Paul telling us to live? Since we are one body – the Church of Jesus Christ – we are to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. What can you do this week to walk worthy of the calling you received?



Praise God for His Word and for Paul’s letters. Thank Him that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that you can learn to live in the heavenly places. Ask Him to help you remember the truths you have learned and to walk worthy of your calling every day.



Going Deeper

1. How can you personally apply the teaching of Paul that all the spiritual blessings you need to live as a devoted follower of Christ are in heavenly places, and in Christ? _____

2. Give five examples of what Paul means by spiritual blessings. _____

3. How can you dwell in heavenly places? _____

4. What does it mean to live in Christ? _____

5. How can you personally relate to and apply Ephesians 1:3 to Joshua 1:3 and 2 Peter 1:3?

6. Based on Ephesians 2:8-10, relate to and apply what God's objective was in your salvation.

7. Based on the same passage, how can you personally apply the reality that the grace and faith that saved you were not coming from you, and you should therefore not boast about your salvation as though it came from you as a result of your good works? _____

Rags and Robes

Chapter 5

Audio Lesson: New Testament #59



Objective: To understand the major themes of the letter to the Ephesians.



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

– Ephesians 2:8-9

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

– Ephesians 3:14-16

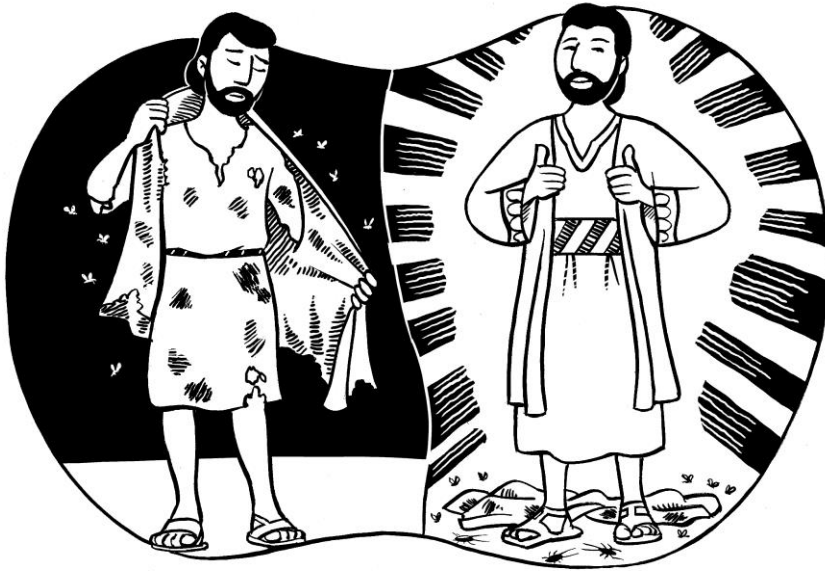
It was mentioned previously that Ephesians is Paul's masterpiece on the subject of the Church. Paul wanted to show the Church of Jesus Christ what it was designed by God to be. Before time began, God chose us as members of His Church, a called-out people who would live holy lives and be a witness to this world. The world has never needed the witness of the Church more than it does now.

In chapter 1, Paul told us that, in the heavenly places, we have all the spiritual blessings we need to live our lives in Christ. Christ lives in the heavenly dimension, and we can live there with Him. Not everything in the heavenly dimension is good. Evil spirits exist there, but by the power of the Holy Spirit, the believer in Christ can be victorious over the wicked powers of darkness in the spirit world or heavenly places.

Paul's prayers in chapters 1 and 3 show that he was a great intercessory prayer warrior. When he heard that someone had faith and became involved in the work of Christ, Paul began to pray for them and never stopped.

In chapter 3, Paul revealed that the Church is a great mystery of God. Paul wanted the Ephesians to remember what their old life was like, and how wonderful it was when Christ gave them new life. In chapter 4, Paul compared our spiritual life with the clothes we have. We are to put off the rags of the old life and put on the robes of the new life. We are to walk, to live in Christ every day, putting off the old ways such as lying, anger, bitterness, and strife, and putting on the new robes of holiness, righteousness, truth, hard work, graciousness, and love. Finally, Paul commands believers to be filled with or controlled by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give us the power to live and walk in the heavenly dimension in Christ, no matter what our circumstances may be.

1. **True** or False? Before time began, God had planned for the existence of the Church.



2. True or **False**? Paul regularly prayed for the physical needs of the people in the Church.
3. True or **False**? Paul wrote that Christians should be so focused on heaven that we are not concerned with the needs of this world.
4. **True** or False? Paul teaches that salvation is only by grace through faith.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What is the purpose of Paul's letter to the Ephesians? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. To chastise the Ephesians for their sin
 - b. To show God's purpose for the Church**
 - c. To encourage the church in Ephesus to be the authentic Church of Jesus Christ**
 - d. To urge the Church throughout the centuries to live in the heavenly places with every blessing**
6. Which of these statements about the heavenly dimension are correct? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. It is the invisible world of the spirit.**
 - b. It is a place where only the Holy Spirit dwells.
 - c. It includes evil and good spiritual forces.**
 - d. Believers cannot go there until they die.
7. What does Paul say is the great mystery of God?
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Marriage
 - c. The Church**
 - d. Creation

8. Paul used a metaphor or image to describe how Christians are to live. What are some examples he gave of the robes we are to wear? (Choose all that apply)

righteousness	holiness	hard work
bitterness	rage	anger
brawling	slander	malice
kindness	compassion	forgiveness

9. Christians should edify or build each other up. How do we do that?

- a. Pray for each other
- b. Confess our sins to each other
- c. Speak encouraging words to each other**
- d. Fellowship regularly with each other

10. In Ephesians 5:15, we read, “*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.*” What does Paul mean when he says to be careful how we walk?

- a. Be aware of how we live in an evil world.**
- b. Focus only on your future life in heaven.
- c. Be focused on our life and our needs.
- d. We should not walk in the dark.



Believers who live in Christ see and respond to the needs of the world. Hospitals, orphanages, and homes for unwed mothers were created by people who walked *as children of light*. (Ephesians 5:8) What are some ways you can reach out with compassion in your community?

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul tells us not to be controlled by wine or strong drink but to be controlled by the Spirit. Are you letting the Spirit control you? What are some ways that you can allow the Spirit to control more of you this week?



Thank God for the Church and for His design for how it should work in the world. Praise Him for new life in Christ. Thank Him that you can live in Christ right now in the heavenly dimension. Ask God to help you be more compassionate and to show you who you can help this week.



Going Deeper

1. What are “the robes of the new life,” and how do you “get dressed” in them every day? _____

2. What are “the rags of the old life,” and what does it mean to be wearing them every day? _____

3. Explain what it means for your speech not to corrupt, but rather, to be filled with words that minister grace and build up those who hear you. _____

4. What does it mean and how are you to apply what it means to “walk circumspectly” every day? _____

5. How can you apply what Paul wants the Ephesians to remember in this letter? _____

6. How can you apply what Paul wants to bring to resolution in this letter? _____

7. How can you apply what Paul writes to this church when he tells them (in 1:4) that they were chosen in Him before the world had foundations? _____

Robe for Relationships

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: New Testament #60



Objective: To understand how to apply Paul's practical advice on Christian living to our marriage, home, and other relationships.



Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

– Ephesians 5:21-28

In Ephesians 5, Paul wrote that the work of the ministry through the saints begins in the most difficult place — the home. We show our best selves to the world, but often we show a less attractive side to our family. Paul gave beautiful marriage counsel. Wives are to submit to their husbands, and husbands are to love their wives *even as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*. The greatest problem in Christian marriages is not women who cannot or will not be submissive to their husbands; it is men who will not accept the responsibility to love, give, and be as Christ to their wives and children. All men need to understand this responsibility and put it into practice.

When God designed marriage, He designed a relationship in which two people are to be one in spirit, one in mind, and one in physical unity. We can picture this special relationship if we imagine them joined together by a chain that has six links. These links are the spiritual dimension of each, the foundation of oneness; communication, the tool that helps us maintain oneness; compatibility, the evidence of oneness; agape love, the dynamic of oneness; understanding, the growth of oneness; and physical unity, the joyful expression of oneness.

Paul addressed other relationships, such as between slaves and masters, employees and employers, and children and parents. Applying the truths in this letter begins with the person or people closest to you. We might call the application section of this letter “Robe for Relationships.” We are to put on the new robe of our new life in Christ.

Paul also wrote that both good and evil spirits exist in the spirit world. The only way we can live in spiritual triumph is to be victorious over these spiritual powers. He tells us that we must put on the armor of God. (6:13-17) He outlined how we can stand for the Lord in this sinful world. We must fight, not in our own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.



1. True or **False**? The home is an easy place to apply our faith because we are with our loved ones.
2. True or **False**? Paul says it is impossible to live eternally until we die.
3. True or **False**? Paul's counsel to submit ourselves to one another is easy to do.
4. **True** or False? The greatest problem in Christian marriages is men who will not accept the responsibility to love, give, and be as Christ to their wives and children.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Oneness in marriage means that two people are one in which of the following ways? (Choose all that apply)

In spirit	In physical unity
In mind	In roles
In personality	In responsibilities

6. How would you describe the importance of the spiritual relationship in marriage? (Choose all that apply)

- a. It can be healthy even if one partner is not a Christian.
- b. It is the foundation of oneness in marriage.**
- c. It is only as strong as each partner's relationship with Christ.**
- d. It is strengthened as each partner grows in Christ.**

7. Which link is the tool that helps maintain oneness?
- a. **Communication**
 - b. Compassion
 - c. Compatibility
 - d. Physical
8. The evidence of oneness, compatibility, can be seen on many levels. Paul describes *agape* love in 1 Corinthians 13. Why is *agape* love a link to oneness? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Christians are not selfish.
 - b. ***Agape* is unconditional love.**
 - c. ***Agape* focuses on Christ and others instead of on the self.**
 - d. ***Agape* is indestructible and irresistible.**
9. Understanding is important to oneness in marriage? Why? (Choose all that apply)
- a. **Each partner needs to know how the other feels, thinks, and acts.**
 - b. Knowing your spouse well is not important.
 - c. **It shows that both partners are growing in oneness.**
 - d. It is impossible to understand each other, so don't try.
10. We can apply these truths to the people closest to us. In what other relationships could we use the same principles? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Employees and employers
 - b. Children and parents
 - c. Extended family members
 - d. Close friends and neighbors
 - e. **All of the above**
11. What is the joyful expression of oneness in a healthy marriage?
- a. Submission of the wife
 - b. **Sexual relationship**
 - c. Not needing to communicate
 - d. Total understanding



Read Ephesians 6:10-17. In our spiritual battles, we can only be victorious if we put on our spiritual armor. List the different pieces of the armor of God below:

Do you put on His armor every day or do you try to fight spiritual battles in your own strength? What are some ways you can remind yourself to put on His armor every morning?



Praise God for your family. Thank Him for His wonderful design for marriage. If you are married, ask God to help you obey His design for your role of either husband or wife. Ask Him to help you live out your faith first with the people who are closest to you. Ask Him to remind you to wear the full armor of God every day.



Going Deeper

1. In what way is the instruction of Paul in 4:12, “the equipping of the saints (believers) for the work of the ministry,” which is the job description of every pastor? _____

2. How do you apply Paul’s teachings of this profound letter to the people closest to us—our spouse, our parents, our children, those we work for, and those who work for us? _____

3. What are the vital links of every marriage, what dimension of our oneness do they represent, and how are we to apply them to our marriage? _____

4. How are husbands to apply the teaching of Paul that, in the metaphor of the church and Christ, the wife is to be as the church and the husband is to be as Christ? _____

5. How are husbands to apply the teaching that we are to be submitting ourselves to one another in the Lord, as Paul instructs before he instructs the wives to be submitted to their husbands in everything? _____

6. How should we apply the teaching in chapter 6 of Ephesians that we are in a spiritual warfare and we must put on every piece of armor Paul describes in this great chapter? Describe and apply each piece of armor that Paul profiles. _____

7. How do you apply the instruction that each piece of armor must be put on with prayer? _____

The Fellowship of the Gospel

Chapter 7

Audio Lesson: New Testament #61



Objective: To introduce Paul's epistle to the Philippians and to understand the concept of the fellowship of the Gospel.



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

– Philippians 1:3-8

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

– Philippians 1:21

Paul planted the church at Philippi after having a heavenly vision through the Holy Spirit. (Acts 16) Paul's love for the Philippians shows in his letter to them; it reads like a love letter. He calls the bond between himself and the Philippians "the fellowship of the gospel." This church was an ideal or model church because it was a missionary church. The people grew in Christ and reached out to the community around them with the Gospel.

Paul thanked the church at Philippi for supporting him financially so he could focus on his ministry instead of trying to earn a living. He also thanked them for their gift to him while he was in prison.

In chapter 1, Paul wrote about the philosophy for Christian living. The word philosophy simply means how you see things or your outlook or mindset. Paul's philosophy of life was based on expendability--that is, he was ready to be sacrificed for Christ. He did not know if he would survive prison, but he wanted Christ to be glorified in him as long as he lived. And if he died, that would be far better, because then he would be with Christ.

Paul also wrote about the passion for Christian living. He was pleased that others were spreading or furthering the Gospel. He encouraged the Philippians to live so that the people around them could see the faith of the Gospel. He loved the Philippians and urged them to be a fellowship of the Gospel.

1. **True** or False: Paul's letter to the Philippians shows a special bond between them.
2. True or **False**: Paul planted the church in Philippi as a result of a man from Asia asking his help.



3. **True** or False: The purpose of the Church is to reach out to nonbelievers.
4. True or **False**: The church in Ephesus supported Paul financially while he ministered to the Philippians.
5. **True** or False: Philippians is one of five letters Paul wrote from prison.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. What other letters did Paul write from prison? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Romans
 - b. Ephesians**
 - c. Colossians**
 - d. 2 Timothy**
 - e. Philemon**
7. Why did Paul consider the Philippian church to be an ideal or model?
 - a. Its members did not sin.
 - b. It was a missionary church.**
 - c. It was the only church he planted.
 - d. It did not have serious problems.
8. How is this letter different from Paul's other letters?
 - a. It is short.
 - b. He wrote it with his own hand.
 - c. He delivered it himself.
 - d. He expressed his special love for them in it.**

9. Other people were spreading the Gospel while Paul was in prison. How did he feel about that?
- a. **He was excited about the furtherance of the Gospel.**
 - b. He told the Philippians to stop those people because they had the wrong motives.
 - c. He was angry because laypeople should not take on the work of the ministry.
 - d. He was jealous about their success while he was in prison.
10. What was Paul's magnificent obsession?
- a. **To preach the Gospel.**
 - b. To grow the Church at Philippi.
 - c. To get out of prison.
 - d. To teach pastors how to confront false teachers.
11. What does a "fellowship of the Gospel" mean? (Choose all that apply)
- a. **It is a picture of what the Church should be.**
 - b. **The Church exists so that it can share the Gospel with the world.**
 - c. **Every Christian in the church lives a life of faith so the world will believe the Gospel.**
 - d. It is a regular gathering of the church to eat and get to know each other better.



What did Paul mean when he said, "*To live is Christ. To die is gain*"? (Philippians 1:21)
Do you feel the same way?



Praise God for Paul's faithfulness to Christ that he would write letters even while he was in prison. Ask Him to help you put into practice in your own church what you have learned about the fellowship of the Gospel. Ask God to help you live so that non-believers around you will believe in the Gospel. Ask Him to help you glorify Christ always and to look forward to being with Him in heaven someday.



Going Deeper

1. How many times does Paul mention the gospel in the first chapter of his letter to the Philippians, and how does this show us what we might call “The Passion and Philosophy of Christ-Like Living”? _____

2. Describe and apply the way verse 27 of chapter 1 profiles what Paul labels “A Fellowship of the Gospel.” _____

3. How do you apply Paul’s plan for his ideal church, or this fellowship of the Gospel, to the church of which you are a part, wherever it may be? _____

4. Describe and apply what Paul meant when he wrote, “To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (verse 21) _____

5. Describe and apply to your own new birth the meaning of Paul’s words when he wrote (in 1:6) that he was confident that He who had begun a good work in them would continue that work until the day of Christ. (Consider also the Source of his confidence in 2:13) _____

6. Describe and apply to your own philosophy of life and death the tension Paul describes (in chapter 1: 22-26) regarding his desire to pass on and be with Christ, which he considers to be far better, but that his motivation for staying in this life was to be fruitful in the furtherance of the faith of these believers. _____

7. How can you apply to your own suffering verse 29 of chapter 1, where Paul clearly states that it was not only granted by God for them to believe, but also to suffer for Christ? _____

Patterns for Living in Christ

Chapter 8

Audio Lesson: New Testament #62



Objective: To learn from example how to live in Christ.



Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

— Philippians 2:1-11

The theme of Philippians is Christian living. Paul had a special bond of fellowship with the Philippian church. This church helped him spread the Gospel of Christ to the Gentile world. In Philippians 2:3, Paul instructs believers to be lowly-minded or humble. He urged us to be love-minded, which means thinking of others' well-being before our own. He also emphasizes being like-minded, which means having the same mind as Christ. Next Paul mentioned several examples of Christian living, starting with Christ who was the perfect example. He then wrote about himself, Timothy, and Epaphroditus.

In chapter 3, Paul described the purpose and prize for living in Christ. His own purpose was to do what Jesus Christ had called him to do. Jesus has a purpose for every Christian. The prize of Christian living is what Paul called the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, or the will of God. "Press on to the prize," Paul urged. Forget the past and move ahead as far as you can see into the will of God today.

1. **True** or False? Epaphroditus' Christian philosophy was like Paul's: to live is Christ and to die is better.
2. True or **False**? Paul urged the Philippians not to consider him an example worthy of being followed.



3. **True** or False? When Christians are lowly-minded, love-minded, and like-minded, conflicts in the Church will cease.

4. True or **False**? Paul says that Timothy is the best example of Christian living.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul urge the Philippians to look to him as an example of godly living? (Choose all that apply)

- a. **He wanted them see what godly living looked like.**
- b. He was boasting about his life.
- c. He was proud of his accomplishments as a missionary.
- d. **He lived what he taught and preached.**

6. Chapter 2 gives a general pattern for Christian living. What did Paul *not* urge the Philippian church to do?

- a. Be humble
- b. Be loving
- c. Be unified
- d. **Be proud**

7. Why did Paul say he considered Timothy a good example? (Choose all that apply)

- a. **He took a genuine interest in the welfare of the Philippians.**
- b. **He was a good soldier for the Lord.**
- c. **He had proven himself in the work of the Gospel.**
- d. He was like a son to Paul.

8. What were some traits or characteristics of Epaphroditus that made him a good example? (Choose all that apply)

- a. **He was in Christ.**
- b. He was a good evangelist.
- c. He was Paul's fellow worker.
- d. **He was willing to risk his life for Christ.**

9. What did Paul consider the prize? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Recognition for writing letters to believers everywhere
 - b. Showing Jewish people how to live like Christians
 - c. God's will for his life**
 - d. Being a good witness to nonbelievers**

10. Why do Christians have conflicts with each other? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Love
 - b. Pride**
 - c. Gentleness
 - d. Selfishness**



Why is Christ the best example to follow?

Do you know God's purpose for your life? Chapter 3 says that Jesus has a plan for your life now, not just in eternity. Write down what you believe is God's purpose or high calling for your life. If you do not know, spend time in prayer asking God to show it to you.



Praise God for godly examples for living in Christ. Ask Him to help you to put into practice what you have learned about living in Christ and to help you become a good example for others. Ask God to help you and your church to be lowly-minded, love-minded, and like-minded. Praise Him for having a purpose for your life. Ask Him to give you the desire and the strength to move ahead toward the prize and goal.



Going Deeper

1. How would you describe and apply in your life and ministry these different levels of fellowship: brother, companion in labor, fellow soldier, messenger, and minister? _____

2. How would you describe and apply the example of the life of Christ as profiled by Paul (in 2: 5-11), to your life and ministry as a true follower of Jesus Christ? _____

3. In the same way, how would you describe and apply the example of Paul to your life and ministry? _____

4. How would you apply the example of Timothy to your life and ministry? _____

5. How would you apply the example of the old man, Epaphroditus, to your life and ministry? _____

6. What is Paul's rule for finding God's will for his life? _____

7. In Philippians chapter 3, Paul shows a single-minded commitment to the purpose of his salvation. Explain how you are aware of and committed to the present purpose of your salvation.

Prescription for Peace

Chapter 9

Audio Lesson: New Testament #63



Objective: To understand the conditions for the peace of God.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

– Philippians 4:6-8

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

– Isaiah 26:3

In Philippians 4, Paul gave practical advice – his prescription for Christian living – which centered on peace. Paul was talking about the peace of God, a state of peace in which God can keep us if we meet the conditions that He sets forth. Paul described twelve conditions for us to experience the peace of God in our lives.

First, do not worry about anything. Even though Paul was in prison, he could still urge us not to worry. Second, pray about everything. Third, think about good things. Control your thoughts instead of letting them control you. Fourth, Paul encouraged the Philippians to do the things they had learned from him. He said to do what they know and believe to be right.

The fifth condition for the peace of God was, do not question the value of the good you have done. Our good works may not be rewarded in this life but they will be in heaven. Sixth, be thankful. Paul had the choice to grieve over what he did not have or to thank God for what he did have, such as communion with Christ. We have that choice too. Seventh, be gentle. Accepting our circumstances as the will of God instead of fighting against them brings peace.

The eighth condition for the peace of God is to be patient. We have to learn to wait on the Lord. Ninth, remember the nearness of your Lord. The Lord always stands by us, even when others desert us. Tenth, find your joy in knowing Christ and growing closer to Him. Eleventh, value the approval of God, far above that of others. Twelfth, rest your hearts and minds in Christ, knowing that He can do what you cannot do.

1. True or **False**? Jesus came to bring world peace as well as our salvation.
2. True or **False**? In Luke 2, when Jesus was born, the angels promised peace to all mankind.



3. **True** or False? The peace of God requires believers to do certain things.
4. True or **False**? Isaiah 26:3 promises the peace of God to all.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why do you think Paul wrote that we should not worry? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Worry takes our focus off of God.**
 - b. Worry robs us of the peace of God.**
 - c. Worrying can change our circumstances.
 - d. Jesus told us not to worry.**
6. Why should we pray instead of worry? (Choose all that apply)
- a. God commanded us to pray.
 - b. Prayer can remind us that God is in control.
 - c. We can ask God for the grace to live through and glorify Him in our circumstances.
 - d. All of the above.**
7. Why is being thankful so important? (Choose all that apply)
- a. It gives us a chance to boast to others.
 - b. It helps us take our thoughts off the negative and puts them on the positive.**
 - c. It reminds us of God's faithfulness to us.**
 - d. It reminds us of what we do not have.
8. What are some things you can be thankful for even in difficult circumstances? (Choose all that apply)
- a. The love of God and the gift of salvation
 - b. The blessings and faithfulness of God
 - c. The promise that the Lord will never leave you
 - d. All of the above**

9. How can our thoughts help us have the peace of God? (Choose all that apply)

- a. **We can think about good things.**
- b. **We can think about Jesus.**
- c. **We can remember God's faithfulness to us in the past.**
- d. We can focus on how we can change our circumstances.

10. We often are tempted to do what is easy instead of what is right. Why does doing the right thing bring us peace? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Doing the easy thing always makes life better.
- b. **Doing the right thing draws us closer to Him.**
- c. **Doing right helps build our faith as we trust Him to take care of us.**
- d. **Doing the right thing honors God.**



Reread Philippians 4:6-8. Write down the things that are worrying you. Pray for each of them now, and ask for God's peace to fill your life. Ask Him to forgive you for not trusting Him and worrying. Ask Him to help you keep your mind focused on Him and to help you trust in Him. (Isaiah 26:3)

Why should we delight in the Lord? Why should our joy come first from just knowing Christ? What does your joy depend on?



Thank God for the gift of peace. Ask Him to forgive you for worrying. Ask Him to help you keep your mind focused on Him and to help you trust in Him. (Isaiah 26:3) Thank Him for all that He has given you. Ask Him to help you put into practice these conditions for peace.



Going Deeper

1. Since this “peace of God” is a state in which God can keep us continuously and it is very conditional, how do you apply each one of the twelve conditions for that peace, which could be called “A Prescription for Peace,” taught by Paul in this great chapter? _____

2. Explain which of these conditions is the hardest one for you to meet. _____

3. In the same way, which of these conditions brought you the most fruitful experience of the peace of God, when you met that condition? _____

4. What would it be like if you memorized these 12 conditions and then prayed through them every night before going to bed? _____

5. Describe how you think that pondering the eight positive things that Paul mentions (in verse 8) would contribute to your personal state of the peace of God. _____

6. How could you relate this experience to the peace of God profiled by the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 26:3? _____

7. I challenge you to memorize and live with these 12 conditions for peace for one month and see what it contributes to your personal experience of the state of peace described as “the peace of God.” What are some of the ways you think your life will change as a result? _____

Christ First

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: New Testament #64



Objective: To understand the background and content of Colossians.



The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.

--Colossians 1:15-18

The church in Colossae was a satellite church of the mother church in Ephesus. Paul had never visited this church, but he knew some of the people there, including Epaphras, the pastor. Paul might have even taught Epaphras in his seminary in Ephesus, and the young pastor later asked Paul for help in dealing with the issues at his church.

The theme of the letter is the Christ of the Church. It focuses on the person of Jesus Christ as the head of the Church. It emphasizes the deity and sufficiency of Christ. Paul dealt with three problems: an intellectual or philosophical attack on the faith; legalism; and an interest in psychic phenomena.

In chapter 1, Paul started with a blessing, as he did in other letters. He focused on Who Christ is, presenting Him in a way to answer intellectual attacks. He also wrote about what Christ has done and how to take hold of what Christ has done for us. At the end of the chapter, Paul stated his mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ.

In chapter 2, Paul addressed the legalists by saying that when we have Christ, we have everything. We do not need to do anything for our salvation. In chapter 3, Paul told the Colossians how to live in Christ. In chapter 4, Paul exhorted his readers to prayer. He showed the importance of prayer by his own example.

1. **True** or False? Paul wrote this epistle from prison in Rome.
2. True or **False**? Colossians is just a repeat of Ephesians.
3. True or **False**? Anything belonging to the spiritual realm is of God or the Holy Spirit.
4. True or **False**? Christ is so humble that He would never require us to put Him first in our lives.



5. **True** or False? The epistles in the New Testament are like the prophets in the Old Testament because they deal with problems blocking the work of God until they are removed.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. Paul was a prayer warrior. Who did he pray for?

- a. The sick
- b. The poor
- c. The lonely
- d. The born again**

7. When Paul prayed for the faithful believers in chapter 1, what did he pray for? (Choose all that apply)

- a. That nothing bad would ever happen to them
- b. That they would have knowledge of God's will for their lives**
- c. That they would have wisdom and understanding from the Spirit**
- d. That they would be prosperous and healthy

8. In chapter 1, what did Paul say is our hope of glory?

- a. Being successful
- b. Being famous
- c. Having Christ in us**
- d. Getting into heaven

9. At the end of chapter 1, what did Paul say was his mission?

- a. Proclaiming Christ and teaching others about Him**
- b. Learning more about false teaching
- c. Becoming a better speaker
- d. Becoming the best tentmaker so he could support himself

10. Paul focused on the deity and supremacy of Christ. Which of the following problems did he refute? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Legalism**
- b. Animal worship
- c. Intellectual attack against the deity of Jesus**
- d. Interest in the spirit world or psychic phenomenon**



In Colossians 3:12, Paul wrote, “*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*” What are you wearing? What do you need to take off? And what must you put on?

Does Christ reign supreme in your heart and mind? If not, what can you do to put Him first in your life?



Thank God for Paul’s letters of instruction and encouragement to believers, written even while he was suffering in prison. Ask God to help you learn how to answer questions about your faith, and ask Him to protect your faith from attack. Thank God that Christ is supreme over all. Ask Him to help you bring Him glory in all that you do, and thank Him for living in you.



Going Deeper

1. How do you relate to and apply to your church the problems that were being experienced in the Church at Colossae: those who wanted to challenge the deity of Jesus Christ, those wanting bring legalism into the church, and those who made themselves vulnerable to the negative spiritual forces of this world? _____

2. How do you apply the reality that the pastor of the church at Colossae had someone like Paul whom he could seek out when he was overwhelmed with the problems in his church? _____

3. As we learned in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, this great apostle had the inspired ability to turn problems into masterpiece-inspired solutions. How do you apply Paul's masterpiece statement about Who Jesus Christ is to those in your church who continuously challenge Who He is? (Colossians 1:15-18) _____

4. How do you apply the great statements of this apostle about what Jesus Christ has done? (Consider verses 13-14 and 22-23 of chapter 1) _____

5. How do you apply his statement in 2:6-7 about how to relate to Jesus Christ? _____

6. How do you teach and apply to the legalists in your church the teaching of Paul in 2:9-12 regarding circumcision? _____

7. Just as the apostles asked Jesus to teach them about prayer (in Luke 11), what does the Paul teach us about prayer by his example and by his prayers in this letter, and in his letter to the Ephesians? _____

The Blessed Hope

Chapter 11

Audio Lesson: New Testament #65



Objective: To understand the background and content of 1 Thessalonians.



For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

– 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The theme of 1 Thessalonians is Christ's Second Coming. In Acts 17, we learn about the founding of this church. Paul planted the church in Thessalonica in only three weeks. For three Sabbaths, Paul preached the Gospel in the synagogue, and some Jews and Greek men and women believed. Other Jews became jealous and persecuted Paul, so he had to escape the city.

In chapter 1, Paul wrote about three great qualities these young believers had: hope, faith, and love. He said that their work showed faith, their labor was prompted by love, and their hope gave them endurance (1:3). They were an example for others in Greece. In chapter 2, Paul reminded them of his ministry to them, to show that their spiritual prosperity was his priority. In chapter 3, Paul wrote about Timothy's encouraging report about them. In chapters 4 and 5, Paul gave practical advice about living in Christ in light of His Second Coming.

Paul tells us about the Rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ. The Jews were persecuting the Thessalonians, some of whom had even been martyred. The believers had many questions, especially about Christ's Second Coming. Paul comforted and assured them that Christ was alive and well and that He will come again for His people. He will come in the clouds for His Church, and the martyrs and those who have died will rise first. We do not know when the Rapture will take place, but we do know that Jesus is coming back someday, just as He promised. We are to be involved in a labor of love for Him while we watch and wait for His return.

1. **True** or False? The most famous words of 1 Thessalonians are "the dead in Christ will rise first."

2. **True** or False? Paul wrote this letter on his second missionary journey.

3. True or **False**? The prophets did not predict Christ's Second Coming.

4. True or **False**? Since we know that Christ is coming back, we should focus all our energy on watching and waiting instead of working.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. In the beginning of this letter, Paul commends the Thessalonians on three great qualities, including hope. What is hope for Christians? (Choose all that apply)
- a. The assurance of salvation and eternal life with the Lord**
 - b. The conviction that there is good in this life and we will experience it**
 - c. The belief that if you are a good person you will get into heaven
 - d. The certainty that we will never suffer or be sick
6. Why do you think the Thessalonians were so interested in Christ's Second Coming? (Choose all that apply)
- a. They were being persecuted.**
 - b. They wanted to quit their jobs so they could watch for Him.
 - c. They wanted to know what would happen to their loved ones who had been martyred.**
 - d. They wanted to be free to sin until He came back.
7. What are some characteristics of Paul's ministry to the church in Thessalonica? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Shared the hope of the Gospel boldly**
 - b. Did not try to please God but to please men
 - c. Was not a burden to them**
 - d. Treated them as his own children**

8. In 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Paul says, *“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”* What do you think he means? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Keep quiet about your faith.
- b. The best jobs involve working with your hands.
- c. Earn your own living.**
- d. Win the respect of non-Christians by the way you live.**

9. What does 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 tell us about Christ’s Second Coming? (Choose all that apply)

- a. We should not tell nonbelievers that He is coming back.
- b. Jesus will raise to life those who have died in Christ.**
- c. The Lord will come down from heaven with a loud command.**
- d. Believers will be with the Lord forever.**



Paul wrote that the Thessalonians had become a model to other believers. Think about your own life. Could Paul say the same about you? Why or why not?

Are you waiting with anticipation for Jesus to come again? Why or why not?

Are you serving the Lord with love and a holy life? What can you do to serve Him better?



Praise God for the gift of salvation through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Thank Him for the assurance that Christ is coming again. Ask God to help you serve Him faithfully while you wait with expectation for His return. Ask God to show you how to honor Him with a holy life so that others will want to know Him too.



Going Deeper

1. How do you explain and apply the miraculous reality that a dynamic church was established in Thessalonica in less than one month? _____

2. How do you personally apply the reality that Paul taught these new believers so much about the Second Coming? _____

3. How do you personally apply the teaching of Paul that the Second Coming is the only hope for the world and the blessed hope of the church? _____

4. How do you relate to and apply the reality that the Second Coming is, in a special way, the blessed hope of the persecuted Church of Jesus Christ? _____

5. How do you personally relate the teachings in 4: 13-18 to the discourse of Jesus in Matthew 24 and 25? _____

6. How do you personally apply the fact that all the major passages on the Second Coming have very practical applications? _____

7. Find and apply 20 commandments Paul gives this church in chapter 5 in light of the Second Coming. _____

The Chronology of His Coming

Chapter 12

Audio Lesson: New Testament #66



Objective: To understand Paul's description of Christ's Second Coming in 1 and 2 Thessalonians and his practical advice on how to live until Christ returns.



Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:13-22

As with 1 Thessalonians, the theme of 2 Thessalonians is Christ's Second Coming. Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians a few months after he wrote the first letter. His purpose for writing this letter was to continue to answer their questions and to refute the false report that the Day of the Lord had already come. Chapters 1 and 3 are similar to Paul's first letter to them, but chapter 2 is the key to this letter.

In chapter 2, Paul makes a distinction between two events: the Second Coming and the Day of the Lord. The Second Coming will be the Rapture, which Paul described in 1 Thessalonians 4. The Rapture is when the Church, all of the followers of Jesus Christ, will be taken out of this world to be with Jesus Christ.

The Day of the Lord, mentioned in Joel, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and 2 Peter, will be a cataclysmic judgment of the earth, during which God will wipe out the earth. That day cannot come until lawlessness or sin is allowed free rein over the earth for a season. Right now, the power of Christ is restraining the full power of sin in this world, but when that day comes, people will completely follow their sinful impulses. It will be a terrible time. The Antichrist will rise to power and will represent himself as the real Christ, warring against God and all who love and follow Jesus.

Many people believe that the Church will be raptured before the seven years of the Great Tribulation, because 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 says that God has not chosen to pour His anger out on us. Through the Rapture, God will rescue His people and then pour out His wrath on the unbelieving world that remains. If you know Jesus as your Savior, Paul's words bring comfort and hope. We are to live in Christ while we wait for Him to come back. Paul gave some practical commands in light of Christ's return, such as: respect your spiritual leaders; encourage and help one another; be patient and kind with others; be joyful always; and pray continually.



1. True or **False**? The chronology or timeline of the events of the Second Coming is clearly laid out in scripture.
2. **True** or False? Jesus said that even the Son of Man, referring to Himself, did not know the date or time of His Second Coming.
3. **True** or False? Our outlook and purpose in life are greatly affected by how we view the Second Coming of Christ.
4. **True** or False? Some people in Paul's day said that the Second Coming had already taken place.
5. **True** or False? Satan and the power of sin are restrained by the power of the Holy Spirit living in the hearts of His people.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. When you think about the Rapture, what is your reaction? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Fear
 - b. Excitement**
 - c. Doubt
 - d. Comfort**

7. If Christians lived as though they believe that Christ is coming again soon, what would their lives look like to others? (Choose all that apply)

- a. They would share their faith boldly.**
- b. They would think about and pray for His return.**
- c. They would not worry about God's commands.
- d. They would strive to live more holy lives.**

8. Paul wrote that we are to hold our pastors and other leaders "in the highest regard in love because of their work." What are some ways we can support our leaders? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Criticize them publicly
- b. Pray for them**
- c. Encourage them with our words**
- d. Support them financially**

9. Paul said to pray continually. What do you think he meant by that?

- a. Only pastors need to pray all the time.
- b. Quit your job so you can devote your day to prayer.
- c. Keep your job but pray instead of working.
- d. Have an attitude of prayer all day long.**

10. Why did Paul tell us to give thanks in all circumstances?

- a. He was exaggerating.
- b. He knew that giving thanks is crucial to experience the peace of God.**
- c. He really meant for us to give thanks only when good things happen.
- d. He knew that giving thanks for bad things makes them good.



What are some commands to follow as we wait for Christ to come back? Which ones do you need to follow?

What do you think it means to quench the Holy Spirit or put out His fire? Have you ever done that? How can you avoid quenching the Holy Spirit?



Praise God that Jesus is coming back for His followers. Ask Him to help you overcome any doubt or disbelief you have about His Second Coming. Thank God that, because of His gift of salvation, you will live with Him forever, no matter what. Ask God to help you share your faith with those who do not believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ask Him to help you live in Christ while you wait for His return, so that others will see Jesus in you.



Going Deeper

1. How are you able to make the personal applications that bring comfort to you as you read 2 Thessalonians chapter 2? _____

2. How do you apply the teaching in this second chapter that the Holy Spirit is restraining evil at this time? _____

3. How do you personally apply the teaching in this chapter that the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit is going to be removed? _____

4. What will the world be like when this restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is removed? _____

5. Describe what this world will be like when all the salt influence of the believers is removed. _____

6. In your opinion, in what ways is the historical context being set for the coming of the antichrist? _____

7. How do you relate to and apply the teaching about the great tribulation here in chapter 2 and in Matthew 24? _____

The Blueprints for Church Order

Chapter 13

Audio Lesson: New Testament #67



Objective: To introduce 1 Timothy and understand its theme of how the Church was designed by God to function.



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 3:14-15

So far, our study has followed the order of Paul's letters as presented in the Bible, but now, as we look at the last of Paul's epistles, we will go in chronological order. Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus at the same time, so we'll study those first. Then we will study Philemon, and finally we will look at 2 Timothy, the last words of Paul before he died.

Paul had trained Timothy and Titus as pastors, and his letters to these two men are called the Pastoral Epistles. Timothy was a pastor of the church at Ephesus. Timothy was young, timid, and sensitive, so he may have struggled with being bold for Christ and in his pastoral duties. In Philippians, Paul held him up as an example to follow, because he was filled with love. Paul and Timothy had a relationship like father and son, which serves as a model for senior and junior pastors. Titus, on the other hand, was a much older man, a strong man that Paul could trust with a difficult assignment. Paul had sent Titus to the hostile island of Crete.

Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy after his first Roman imprisonment, described in Acts. The purpose of the epistle was to teach pastors how to lead the church of God, "the pillar and foundation of the truth." He emphasized the character of the men who lead the church. The church's primary responsibility is to be a base of operations, out from which the truth goes, with each member being involved in reaching the unreached, in sharing the Good News of hope to the hopeless.

Here Paul shares wonderful personal testimony when he says that he was the worst of sinners because he had persecuted the church. Paul's point was that if God could save him, God can save anyone. Paul also emphasized the priority of prayer in ministry.

1. True or **False**? Timothy was a mature believer who boldly shared his faith with everyone.



2. True or **False**? Paul and Titus had a strong father/son relationship.
3. **True** or False? The letters to Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles.
4. True or **False**? Timothy was a first generation Christian, the first in his family to believe in Jesus Christ.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul write to young Timothy? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. To help him understand philosophy
 - b. To encourage him to be bold**
 - c. To instruct him how the church is to operate and function.**
 - d. To emphasize to him the character church leaders are to have.**
6. What made Paul and Timothy's relationship a good model for pastors today?
 - a. A good seminary education is all a pastor needs.
 - b. Paul needed a good friend.
 - c. Paul considered Timothy his apprentice and continued to teach him.**
 - d. Paul criticized Timothy whenever he failed.
7. What is the purpose of the Church? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. To provide great and entertaining music
 - b. To be the pillar and foundation of the truth**
 - c. To teach believers so they can go out and share their faith**
 - d. To provide a place to make friends

8. Why did Paul call himself the worst of sinners?
 - a. He was humble.
 - b. He liked to exaggerate.
 - c. He had persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ.**
 - d. He was a very bad criminal.

9. Which characteristic does Paul say the leaders of the Church should have?
 - a. They should be highly educated.
 - b. They should be influential people in society.
 - c. They should be strong followers of Christ.**
 - d. They should be old and wise men.

10. In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, what is the first priority of the Church?
 - a. Petitions, prayer, intercessions and thanksgiving**
 - b. Build a beautiful building
 - c. Take care of widows and orphans
 - d. Select elders and deacons

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:13-16



Paul said that he was the worst sinner, yet God forgave him and used him to reach countless lives for Christ. Do you believe that your sins are unforgiveable? Have you asked Jesus to save you from your sins? If you ask Him, He will forgive your sins and purify you from all unrighteousness and give you eternal life with Him. Why not ask Him now?

Paul says the most important thing a believer can do is to pray, and then he shares four kinds of prayer: petitions, prayers, intercessions, and prayers of thanksgiving. What are your personal petitions? What do you need to talk to God about? Who do you need to intercede for? What and who do you need to thank Him for?



Praise God for the examples of Paul, Timothy, and Titus. Thank God for His Church, and ask God to strengthen it. Thank God for your local church. Ask Him to help your church to fulfill its purpose as the pillar and foundation of the truth. Ask God to help your pastor to be the best leader he can be. Thank God for saving you and for the ability to study His Word.



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally identify with and apply the personality profile of Timothy—timid, loving, sensitive and young? _____

2. How do you personally identify with and apply the personality profile of Titus? _____

3. What is your personal application of the way Paul describes himself in 1:15 as the greatest sinner in the world? _____

4. How do you apply what Paul writes in 3:15 about the church being the base out from which the Gospel or the truth is to be proclaimed? (Relate that to the job description of every pastor in Ephesians 4:12.) _____

5. How do you personally apply what Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1 about prayer being the first priority when the church meets together? _____

6. How do you personally apply the instruction of Paul in 2: 3-4 that the church should pray for all men because God wills that all men might be saved? _____

7. How does the instruction of Paul in 3:15 state the purpose of this letter and show us how it is to be used in all churches? _____

Godly Oversight and Godly Overseers

Chapter 14

Audio Lesson: New Testament #68



Objective: To understand God's qualifications for church leadership.



For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

– 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

– 1 Timothy 3:1

First Timothy is a pastoral epistle in which Paul detailed the purpose and priorities of the Church. Paul explained principles that are not affected by culture and should apply everywhere in all generations of the church. Paul presents the truth of the Gospel for the Church when he declares that there is only one God, not many, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.

For example, the verses that we read in 1 Timothy 2:9-12 make Paul unpopular with many women today. Paul was not saying that women cannot minister. But he was repeating something that he often said: There is a divine order in which Christ oversees the church, a man should oversee his wife and family, and men should oversee the local church. The Bible gives men and women absolute equality, but it assigns them different roles. God's Word clearly gives men the responsibility to be the leader of the home and in the church. So, a woman can perform any ministry in the local church *as long as* she is under the authority of the male elders of the church.

In chapter 3, Paul gave a long list of qualifications and responsibilities for elders and deacons. The elders have the spiritual responsibilities and the deacons are to take care of the practical areas of the church. Very strict standards are given for the elders and deacons, and even for their wives. Some of these standards include being faithful, being able to teach, not being given to drunkenness, not being violent but gentle, not being quarrelsome, not being lovers of money, being able to manage their family well, and having a good reputation in the community.

In chapter 4, Paul wrote about *apostasy* — when people leave the faith and follow deceiving spirits. Not everything that is spiritual is of the Holy Spirit. Some people are seeking a spiritual experience instead of seeking God, and they open themselves up to dangerous spirits. Paul reminded Timothy that the teaching of the church should be based on Scripture, and training in godliness is even more valuable than physical training. In chapter 5, Paul explained how to relate

to older men, younger men, younger women, older women, and widows as if they were family. He also urged the church to guard the reputations of its leaders.



1. **True** or False? 1 Timothy was written for elders of the church.
2. True or **False**? Paul teaches that, as long as people sincerely believe something, they will be saved.
3. **True** or False? Scripture says that men and women are equal, but they have different roles.
4. **True** or False? Paul taught that church leaders are to be held to a higher standard than members.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul not want women in leadership over men? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **Men are responsible for shepherding in the home and the church.**
 - b. **It goes against God's model for the roles of men and women.**
 - c. Paul did not like women.
 - d. Women were inferior.
6. What are some of the qualifications for an elder? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **Husband of one wife**
 - b. Wealthy and from a good family
 - c. Well-educated
 - d. **Good reputation even with non-Christians**
7. Why did the apostles decide that the Church needed deacons? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. They did not want to work so hard.
 - b. **Some widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.**
 - c. **The apostles needed to focus on prayer and the teaching of Word of God.**
 - d. Some men in the church wanted a position of honor.

8. What are some qualifications for a deacon? (Choose all that apply)
- a. **Worthy of respect**
 - b. **Sincere**
 - c. **Not given to drunkenness**
 - d. An excellent preacher
9. Why are the qualifications for elders and deacons and their wives so important?
- a. **The health of a church depends on godly leadership.**
 - b. Anyone who wants to be an elder or deacon should be allowed to become one.
 - c. They need to be popular with the community.
 - d. The qualifications can be relaxed if necessary to find someone to fill the roles.
10. As in the days of Paul, there are many deceiving spirits today. What did Paul teach should be the standard?
- a. All spiritual experiences are to be respected.
 - b. **All spiritual experiences are to be judged according to the truth of Scripture.**
 - c. All spiritual experiences are to be judged by church elders.
 - d. There should be no spiritual experiences in the church.
11. According to Paul, how are we to treat others in the church?
- a. Like members of a special club
 - b. Like royalty
 - c. **Like family**
 - d. Like neighbors



Being a leader in the church means great responsibility and hard work. What are some ways that you can support and encourage the leaders in your local church?



Praise God for the leaders in your church. Thank God for the leadership standards that He requires because they help promote an effective church. Ask God to help the leaders of your church to live godly lives, so they can be good examples for Him. Ask God to help those who preach to watch their doctrine closely, so that the people will not be led astray. Thank God, if He has put you in a leadership role, and ask Him for the strength to honor Him in that role.



Going Deeper

1. Why did Paul command such high standards for the elders and deacons who were going to lead the churches started by Timothy? _____

2. How would you describe and apply the differences between an elder and a deacon? _____

3. Locate and apply all the faithful sayings of Paul to Timothy in this first letter to him. _____

4. Why was Paul so emphatic in chapter 5 about the importance of the discipline that Timothy was to enforce when a pastor had a moral failure? _____

5. How do you apply the exhortation of Paul (in 4:7, 8), that we are to exercise ourselves in godliness as well as in physical exercise because exercise in godliness is profitable for this world and the next? _____

6. How do you apply the teaching of Paul in chapter 6 that we are not to be getting our values from the culture but from the Scripture? _____

7. How do you personally apply the solemn charge Paul gives Timothy (in 6:4-12) that a spiritual leader is to flee materialistic gain and pursue godliness? _____

The Church of the Three Epiphanies

Chapter 15

Audio Lesson: New Testament #69



Objective: To understand the last part of Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy and to introduce Titus.



But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

– 1 Timothy 6:6-8

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

– Titus 2:11-14

Many of the first believers were slaves, and Paul gives instruction to slaves and to employees to not be lazy, but to be good workers. We should work and serve as if we are serving Jesus Christ Himself. We are to be rich in good works and always give happily to those who are in need.

In 1 Timothy and in Titus, Paul's primary concern was the character of the men who lead the church. He also gave a warning against materialism. Some people base their worth on achievements, but achievements do not bring peace, happiness, or contentment. But godliness with contentment is great gain, Paul wrote. Paul told Timothy to pursue what lasts: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. He urged Timothy to guard the truth which had been entrusted to him.

Paul's letter to Titus was also a pastoral epistle. Titus was an older, more mature, stable man who could be trusted with difficult assignments, including being pastor to the people on the island of Crete. Titus was probably the best pastor that Paul knew. Paul's letter to him is not as personal as 1 Timothy is, but it contains similar instructions about godly overseers in the church. The theme of Titus is to adorn doctrine with a godly witness.

Paul wrote to Titus that we are to say no to ungodliness and to live godly lives while we wait for Jesus to appear again. The Greek word for appearance is “epiphany.” When Jesus came to earth as the incarnation of God, that event was the first epiphany. When He comes back, that will be the second epiphany. The Church exists as a “peculiar” or special or unique people between the two epiphanies, or the two appearances of Jesus. A third epiphany comes through believers, because Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit. In this key passage of Titus, Paul wrote about how the church is to behave between the epiphanies.



1. True or **False**? Being rich is a sin.
2. True or **False**? Paul was concerned that Timothy was drinking too much wine.
3. True or **False**? The letter to Titus is very different from 1 Timothy.
4. **True** or False? Paul taught that godly supervision leads to godly overseers.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What does Paul mean when he talks about godliness and gain? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **Godliness with contentment is better than all the wealth in the world.**
 - b. Whatever wealth or achievements we have in this life will not last in eternity.
 - c. **We can be content with basic necessities.**
 - d. Money is the root of all evil.
6. What is the main difference between Paul's letters to Titus and to Timothy?
 - a. Titus does not include standards for elders.
 - b. Titus focuses on wealthy people.
 - c. **First Timothy is much more personal.**
 - d. Titus does not mention godliness at all.
7. Paul had Titus travel to Corinth twice to deliver each of his two letters to the church there. Why was that a difficult assignment? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. **Titus did not want to go to Corinth.**
 - b. **The letters contained bold instruction to the Corinthians to turn away from sin.**
 - c. **The city of Corinth was not hospitable.**
 - d. Titus did not like to travel.

8. Why would being the pastor of the church on the island of Crete be difficult for Titus or for any other pastor? (Choose all that apply)

- a. The island had a desolate landscape.
- b. The climate was extreme.
- c. The Cretans were known to be fierce, lazy, and dishonest.**
- d. The Cretans did not pay their pastors well.**

9. What is the church supposed to be doing? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Resisting ungodliness and worldly passions.**
- b. Getting more people to come to church.
- c. Living holy, godly lives.**
- d. Not talking about or telling others about the return of Jesus Christ.

10. What did Paul mean by a “peculiar” people?

- a. Followers of Christ are strange.
- b. There are no other people on earth like followers of Christ.
- c. Followers of Christ belong to God.
- d. Followers of Christ are to be different from the world.**



Paul instructed in both I Timothy and Titus that those who claim to follow Christ are not to be lazy, but to be honest hard workers, working as if we were working for Jesus Christ Himself. How is your work? Would others say you are an honest and good worker? If not, what can you do to be a better testimony of a follower of Christ?

Do you think that the non-Christians you know consider you peculiar? Do they know by the way you live that you belong to God? If not, what do you need to do for them to see Christ in you?



Thank God for the practical, detailed instruction that Paul gives in these letters to Timothy and Titus. Ask God to help you to be content whatever your circumstances. Thank God for His grace that brings salvation, and for the godly leaders He has given the Church. Ask Him to help you to live a godly life that will be a good testimony to all.



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply the solemn exhortation of Paul (in Titus 2: 11-14) to your own life and ministry as a devout follower of Jesus Christ? _____

2. According to this passage, why did Jesus Christ redeem us? _____

3. How do you relate and apply this same passage to the emphasis of Paul throughout his letter to Titus on the importance of our adorning what we believe with good works? _____

4. Why is this principle so critically important when planting a church in such a difficult place as Crete? _____

5. How do you personally apply the teaching of Paul in Titus 2, that we are to be a unique one-of-a-kind (some translations say *peculiar*) people, through whom God can appear to this world between the appearances of God at the birth and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____

6. How do you personally apply the two things we are told we must deny and the three ways we are to live in this world if we're going to be that third appearance of God to this world? _____

7. How do you personally apply the emphasis in this letter to Titus that godly oversight must mean godly overseers? _____

The Relationships of a Runaway

Chapter 16

Audio Lesson: New Testament #70



Objective: To introduce and discuss Paul's letter to Philemon about a runaway



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

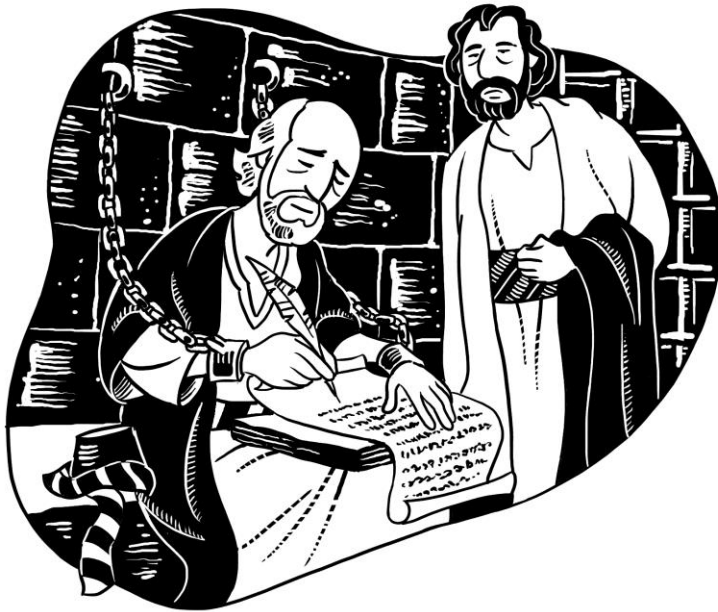
— Philemon 3-6

Our study has moved ahead to Philemon, because we are going to end with 2 Timothy, the last words of Paul. This letter is a short prison epistle addressed to a wealthy Gentile in Colossae named Philemon. His slave named Onesimus had stolen some money and had run away. Onesimus had met Paul in prison where Paul led him to the Lord. Part of Onesimus' repentance was to return to Philemon, so Paul wrote this letter and sent it with Onesimus to Philemon.

Paul's diplomacy and tact shine through in this letter. He addressed it to Philemon, his wife, his son, and the church that met in his home. He appealed to Philemon on the basis of love. He told Philemon that Onesimus was now Paul's son in the faith, as Philemon was, and he asked him to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ. He asked Philemon to receive and to welcome him as he would receive Paul. Paul would pay Philemon whatever the slave took from him, and then Paul reminded Philemon that he owed his soul to Paul, since Paul had led him to Christ. He was confident that Philemon would do even more than Paul asked.

The message at the heart of this letter is that Jesus Christ changes people, and then He changes their relationships with each other. Jesus changed Paul from a Pharisee who persecuted Christians to a believer who would consider Gentiles like Philemon and slaves like Onesimus his brothers.

1. True or **False**? The theme of this letter is that Jesus Christ changes people but not their relationships.
2. True or **False**? Philemon was a wealthy Jew in Colossae who had been telling Christians that they must be circumcised.
3. **True** or False? The name Onesimus means "profitable one".
4. **True** or False? God had changed Onesimus' life.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why did Paul write this letter to Philemon? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Philemon's runaway slave had become a Christian because of Paul.
 - b. Onesimus needed to return to Philemon because he had stolen some money and had run away.
 - c. Paul wanted to persuade Philemon to forgive and welcome Onesimus as a Christian brother.
 - d. Paul thought of Philemon and Onesimus as his sons.
 - e. All of the above**

6. What does the message of Philemon mean to us today?
 - a. It does not apply to us today.
 - b. We should be kind to those who steal from us.
 - c. Jesus Christ changes people and all their relationships.**
 - d. We can solve problems like this today by being diplomatic.

7. Why would slave owners not want this letter to be preached? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Paul strongly urged Philemon to treat his slave as a brother in Christ and as a man.**
 - b. Slave owners would not care if this letter was preached because it does not apply to them.
 - c. Slave owners do not think of slaves as human beings but rather, as property.**
 - d. They would not want to be made to feel bad about having slaves.**

8. How did Paul approach the topic of Onesimus with Philemon?
- a. He ordered Philemon to do the right thing.
 - b. He appealed to Philemon on the basis of love.**
 - c. He advised him to make Onesimus work until he could pay back what he stole.
 - d. He warned Philemon that Onesimus might be dangerous.
9. Why did Paul care so much for Onesimus?
- a. Onesimus promised he would come back and visit Paul in prison.
 - b. Paul had led him to the Lord.**
 - c. Paul wanted a share of whatever Onesimus owed Philemon.
 - d. Onesimus was Jewish too.
10. Paul offered to pay back whatever Onesimus stole from Philemon. Does this example of substitutionary atonement remind you of someone else in the Bible?
- a. David offered a sheep to God because of his runaway slave.
 - b. The innkeeper offered a sheep to the Good Samaritan.
 - c. Abraham paid back what Lot stole from Isaac.
 - d. Jesus gave His life on the cross to pay for our sins and shame.**



Paul says that Philemon owes Paul himself. *Self* means that which makes us different and unique from every other person. There is a sense that we cannot be the *self* that God intended us to be until we are born again. Are you the person God wants you to be? If not, come in faith to God and ask Him to make you and guide you to become the *self* that He wants you to be.

Do you know Jesus as your Savior? How has He changed you? How has He changed your relationships with other people? Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to be reconciled to?



Praise God that He redeemed you and gives you eternal life with Him in heaven. Thank Him that Jesus paid the debt that you owe because of your sin. Thank Him for changing Paul from a Pharisee who persecuted Christians to a devoted follower of Christ whose letters still teach us today. Ask God to strengthen your relationships with others as He grows you to be more like Him.



Going Deeper

1. How did Christ change Paul and his relationship with a Gentile like Philemon and a slave like Onesimus? _____

2. How did Christ change Onesimus and his relationship to an ex-Pharisee like Paul? _____

3. How did Paul want Philemon to trust Christ to change his relationship to the slave Onesimus, as the master from whom he had stolen and run away? _____

4. How do you personally apply the beautiful reality that Christ changes people and their relationships? _____

5. Describe how Christ has changed you and all of your relationships to the people you meet in this world. _____

6. Describe the impact this dynamic letter would have had on the abolition of slavery through men like Wilberforce in England. _____

7. Why did Paul not advocate the abolition of slavery in his New Testament Churches, but rather, he told slaves who were disciples of Jesus Christ to obey their masters as if they were serving the Lord? _____

The Last Words of An Old Soldier

Chapter 17

Audio Lesson: New Testament #71



Objective: To introduce 2 Timothy, Paul's final instructions to Timothy and to us.



For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

– 2 Timothy 1:7-9

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

– 2 Timothy 1:11-12

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

– 2 Timothy 2:22

The epistle of 2 Timothy was Paul's last written word. Church history tells us that after Paul's first imprisonment in Rome, he went to Spain and then came back to Ephesus. When he was in Troas, Roman Emperor Nero burned the city of Rome and blamed it on the followers of Christ. This began a period of intense cruelty and persecution against Christians in the Roman Empire. Paul was among those who were imprisoned, and he knew he would not survive this imprisonment.

Paul exhorted Timothy to be ready to suffer for and to stand up for the Lord. He reminded Timothy of the Gospel to which they were called. He used three illustrations to underscore how important steadfastness, faithfulness, and hard work are in staying true to Christ. He encouraged Timothy to exert and to discipline himself as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, and who can correctly handle the truth. As in his other letters, Paul called Timothy his son, and then gave him three powerful examples: a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer.

1. True or **False**? Paul thought he would be released from prison again.
2. True or **False**? Paul died while under house arrest in Rome.
3. True or **False**? Paul wrote that, as long as he was in chains, the Gospel was in chains too.



4. True or **False**? Paul admitted that he was ashamed of Christ.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Everyone deserted Paul except for these people: (Choose all that apply)

- a. **Luke**
- b. Philip
- c. **Onesiphorus**
- d. Lydia

6. How is this prison epistle different from the others? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Timothy wrote it in Paul's honor.
- b. **Paul did not ask Timothy or the church to pray for his release.**
- c. Paul complains about his situation and how God has abandoned him.
- d. **Paul gave Timothy his last instructions.**

7. In chapter 2, what were the illustrations that Paul told Timothy to imitate? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Tentmaker
- b. **Soldier**
- c. **Athlete**
- d. **Farmer**

8. What did Paul mean when he said, "serving as a good soldier"?

- a. We should be ready to fight for our commander, Jesus Christ.
- b. **We should not become entangled with civilian life but stay focused on serving our commander.**
- c. We should attack our enemies.
- d. We should wear uniforms.

9. What was Paul teaching Timothy when he said to reflect on the farmer? (Choose all the apply)
- a. Be willing to work hard.**
 - b. Be faithful to plant the seed.**
 - c. Be careful to enjoy the good life in the country.
 - d. Be interested in only the harvest.
10. What does Paul exhort Timothy to do? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Know that God gave us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline.**
 - b. Do not be ashamed of Christ Jesus or of Paul.**
 - c. Hide out with the brothers until this persecution passes.
 - d. Join Paul in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God.**
11. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul writes, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* What does it mean to correctly handle the Word of truth?
- a. Do our best to know and live according to the truth of the Bible.**
 - b. Do our best to carry the Bible everywhere we go.
 - c. Do our best to get a good education at a Bible School.
 - d. Do our best to point out whenever someone is wrong.



If you had been in Paul’s place, do you think you would have been ashamed of the Gospel? What illustration challenges your life the most? What can you do this week to be a better “soldier,” more disciplined “athlete,” and a harder working “farmer” in serving the Lord?



Praise God that Paul was able to stay strong in his faith until the end. Praise Him for Paul’s example of courage, strength, and faith. Thank God for His final instructions to Timothy, which are important for us today. Ask God for help when you are called upon to stand strong in the faith. Ask Him to give you a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). Ask Him to help you to work hard to present yourself as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply the reality that something apparently happened to Timothy when Paul laid his hands on him, and he is to stir up that gift, or happening, as described (in 2 Timothy 1: 6, 7), knowing that God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, of love, and of a sound mind? _____

2. How do you personally apply the three examples Paul gives Timothy (in chapter 2: 3-7) of the soldier, the athlete and the farmer? _____

3. How are you personally applying the great instruction of Paul to Timothy (in 2 Timothy 2:2), which is one of the greatest teachings this world has ever heard about how to make disciples for Jesus Christ? _____

4. How do you personally apply the teaching of Paul in chapter 2 that, even when we are so weak that we deny the Lord (perhaps under torture), He will not deny us because He cannot deny Himself? _____

5. In applying Paul's instruction about pastoral counseling (in 2 Timothy 2: 23-26), what are the three fruit of the Spirit you must experience? What is the problem of the people you are counseling? What is your objective? When are they delivered from their problem? What is the one thing you must never do? _____

6. How do you personally apply the charge of Paul to Timothy to "Preach the Word," in the first two verses of chapter 4? _____

7. How do you personally apply the last words of Paul in Timothy 4:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 to your life goals and priorities? _____

What Are You Going To Do About What You Know?

Chapter 18

Audio Lesson: New Testament #72



Objective: To understand Paul's last instructions.



And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

– 2 Timothy 2:2

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

– 2 Timothy 3:16-17

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

– 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Second Timothy is Paul's last recorded words before he was executed for his faith in Christ. At the end of chapter 2, he gave instructions to Timothy and other pastors on how to counsel or help those who were opposing themselves, or living in opposition to the plan that God had for their lives. These people were not allowing God's truth to rule in their lives and had been taken captive by the devil. Jesus came to set men free. Pastors cannot deliver anyone from Satan, but they can be agents of the Holy Spirit as they speak truth to them and pray for them.

The heart of 2 Timothy is 3:10-4:5. Paul reminded Timothy of the things that he knew through their close relationship and through Paul's teaching. Verse 2:2 says that Timothy had heard Paul teach among many witnesses, and Paul exhorted him to instruct faithful men so that they could teach others. Paul urged Timothy to continue in the things he had learned and to preach the Word.

Paul told Timothy to try to visit before winter, but scholars believe he was executed sooner than expected. Timothy must have been heart-broken that he did not make it in time to see his pastor, spiritual father, and friend before Paul went to Jesus. Paul wrote that he had fought the good fight, had finished the race, and had kept the faith. He knew that he would soon be with Jesus, who would give him a crown of righteousness.

1. True or **False**? Paul wrote to Timothy because he was afraid Timothy did not know what he needed to know to keep the faith.



2. **True** or False? After this letter, Timothy never saw Paul again.
3. True or **False**? Paul urged Timothy to rely on his own wisdom when he counseled others.
4. True or **False**? Pastors can make people repent if they try hard enough.
5. **True** or False? Paul was not bitter that everyone had deserted him.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. What were Paul's instructions about counseling people who oppose themselves? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Fix all of their problems.
 - b. Do not counsel people with problems. It is too hard.
 - c. Gently instruct them in the truth.**
 - d. Pray that the Holy Spirit will deliver them from the devil's snare.**
7. What was Paul's strategy for teaching God's Word?
 - a. Teaching disciples to memorize Scripture and rituals
 - b. Training disciples to go on long mission trips
 - c. Encourage disciples to suffer in prisons
 - d. Teaching disciples so they can teach others**
8. Paul wrote that Timothy knew many things about him. What were some of those things? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. His teaching and preaching of the Gospel
 - b. His purpose and faith in the Gospel
 - c. His mission and suffering for the Gospel
 - d. All of the above**

9. Second Timothy 3:16 is a key verse. What are some of the points that Paul makes about scripture? (Choose all that apply)

- a. It is all inspired by God.**
- b. It is useful to teach and train.**
- c. It is only a book filled with good advice.
- d. It equips people to do good works.**

10. What did Paul encourage Timothy to keep doing?

- a. Pastor the church in Lystra
- b. Preach the Word**
- c. Check on Philemon and Onesimus
- d. Stop complaining



At the end of Paul's life, he told Timothy that he had fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. At the end of your life, will you be able to say the same thing? What are you going to do with what you have learned?

Paul, like Moses, knew what we call the Four Spiritual Secrets: "I am not a deliverer, but God is the Deliverer." "I cannot deliver anyone, only God can deliver." "I often do not want to be a deliverer, but God wants to use me to be a deliverer." And when God delivers and saves someone, to confess: "I did not deliver anyone, but God did."

Paul challenged Timothy to keep preaching and teaching the Word, because it is not about who we are, what we can do, or even what we want to do. To know these four spiritual truths is to realize that it is all about Who God is, what God can do, and what God wants to do. When God delivers and saves, we give Him all the glory. We are happiest and most fulfilled when we are living in obedience to God. How are you going to apply these four spiritual truths to your life? What are you going to do with all you have learned during this course of study?



Praise God for Paul's example of keeping the faith even in the worst circumstances. Thank God for this study of Paul's letters. Ask God to help you teach others by your words and your examples. Ask Him to help you to put into practice all that you have learned.



Going Deeper

1. What is your personal application to the way that Timothy knows all the things Paul reminds him that he knows about him, Paul, from close personal observation? _____

2. How can you personally relate and apply this to the way Jesus chose twelve men to be with Him and then to send them out according to Mark 3: 13-14? _____

3. Relate and apply this to the impact of the Great Commission of Jesus as stated in Matthew 28: 18-20. _____

4. In some translations, the Great Commission of Jesus reads that the apostles and those they have made disciples are to teach their disciples everything Jesus commanded them to observe in their seminary year-round for three years. How long would that take and how do you apply this practice of Jesus and Paul? _____

5. In what ways are you willing to trace and apply the relationship between Paul and Timothy from the time it started in Lystra until the time when Timothy received this letter, and to let that experience challenge you to find a Timothy if you are a mature believer, and seek a Paul if you are a young believer? _____

6. How do you apply the value of Timothy being a third-generation believer and disciple of Jesus? _____

7. How has your applying these letters of Paul to Timothy impacted your life and ministry? _____
