

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (II): THE PRISON & PASTORAL EPISTLES

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” (Ephesians 6:10)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Paul’s calling greatly affected his life: he was to be an apostle to the Gentiles, and proclaim the mystery of the gospel. Paul’s imprisonment was for the “furtherance of the gospel.” Know the major themes of the prison and pastoral epistles.
<i>Knowledge of God’s Divine Nature</i>	The wisdom of God is a hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory (1 Cor 2:7). God has revealed His wisdom to us through His Spirit (1 Cor 2:10a).
<i>Good Works</i>	Put on the whole armor of God.

### A. God’s Calling and Its Effect on Paul’s Life

1. *Paul’s calling:* Although he suffered many tribulations while proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles, Paul understood that he had been called to act as a steward of God’s grace (Eph 3:2).
2. *Paul’s willingness to be imprisoned:* None could prove that Paul had committed any evil, but when standing before King Agrippa, Paul appeared to Caesar to avoid being sent to Jerusalem. As a result, he was sent to Rome around A.D. 60. There, Paul lived under house arrest for two years, chained daily to a Roman soldier (Acts 28:16, 30) until his release in A.D. 62.
3. *A cause worthy of imprisonment:* No one likes to suffer, and no one would want to be stripped of their freedoms and imprisoned. Yet Paul understood that this was part of God’s plan—through his imprisonment, the Gentiles could come to know the “unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8).

### B. The Prison Epistles

1. *Themes of the Prison Epistles*
  - a. Ephesians: Christ and the church
  - b. Philippians: Joy in Christ
  - c. Colossians: Christ is the center of our faith
  - d. Philemon: We are all equal in Christ
2. *A Sacrificial Love:* Paul understood that his imprisonment was for the “furtherance of the gospel,” and rejoiced at being able to fulfill God’s will. He exemplified what it means to offer a sacrificial love and taught us how to view life and suffering from a heavenly perspective.

### C. The Pastoral Epistles

The content of these letters differs greatly from the prison epistles. They are centered on the qualifications of church workers, such as pastors and deacons, and focus on church organization and discipline among its members.

#### Themes of the Pastoral Epistles

1. 1 Timothy: Defend the gospel
2. 2 Timothy: Preach the word
3. Titus: Set the church in order

#### Life Application: The Armor of God

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## Lesson 9

The Books in the New Testament (II):

The Prison & Pastoral Epistles

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Ephesians 6:10):

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1. What power do we use to fight spiritual battles? Where does it come from?
2. What purpose did God want to accomplish through Paul's calling?
3. Which four books are the *prison Epistles*? Why are they called this?
4. Why is it so important that the leaders of the church be sound in doctrine, speech, and conduct?
5. Why is faith in God our shield against Satan?
6. Which two pieces of armor do you lack the most? How can you work on improving them?