

YEAR 3 BOOK 4

JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



THEME:

The Pauline Epistles

Student Devotional—Watch and Pray!

"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)



Watch and pray! What a great idea! We need to begin every day asking God to help us see through Satan's crafty tactics, and to be able to discern the consequences of sin. We need to ask God to make us sensitive to sin and to hate it so that we will find a way to escape.

Request help from God in times of temptation!

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

James 3:7

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YEAR 3 BOOK 4

Unit 1: The Pauline Epistles

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The Pauline Epistles

UNIT THEME:

The Pauline Epistles

The Pauline epistles (letters) played a very important role in strengthening the early churches as well as the faith of the early Christian believers. These 13 letters can be divided into 3 categories:

A. 6 Journey Epistles

Galatians (1st missionary journey: 40-49 AD)

1 & 2 Thessalonians (2nd missionary journey: 50-59 AD)

1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans (3rd missionary journey: 50-59 AD)

B. 4 Prison Epistles (written in Rome, 60-62 AD)

Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Philemon

C. 3 Pastoral Epistles

1 Timothy (written in Macedonia 63-66 AD)

2 Timothy (written in Rome 67 AD)

Titus (written in Macedonia 63-66 AD)

In the Bible, the letters are organized not by chronological order, but by length. Longer ones are addressed to churches and shorter ones to individuals. The first letters were written within about 25 years after the Lord Jesus' death, while the last may have been written before any of the Gospels.

Personality Profile: Paul-The Apostle to the Gentiles

Also known as: Saul, his Jewish name, a member of the tribe of Benjamin, to which Paul's family belonged; but following his conversion he was known as Paul.

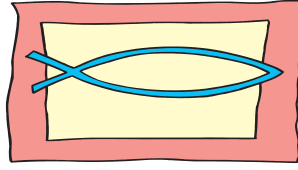
Home: Settled in Antioch of Syria (see Acts 13:1), but traveled throughout the Roman empire, with extended stays in Corinth and Ephesus.

Profession: Tentmaker by trade (Acts 18:1-3).

Life-changing experience: Saw a vision on the Damascus road, which led to his conversion and call as an apostle (Acts 9:1-32; Gal 1:1-24).

Paul at first saw himself as an important Christian leader, but then as the **"least of the apostles"** (1 Cor 15:9). Later he realized that he was of **"nothing good"** (Rom 7:18) and was **"less than the least of all the saints"** (Eph 3:8). Finally he described himself as the **"chief"** of all sinners (1 Tim 1:15).

MEMORY VERSES FOR JUNE, JULY, AUGUST



1. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" (Rom 1:16-17)
2. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor 6:19-20)
3. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor 5:17)
4. "...a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ..." (Gal 2:16)
5. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph 4:4-6)
6. "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ." (Phil 3:8)
7. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." (Col 2:6-7)
8. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess 5:23)
9. "We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith..." (2 Thess 1:11)
10. "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim 4:12)
11. "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim 2:22)
12. "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men." (Titus 3:8)



BACKGROUND

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Background to the Book of Romans

- A. After the Southern Kingdom of Judah was destroyed (586 BC), the Jews became a wandering people. From the story of Priscilla and Aquila, we know that Jewish Christians existed in Rome as early as 49 AD, when Claudius issued an edict to expel the Jews from the city (Acts 18:2).
- B. The letter to the Roman church was written in Corinth, toward the end of Paul's 3rd missionary trip in 57-58 AD (Acts 19:21, 20:2, 18:1, 11). Paul did not pen the letter himself, but dictated it to Tertius (Rom 16:22).
- C. Paul did not build the church in Rome. In fact, he had never seen the church when the letter was written.
- D. When the letter was written, members of the Roman church were in conflict with one another over the issue of circumcision and whether or not it was essential for salvation.

Key Words

- A. Gospel—"good news," relates to the life, sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- B. Justification—"to acquit" or "to declare righteous." In Greek, it is the legal term used for a favorable verdict in a trial in a courtroom setting, with God presiding as the Judge.
- C. Sanctification: to make pure, clean, and "set apart for holy use."



OVERVIEW

The book of Romans systematically explains the gospel of salvation with the concept of "justification by faith." Its theme can be found in 1:16-17, "For in [the gospel] the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" To defend the concept of "justification by faith," Paul proves that all are sinners, whether gentile or Jew. Gentiles sin against God in their daily lives; Jews sin against God because they cannot keep the law. Therefore, all are condemned. The only alternative to condemnation is Jesus Christ, who died for our sins through the shedding of His blood. When we receive Christ through faith, we are justified, or made righteous, before God. In baptism, we die and resurrect with Jesus Christ and are sanctified by His blood. We can then live a victorious life by the power of the Holy Spirit and by walking with God. The structure of Romans can be broken down as follows:

A. Forward (1:1-17)

B. Teachings (1:18-15:13)

- a. Sin/Condemnation (1:18-3:20)
- b. Righteousness (3:21-5:21)
- c. Sanctification (6-8)
- d. Salvation of God's chosen (9-11)
- e. Life Application of the Christian Faith (12-15:13)

C. Conclusion (15:14-16)

A. Forward (1:1-17)

After greeting the believers, Paul states his reasons for writing Romans, which are:

- a. To fulfill his spiritual longing to be with the believers (v. 8-10)
- b. To share his spiritual gift (v. 11-12)
- c. To bear fruit among the believers (v. 13)
- d. To repay his debt to the gospel (v. 14, 15)

He then introduces the theme of the book, which can be paraphrased as "The Gospel: God's righteousness." This righteousness begins with faith and ends with faith; "as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'" (v. 17).

B. The Gospel of Salvation (1:18-15:3)**A. Sin/Condemnation**

First, the gospel of salvation helps people recognize their sin.

- a. The sin of gentiles (1:18-32)
- b. The sin of Jews (2:1-29)
- c. The sin of all mankind (3:1-20)

B. Justification (3:21-5:21)

Justification (Rom 4:2, 5; 5:1) means "to acquit" or "to declare righteous." In Greek, it is the legal term used for a favorable verdict in a trial in a courtroom setting, with God presiding as the Judge. Although we are all sinners, God has given us the opportunity to be justified so we may escape the condemnation we deserve. Our salvation is given through the grace of God and the redeeming death of Christ.

- a. Justification by faith alone (3:21-31)
 - i. Man cannot be justified by good deeds (v. 27), abidance by the law (v. 28), or ceremonial rites (4:11). It is through the grace of God, the blood of Christ, and a person's faith that a person is made righteous before God (3:24, 25, 4:25, 5:9).
 - ii. Justification by God is not a license to sin freely. When we believe in Christ, we are justified of the sins that were previously committed (v. 25). Once we receive this grace, we should make a conscious effort to walk in the way of the Lord.

- b. Example of justification by faith: Abraham (4:1-25)

Characteristics of Abraham's faith:

- *He believed in God's promise (4:16-13).
- *He believed that God's power can raise the dead (11:17-19).
- *He believed that God can turn nothing into something (Rom 4:17).

- c. The benefits of being justified by faith include (5:1-21):

- i. Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 1)

- ii. Entrance into the grace of God (v. 2)
- iii. Joy in suffering (v. 3)
- iv. Being filled with the love of Christ (v. 5).
- v. Life (v. 18). Originally, we were bound by the sin that entered the world through Adam and were condemned to die (v. 12). Because we were justified through Christ's plan of salvation, we can receive life.

C. Path to Sanctification (6:1-8:39)

- a. Through baptism, we nail our old selves on the cross (6:1-9)
- b. Our struggle with sin does not end with water baptism
- c. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to "die to sin," and find freedom in Christ (6:4)

D. Salvation of God's Chosen (9:1-11:36)

- a. Understanding God's sovereign choice
- b. The chosen status of the Jewish race

E. Transformation—Life Application of the Christian faith (12:1-15:13)

The final part of receiving the gospel of salvation is practicing it. We repay God's love by keeping ourselves pure and reflecting Christ upon those around us.

- a. Toward God, we (12:1-2):
 - i. Offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (v. 1).
 - ii. Should not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind (v. 2).
- b. In church, we aim to (12:3-8):
 - i. Be humble and think of ourselves with sober judgment (v. 3).
 - ii. Connect with one another and work together to build up the body of Christ (v. 4-8, cf Eph 4:11-16, 1 Cor 12).
- c. In society, we (13:1-14):
 - i. Submit to the governing authorities (v. 1-14).
 - ii. Perform our civic duties (13:6-7).
- d. Toward others, we (14:1-22):
 - i. Accept the weak in faith and do not pass judgment on others (v. 1-13).
 - ii. Do all things out of love (v. 5-12).
 - iii. Are careful to not cause our brethren to stumble, even if it means forgoing our own freedom (v. 13-18).
 - iv. Make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification (v. 19).



CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 What is the main message of Romans?
- 2 What are the five major points Paul uses to explain the gospel of salvation?
- 3 According to Romans, why are gentiles condemned? Why are Jews condemned? Why are all people condemned?
- 4 What does "justification" mean? Why do we need to be justified?
- 5 Why is it critical for us to be baptized? Are we free from sin after baptism?
- 6 What does Romans teach us about God's sovereign choice of salvation?
- 7 How do we repay God's mercy?

LIFE APPLICATION

"What would you do?"

Sometimes, it is not so easy to live our lives as living sacrifices. Please read the following scenarios and offer advice based on the teachings of Romans.

Scenario 1

Johnny is a 10th grader and a second generation TJC member who was baptized as a baby. Although he grew up in church, there was never anyone around his age. As a result, most of his friends are non-church members from school. One day, Johnny and James were standing near their lockers on campus. A bunch of girls walked by and one of them smiled at Johnny. After they passed, James nudged Johnny.

James: "Hey, I think she likes you. Are you going to ask her out?"

Johnny: "No, I don't think I'm ready to date."

James: "Are you kidding? What kind of prude are you? You're the



only guy in our class who has never had a girlfriend. Is there something wrong with you?"

Question- What struggles do you think Johnny is facing? What encouragement would you give Johnny based on Romans 12:1-2?

Scenario 2

Sasha's family came to believe when she was in fourth grade. She grew up happily in church and has never missed a Sabbath since then. When she became a senior, the RE Coordinator recommended her to attend the RE Teacher's Workshop and become a teacher's assistant in the E2 class. Joyfully, Sasha accepted the task.

However, when she began helping, she realized that the teachers in E2 weren't as prepared as she thought they should be. Some were moms who couldn't speak English well. Others taught straight from the book without any visual aids. In fact, she suspected that some only read the lesson right before class.

"How disappointing," thought Sasha. "I bet I could do better if they let me teach the lesson instead of making me assist."

Question- Is there anything wrong with Sasha's attitude? What encouragement would you give her from Romans 12:3?

Scenario 3

Jennifer is a deacon's daughter. All her life, she has felt that she lived in a fish bowl; that people were constantly watching and evaluating her actions.

During lunch on a particular Sabbath, Jane found Jennifer in the bathroom crying her eyes out. "What's the matter?" asked Jane. "I can't stand it! It's so not fair! Why do people say horrible things about me all the time," sobbed Jennifer. "I can't get away with anything!"

She told Jane that her mother had chided her for wearing a pink tissue tee to church. Some mothers thought that it was too tight and revealing, especially for a deacon's daughter. "I hate it! I wish they could just bite the dust!" cried Jennifer.

Question- Is there anything wrong with Jennifer's attitude or actions? If you were Jane, what would you say to Jennifer based on Romans 12:17-18, 14:13, and 14:21

KEY ISSUES

1 Corinthians addresses a series of key issues concerning the Corinthian believers. The issues include:

- a. Church division (Ch 1–4)
- b. Moral issues (Ch 5–6)
- c. Marriage (Ch 7)
- d. Food (Ch 8–10)
- e. Disorderliness in church (Ch 11)
- f. Spiritual gifts (Ch 12–14)
- g. Resurrection (Ch 15)

A. Church Division (Ch 1–4)

Although the Corinthian church was richly blessed with spiritual gifts (1:7), it was full of division and strife because the believers:

A. Mistook spiritual wisdom as worldly wisdom (Ch 1–2)

The predominant Greek culture at that time involved the pursuit of knowledge and intense engagement in philosophic discussions (Acts 17:21). Some believers also viewed the gospel as worldly wisdom to pursue, boast about, and debate over. Here, Paul reminds them that “Our faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (2:5). Only those who pursue spiritual wisdom can understand the mysteries and grace of God.

B. Followed the wrong leader (Ch 3)

The Corinthians misunderstood the role of human messengers such as Paul, Apollos and Peter. They aligned themselves to the workers and argued among themselves as to which “leader” was the best. As fellow workers of God, there should be nothing to argue or boast about. Whether planting or watering, it is God who makes things grow. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our one leader. We are merely working with Him toward the same goal (3:7).

C. Were wise in their own eyes (Ch 4)

Some believers were wise in their own eyes and boasted of their spiritual talents and gifts (4:7–8). The Corinthians’ spiritual wealth even caused them to be proud and despise others. To warn them of the severity of this mistake, Paul uses many comparisons to show how true stewards of God do not pursue worldly honor or glory. They labor, work, bless, and endure for Christ’s sake but are seen as “fools and spectacles” (v. 10). Thus, we should imitate God’s workers and treat them with respect.

B. Moral Issues (Ch 5–6)**A. Sexual Immorality–Incest (Ch 5–6)**

- a. Purging for purity
The church is a sacred organization that cannot tolerate the filth of sexual immorality, covetousness, idolatry, reviling, drunkenness, and extortion (5:10).
- b. Glorifying God with our bodies (6:12f)
Some Corinthians thought of their bodies only in biological terms—that sex was made for the body and the body made for sex. The Hedonists of that day even believed that to get rid of fleshly desires, one should try anything to satisfy them. To correct this distorted view, Paul taught that bodily actions also affect one’s spiritual life. After a spiritual union with God, our bodies become a temple of the Holy Spirit. It no longer belongs to us, because we were bought at a price. Therefore, we must glorify God in both our bodies and our spirit (6:19, 20).

Note: “A right thing at the wrong place and the wrong time is the wrong thing.” Sex is a good thing created by God for the enjoyment of man and wife within the boundaries of marriage. Nonetheless, when a good thing is taken out of context and used “illegally,” it becomes immoral and wrong. The term “sexual immorality” (5:1) is from the Greek word *porneia*. *Porneia* is a general word for unlawful sexual behavior ranging from pre-marital sex to adultery. It is the Greek root from which we derive the English word pornography. The best way to escape from such unrighteousness is to “flee sexual immorality” (6:18).

B. Lawsuits within church (6:1–8)

- a. Settle disputes within church
The Corinthians could not forgive one another and dragged their church brethren to court to be judged before non-believers. Such actions not only hurt the church but also brought shame to the name of God. Paul suggests in 6:1–6 that Christians should not sue their brothers but turn to the church to settle small matters.
- b. Forgiveness is the key
As believers in Christ, we must treat each other with love and forgiveness. Disunity and strife can be avoided if everyone is willing to forgive one another when they are wronged (6:7). If God is able to wash away and forgive condemned sinners—the fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, the covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortionists (6:9–10)—and sanctify them through baptism, then how much more should we forgive a brother’s offense?

C. Marriage (Ch 7)**A. Husbands and wives (7:1-5)**

While sexual immorality dominated the cultural landscape, there were some believers who considered sexual intimacy to be detestable, even in marriage. Paul responds by teaching that marriage is a sacred institution established by God. It is pleasing to God and a blessing for a man and woman to be united within the Lord. Each partner within the marriage should treat the other with respect. After marriage, one should not withhold oneself from the other unless for prayer for a short time.

B. Singleness (7:6-9)

Single men and women can concentrate on serving the Lord when those who are married are preoccupied with familial responsibilities. However, Paul does not demand others to follow his example of lifelong singlehood and emphasizes that the gift of celibacy must be given by God (cf. Mt 19:10-11).

C. Divorce (7:10-24)

If one has a non-believing spouse, a believer cannot leave him or her. Instead, the believer should use love to lead the spouse to the Lord. A believer can only divorce his or her spouse when the other party commits adultery. Yet, it is better to stay together for the sake of the children. If divorce occurs, the woman cannot marry until her ex-husband is deceased.

D. Remarriage (7:25-40)

Paul felt it was lawful for widows to remarry as long as they marry in the Lord. Still, it is a greater blessing to remain a widow.

D. Food Sacrificed to Idols (Ch 8-10)**A. Having no part with demons**

Some Corinthian believers who boasted to have knowledge (8:1) thought that it was harmless to consume meat that had been offered to idols because 1) they didn't believe in idols and 2) Paul had agreed that the idols were not real gods (8:4). However, if eating food sacrificed to idols causes us to fellowship with demons (8:20), we should avoid it at all costs.

B. Being considerate to weaker members

The early church had already instructed believers to refrain from things offered to idols (Acts 15:29). If weaker members saw stronger believers eating at pagan temples, the former could be wounded in their conscience. Therefore, Paul asks the Corinthians to exercise loving restraint in their pursuit of rights and freedoms.

E. Disorderliness in Church (Ch 11)**A. Head covering (11:1-16)**

A woman's propriety in the time 1 Corinthians was written, it was a Greek custom for respectable women to cover their heads (the adulteress was marked by shaving of her hair). Therefore, Paul encouraged women to keep long hair as their glory. While it is not necessary to literally keep long hair today, sisters should still observe the same spirit of propriety, humility and obedience in the church and home.

B. The Lord's Supper—sharing & reverence (11:17-34)**a. Sharing during meals**

In the early church, Christians would gather for fellowship meals that concluded with the Holy Communion. A problem at Corinth was the unequal distribution of food during communal meals. Some ate lavishly while others went hungry (v. 22). No one waited for others, either (v. 21). Paul was not pleased with such conduct and reminded them that the purpose of the fellowship meal was to promote brotherly love.

b. Irreverence during Holy Communion

The Holy Communion was also taken in an irreverent, chaotic manner. Therefore, Paul warned the believers to consider one another during fellowship meals and reverently partake of the body and blood of Christ, lest they eat and drink their own sin.

Note: More than a fashion statement back in apostolic times, women would keep their hair long and cover it as a sign of propriety. Even if a woman did edifying acts such as praying and prophesying (speaking sermons), an uncovered head would bring shame upon her (11:6). This teaches us the importance of being properly adorned when we worship in the house of God. Although inner reverence is the most important, we should also take care of our outer appearance. We don't want our hair/clothes/accessories to scream for attention and cause second glances. Instead, we should take care that our dress is neat, clean, and proper so that we can bring glory to God from the inside out.

F. Spiritual Gifts (Ch 12-14)**A. Many gifts for one body (Ch 12)****B. The greatest gift of love (Ch 13)****C. Edification by spiritual gifts (Ch 14)**

G. Resurrection (Ch 15)

In the Corinthian church, there were many heresies and cultural beliefs that challenged the truth of Christ's resurrection.

Paul's defense:

- Jesus Christ's resurrection was a proven, witnessed event.
- Christ's death and resurrection is the foundation of our faith, the central teaching of the gospel and the basis of our salvation.
- If we deny the reality of Christ's resurrection, our faith will become an empty shell.

After addressing the seven key categories, Paul offers his final encouragement and instructions. He urges the Corinthian believers to bond in fellowship, love each other, and care for the workers of God. In conclusion, he encourages them to "watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (16:13) and do everything in love.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- What two things prompted Paul to write his first letter to the Corinthian church?
- What are the seven issues that Paul covers in this letter?
- Why was the Corinthian Church divided?
- What were the two big moral issues within the Corinthian church? What did Paul recommend doing about them?
- According to 1 Corinthians 5-7 when is sexual intimacy a good thing? When is it a bad thing?
- If idols are false gods, why can't we eat food sacrificed to idols?
- What kind of disorderliness occurred during services at Corinth? What were the root causes of such disorder?
- According to 1 Corinthians 12, why do people receive different spiritual gifts?
- Why is it important that we believe in the resurrection of Christ?

**L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N****A: Corinthian Issues in Today's Times**

The following scenarios each describe a major issue that the Corinthian church faced.

- Read the scenarios and the corresponding issues in the Corinthian church.
- Briefly summarize what happened in the Corinthian church and Paul's advice.
- Give your modern day solution to the problem based on 1 Corinthians' teachings.

Scenario 1

"I love spaghetti!" exclaimed Jerry. Both he and Mark knew it was the fourth week at church and spaghetti was always served. They made sure they were at the front of the lunch line. When it was their turn, they each piled up a full plate of noodles and an extra plate of meatballs. Happily, they went to the classroom to eat. Twenty minutes later, Larissa came in with a small plate of noodles and sauce. "Are you dieting?" mocked Jerry. "No," Larissa replied. "There wasn't much left by the time I got to the food."

Scenario 2

Danny had always been a believer in TJC and knew in his heart that God had created the world. However, as he learned about human physiology in biology class, he began wondering whether or not a person who had been dead for thousands of years could really regain his flesh and bones and be transformed into a spiritual body.

Scenario 3

Shannon and Karen were good friends both at church and at school. Together, they were also friends with Trisha. Trisha was not a believer but had been invited to church on numerous occasions. One day, Shannon and Karen got into an argument. Wanting to vent, Shannon called up Trisha and began talking about Karen's stubborn personality. Soon, both of them were listing Karen's faults and gossiping about her character.

Scenario 4

It was the first week of November and Debby went to her friend Grace's house to finish up their group project. As they were working, Grace suddenly pulled out a giant bag of candy. "Want some?" she offered. "I went trick-or-treating with my little brother this year."

Scenario 5

Pastor Terrance was one of David's favorite pastors. His sermons were touching and full of biblical insight. After spending a whole week with the pastor at a youth retreat, David decided to begin a private collection of Pastor T's sermons. Excitedly, David shared his idea with his buddy Sean. However, Sean didn't share the enthusiasm. "Are you kidding?" he replied. "I think he's boring. You should listen to more of Pastor Leonard's sermons. He's much better in my opinion."

Scenario 6

Things began changing in Megan's junior year, when all of her friends suddenly began dating. They had less time for her and were constantly on the phone. As they gushed about how great it was to "be in love," Megan began to lose her determination to serve God. Instead, more and more, she felt the desire to also have a special someone in her life.

Scenario 7

It was the third week in a row that Kevin had to play piano on both Friday and Saturday. "Why can't anyone step up to the plate and do something around here?" he thought. "Why is it always me? Other people my age just get to sit around."

Questions to think about:

1. What advice would you give Jerry and Mark?
2. What advice would you give Danny?
3. What advice would you give Shannon?
4. What advice would you give Debby?
5. What advice would you give David and Sean?
6. What advice would you give Megan?
7. What advice would you give Kevin?

B: What is True Love?

Throughout human history, people have tried to define love. Countless poets, authors, musicians, and philosophers have attempted to express their thoughts about love in all types of media. Love has been compared to a mountain, an ocean, a sigh, an act of selfless sacrifice, etc. What exactly is God's definition of love, though? Paul tells us the answer in 1 Corinthians 13. In this activity, let us ponder God's definition of true love and think about how we can also share this love with those in our lives.

According to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8...	...how has God loved me?	...how can I love my family?	...how can I love my friends?	...how can I love my church?	...how can I love my enemies?	...how can I love my future spouse/family?
Love is patient, love is kind.						
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.						
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.						
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.						
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.						
Love never fails.						

OVERVIEW

2 Corinthians is Paul's introduction and defense of his apostleship. There are three main purposes to the letter: 1) To counter accusations by false apostles about Paul's character, 2) To encourage the church to strive for spiritual growth and participate in the ministry of God, 3) To defend Paul's authority as an apostle so that his ministry may not be shamed. Through 2 Corinthians, we can see Paul's joys and frustrations as a missionary-apostle, the diligent fulfillment of his apostolic role, and his genuine heart to serve and help the Corinthian believers.

Part 1. The Heart of an Apostle (Ch 1–5)

- A. Paul's character (1–2)
- B. Paul's ministry (3–4)
- C. Paul's motivations (5)

Part 2. The Hopes of an Apostle (Ch 6–9)

- A. Hope that believers are separate and holy (6)
- B. Hope that believers grow in spirit (7)
- C. Hope that believers may joyfully give (8–9)

Part 3. The Authority of a Minister (Ch 10–13)

- A. Purpose of Paul's authority (10)
- B. Defense of Paul's authority (11)
- C. Plans for Paul's third visit (12:14–13:14)

*The Heart of an Apostle (Ch 1–5)***A. Paul's Character (1–2)**

- a. Thankful (1:1–11)
- b. Pure in heart (1:12–24)
- c. Forgiving (2:1–11)
- d. Committed (2:12–17)

Notes: The Fragrance of Life & Death (2:16)

Here, Paul uses imagery of a Roman triumphal procession to describe the fragrance of Christ. In such a procession, priests would walk behind the captives, swinging incense-filled censers. To the victors, the scent and perfume from the censers would be the perfume of joy, triumph and life. To the captives who walked a short distance ahead, it was the perfume of death, which signaled their coming execution. Here Paul compared himself and his fellow workers to walking in a procession, preaching the gospel of the triumphant Jesus Christ (the victorious General). To those who accept the Gospel, the scent is the aroma of life, as it was to the victors of the procession; and to those who reject it, it is the aroma of death, as it was to the captives.

B. Paul's Ministry (3–4)

- a. God-given (3:1–11)
- b. Honest (4:1–6)
- c. Self-sacrificing (4:7–12)
- d. Lifelong (4:13–18)

**C. Paul's Motivations (5)**

- a. Confident in eternal hope (5:1–10)
- b. Compelled by the love of Christ (5:11–21)

*The Hopes of an Apostle (Ch 6–9)***A. Hope That Believers Be Separate and Holy (6)**

- a. Believers are God's ministers (6:1–10)
- b. Believers are children of God (6:11–18)

B. Hope That Believers Grow in Spirit (7)

- a. Speaking the truth in love (7:1–4)
- b. A preacher's comfort (7:5–16)

C. Hope That Believers May Joyfully Give (8–9)

- a. The Macedonian example (8:1–15)
- b. Showing hospitality to workers (8:16–24)
- c. The fruits of offering (9:1–15)

Sometimes it's not enough to merely think about offering our wealth, time, or talents. Here, Paul praises the church's willingness but encourages them to prepare their offering lest they fail to live up to their promises. He also reminds them that those who give generously will receive generously from the Lord. They will cause others to feel the warmth of brethren, be encouraged by faith, and glorify God.

3 2 Corinthians

The Authority of a Minister (Ch 10-13)

A. The Purpose of Paul's Authority (10)

- a. To edify the believers (10:1-11)
- b. To receive praise from God (10:12-18)

B. Defense of Paul's Authority (Paul's Boasting) (11)

These boastings include:

- a. The knowledge of God (11:1-6)
- b. Financial independence (11:7-15)
- c. Experiences of an apostle (11:16-12:13)

On the surface, it seems as though Paul is trying to prove his equality with the boastful "super-apostles." However, Paul only boasts of his weaknesses so that Christ's strength may be revealed. Paul's "boastings" include:

 - i. Suffering for Christ (11:16-12:13)
 - ii. Spiritual experiences of heaven (12:1-4)
 - iii. Physical weaknesses (12:5-10)
 - iv. Signs, wonders, and mighty deeds (12:11-13)

C. Plans for Paul's Third Visit (12:14-13:14)

- a. Expectations & hopes (12:19-21)
 - i. For the sake of the believers, Paul promises to not be a financial burden (12:16). Like a parent, he is willing to sacrifice his energy and money to nurture the souls of the believers.
 - ii. During the visit, Paul hopes to find believers living in harmony and free of their old sins (uncleanness, fornication and lewdness (12:19-21)). Like a parent, he also threatens to react adversely if they continue to misbehave.
 - iii. Paul hopes that the believers will examine their own faith (13:1-10).
- b. Final greetings (13:11-14)

Lastly, Paul encourages the believers to be complete, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and have the abundance of God.

Bible Study & Life Application



CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 What were three main reasons why Paul wrote 2 Corinthians?
- 2 What are four qualities (each) of Paul's character and ministry?
- 3 According to chapter 5, what were two of Paul's motivations behind his ministry? How did he use the analogy of the tent?
- 4 What were three of Paul's hopes for the Corinthian believers?
- 5 Why do we need to be "separate and holy"?
- 6 Why does Paul "boast"? What does he "boast" about?

LIFE APPLICATION

Part A- Adopt a Minister

Sometimes, it's not easy being a preacher. Like Paul, full-time ministers have to travel extensively, conduct rigorous training seminars, and provide spiritual food for many churches and members. Because of the nature of their work, preachers face more temptations and frustrations than many other church members. Thus, it is vital that we pray for our ministers on a regular basis.

In this activity, let's develop the habit of putting our preachers into our prayer. As a class, let us adopt a preacher (or two) and determine to pray for them from now until the end of the quarter. All it takes is a few minutes a day to participate in this holy work!

Prayer log option: Teachers may choose to post a "preacher prayer log" in the classroom. At the end of every week, students may write their prayers or encouraging Bible verses onto the sheet. The sheet can be mailed as a gift to the "adopted" preacher at the end of the quarter.



Name of the preacher I'd like to adopt:	
Last time I prayed for him:	
My preacher's responsibilities in church:	
Things that may tempt/worry/frustrate my preacher:	
Three things I can help my preacher pray about:	
How I can participate in holy work by praying for these things:	
How frequently I plan on praying for my preacher:	
How many minutes I plan to pray for my preacher each time:	
Start date:	
End date:	

The Week of:	Prayer requests for my preacher	Date completed
Lesson 3		
Lesson 4		
Lesson 5		
Lesson 6		
Lesson 7		
Lesson 8		
Lesson 9		
Lesson 10		
Lesson 11		
Lesson 12		
Lesson 13		

Part B- Cheerful Giving: It's a Plan!

Part 1: Identifying the area of contribution

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Religious education | b. Literary ministry |
| c. Internet ministry | d. Training seminars |
| e. Evangelism | f. Church Administration |
| g. Music ministry | h. Prayer team |
| i. Youth fellowship | j. Other |

1. In which area(s) of sacred work is there a need or void in my church?
2. Out of these areas, which one would I most like to participate in?
3. What specific task within this area would I like to do?
4. Am I able to do this task right now?

Part 2: Asset evaluation

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| a. Time | b. Energy | c. Talent |
| d. Prayer | e. Wealth | f. Skills |
| g. Knowledge | h. Other | |

1. What assets do I need in order to contribute to the holy work in part 1?
2. What assets do I already have?
3. What assets do I need to acquire in order to serve the Lord in this area?
4. How do I plan on acquiring these assets?
What are some daily goals I can make?
What are some weekly goals I can make?
What are some yearly goals I can make?

Part 3: Long term goals

1. How do I see myself contributing to this holy work in college?
2. How do I see myself contributing to this holy work in 10 years?



OVERVIEW

In Galatians, Paul begins by addressing the uncertainties the Galatian believers had when the Judaism-advocates came to pollute their minds. Then Paul goes on to teach the Galatians the doctrine of justification by faith and how they can live a life of faith. It is divided as follows:

- a. Foreword (1:1-5)
- b. Defending the one unchanging gospel (1:6-10)
- c. Proof of Paul's apostleship (1:11—2:21)
 - i. Origin of Paul's apostleship (1:11-17)
 - ii. Paul's relationship with the other apostles (1:18—2:21)
- d. Justification by Faith (3:1—4:31)
 - i. No one can be justified by keeping the law (3:1-10)
 - ii. The just shall live by faith (3:11-29)
 - iii. Law and grace (4:1-31)
- e. Living a life of faith (5:1—6:18)
 - i. Freedom in Christ (5:1-15)
 - ii. Victory over flesh through the Holy Spirit (5:16-26)
 - iii. Sharing one another's burdens (6:1-10)
 - iv. Boasting in the cross (6:11-18)

GALATIANS

A. Defending the One Unchanging Gospel (1:6-10)

The Galatians did not hold fast to the gospel of Christ after having received it. When they were bothered by advocates of Judaism, they quickly left to follow another gospel. Thus, Paul tells them sternly that if anyone preaches to them a gospel different from the one they first received, that person ought to be cursed.

B. Proof of Paul's Apostleship (1:11-2:21)

a. Origin of Paul's apostleship (1:11-17)
Paul emphasizes the fact that his apostleship did not come from men. Rather, through the will of Jesus Christ and the heavenly Father, he had been separated when he was still in his mother's womb. Even though he was fervent in Judaism in the past and had greatly persecuted the church, God still called him and revealed the salvation of Christ in his heart. Hence, he is called to preach this gospel to the gentiles. (Ref. Acts 9:1-16, 22:3-21; 2 Thess 2:13; Heb 5:4; John 15:16; Num 16:3; Mark 10:40)

- b. Paul's relationship with the other apostles (1:18—2:21)
 - i. When Paul had been called by God, he went to Arabia first and then returned to Damascus for about three years. Only after this did he go to see Peter in Jerusalem (where he stayed for 15 days) and meet James. From the order of these events we can see that not only was Paul's



apostleship not given by men, he also did not learn from men the word that he preached.

- ii. Fourteen years later, Paul went again to Jerusalem by revelation. This time, he went to discuss the matter of gentiles believing in the Lord. Paul witnessed to the elders and other apostles the process of how he preached to the gentiles. Upon hearing this, the apostles gave Paul the right hand of fellowship, accepting him as one of them. They recognized that just as they had been apostles to the Jews, Paul was an apostle to the gentiles (2:9; Acts 15).
- iii. Later, when Peter went to Antioch, he would eat with the gentile believers. Yet, when the men who insisted on circumcision came, Peter drew back and separated himself from the gentiles. Seeing this, the Jews who came with Peter to Antioch also followed him in his pretense. At that time, Paul saw that what they were doing was not in accordance with the truth of the gospel. Therefore, Paul rebuked Peter on the spot, pointing out their mistakes. We see from Paul's enthusiasm in upholding the truth that his apostleship is not any less than the other apostles' (2:11-14).

C. Justification by Faith (3:1—4:31)

- a. No one can be justified by keeping the law (3:1-10)
- b. The just shall live by faith (3:11-29)
- c. Law and grace (4:1-31)

D. Living a Life of Faith (5:1—6:18)

- a. Freedom in Christ (5:1-15)
- b. Victory over the flesh through the Holy Spirit (5:16-26)
- c. Sharing one another's burdens (6:1-10)
- d. Boasting in the cross (6:11-18)

E. Conclusion

In Galatians 6:15, Paul concludes the epistle by writing: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation." Throughout the epistle, Paul stressed that the outward observance of the law and regulations is unimportant. What is important is whether we are renewing the life within us. Just as it is recorded in Titus 3:5: "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 Why did Paul write this epistle to the churches in the province of Galatia?
- 2 What is the purpose of the law? (If salvation only comes through Christ, then why did God give the Israelites the law?)
- 3 Why do we need to "walk in the Spirit" and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh?
- 4 Please write out the "works of the flesh" and the "fruit of the Holy Spirit."
- 5 Please write out the verses from the epistle that you have enjoyed or found important, and explain.

LIFE APPLICATION

Part A: Fruit Picking

Galatians 5:22-23 records the fruit of the spirit. As Christians, we constantly pursue bearing fruit. Often, we see the fruit in our brothers and sisters and long to have them too. During a Youth Theological Training Course (YTTC) Graduate Class graduation one summer, nine youths decided among themselves to pick a fruit of the spirit for one another. This fruit was either something each youth had, or needed to pursue. Each youth had a fruit and decided that after a year's time, they would get together again to see how they had come along with their fruit and would choose another one to pursue.

You can do the same too! In the following list, write down the name of the person in the class who most exhibits a particular fruit in his or her life next to that fruit. For example, you might put Joe's name next to "peace" because he rarely causes division in the group, or next to "joy" because he is always very happy.

When you have completed writing the names on the list, share with the class whose name you wrote beside each fruit. When everyone is through, ask each person which fruit he feels he lacks in his life and why. Go around the group until everyone has the chance to do this.



Love _____

Joy _____

Peace _____

Patience _____

Kindness _____

Goodness _____

Faithfulness _____

Gentleness _____

Self-control _____

Part B: Give Thanks!

We have learned in this lesson to be appreciative and thankful for God's grace. Here are the lyrics to the song, "Give Thanks."

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks unto the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord
Has done for us."*

1. When do you feel most grateful to the Lord? Why?
2. How do we learn to be thankful to the Lord all the time?

It is not easy to feel thankful or joyful, especially when we are undergoing trials, but as the above hymn suggests, we need to give thanks to the Lord with a grateful heart because He has given us Jesus Christ. Sing this hymn together and ask the students for their thoughts.

OVERVIEW

Ephesus was located in Asia and heavily influenced by the Greeks and Romans. It was the guardian city of one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world: the Temple of Artemis. The temple for the Greek goddess Artemis (Roman name Diana) was built with 127 grand columns. Standing tall at a height of almost 80 feet, each depicted kings standing on top of one other. Even though this magnificent building was destroyed before Paul's visit, a dedicated group of Artemis worshipers remained. Paul paid a short visit here while returning to Antioch from his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-22). It was during his third missionary journey that Paul stayed three years in Ephesus (Acts 20:31).

During Paul's first visit, a big riot erupted when a silversmith named Demetrius caused an uproar over loss of business (Acts 19:23-41) because people who had turned to Christ no longer worshiped the great Ephesian goddess Artemis. It was in this city that a great number of sorcerers were converted (Acts 19:17-20), and where many miracles took place (Acts 19:11-12). Here, the twelve followers of John the Baptist were baptized. Afterwards, Paul laid hands upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The letter to the Ephesians did not raise any serious problems within the church. Yet Paul warned the church leaders to be wary of the infiltration of false teachings. At the completion of his third missionary journey (Acts 20:13-35), Paul met with the Ephesian elders at the coastal town of Miletus. Paul told them to be on guard against both the wolves from outside and fallen believers from the inside; these would try to lead the members away by teaching perverse things. Some speculate that this concern was one of the main reasons that motivated Paul to write this letter.

In the book of Revelation, the Ephesian church was complimented for its determination in preventing false teachers and teachings from creeping into the church (Rev 2:2). However, one thing against them was that they failed to maintain their first love for Jesus Christ (Rev 2:4). The theme and message of love had to be stressed over and over again to the believers in Ephesus. The letter begins with love (1:4, 6) and ends with love (6:23-24).

The book of Ephesians is similar in content to the book of Colossians, which suggests that both letters were written during the same imprisonment in Rome. Both emphasize justification by faith (2:8). The first half of the epistle (chapters 1 to 3) addresses the central doctrines of the Christian faith as well as the position of Christians as a whole. The second half (chapters 4 to 6) describes how to take these truths and apply them into Christian living. No matter how diverse our backgrounds, we all need to be joined together in Christ. The second half follows with the discussion of spiritual battles that one may encounter when living out Christ-like lives.

BIBLE STUDY



A. Greetings & Salutations (Ch 1:1–3)

B. Grace in Christ

- a. Eternal Blessings
- b. Spiritual Wisdom (1:15-23)
- c. Grace of Salvation
- d. Share in the Mystery and Love of Christ

C. Sainly Conduct

- a. Corporate Living (4:1-16)
- b. Personal Living
- c. Family Living
 - i. Between Husband & Wife (5:22-33)
 - ii. Children & Parents (6:1-4)
 - iii. Masters & Bondservants (6:5-9)

D. Epilogue

- a. Spiritual Warfare
 - i. The Adversary (6:10-12)
 - ii. Spiritual Armor (6:13-18)

Paul encourages the members in Ephesus to equip themselves with the spiritual armor of God so that they may withstand the attacks of Satan. At the same time, he also asks the members to pray for him so that whenever he opens his mouth, words may be given to him and he will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel (19). Likewise, as believers we must not neglect to support our preachers who are constantly in the spiritual battle-front by praying for them.

- b. Consolation & Benediction (6:21–24)
- c. Conclusion

The book of Ephesians centers on the theme of the church as the body of Christ and the how-to in applying these church-related teachings in our lives. There is only one body. We must be diligent to take to heart the principles outlined here regarding church living, family living, and personal living. The church symbolizes the bride of Jesus Christ. Hence, the church must be properly adorned at all times and be ready for the groom's arrival. May we regularly prune ourselves so we are mature to help out the church with our special talents and be prepared to see Jesus Christ.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 How did Paul use the husband and wife analogy to explain the relationship of Christ and the church?
- 2 What is the full armor of God?
- 3 What do you think it means in Ephesians 4:22 to put off the old self?
- 4 Describe the differences between wisdom and intelligence. Give an example as a contrast and comparison.

LIFE APPLICATION

The Armor of God

As Christians, we need to wear the full armor of God in order to fight the good fight. The following are testimonies that deal with each part of the armor of God.

1. Gird Your Waist with Truth (Eph 6:14)

A newly believing sister was taught the Ten Commandments. As a result, she began to be extra careful in keeping the Eighth Commandment, "Thou shall not steal." At work, she would not use the company's phone or the photocopier for personal use. At home, she refused to use any illegal software. Even when eating out, she would not take extra napkins home from McDonald's.

One summer she took her son to the shopping mall. He saw a dollar bill on the ground and asked her, "Whose money is this?" She told him that it didn't belong to anyone and that he could keep it. As soon as her son picked up the money, she felt a burning sensation in her head. She began to feel very uncomfortable and wondered if this was the Holy Spirit rebuking her, so she told her son to put the dollar bill down.

The following week she went to another shopping mall and saw another dollar bill. Her son saw it and again asked who it belonged to. She gave him the same reply and immediately felt the burning pain again. She began to wonder if this was the teaching of the Holy Spirit.



A month later she learned from her child's RE lesson that the Eighth Commandment in the children's Bible says, "You shall not take what is not yours." This is the simplest explanation of "Do not steal": do not take what does not belong to you. After realizing this, the sister knew that this is what the Lord requires of us to uphold the truth in all circumstances.

2. Put On the Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph 6:14)

Since he was a child, Thomas has known that Saturday is Sabbath, the day of rest established by God. His parents and RE teachers had made it clear to him that he should always try his best to separate this holy day to remember the graces of God and draw closer to Him. He also knows that keeping the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments. For as long as he can remember, he has always avoided activities on Sabbath; all his non-church friends know that that he is unable to hang out with them on Saturday.

During winter break, one of Thomas' good friends won an all-expense paid ski package for four at a nice resort. His friends were excited and wanted Thomas join them. "Come on, it's only one time. We'll never have an opportunity like this. I'm sure God won't mind if you miss it just once," exclaimed one friend. Another questioned Thomas, "Why do you insist on going to church on Saturday? Isn't it the heart that matters? Going to church is just a ritual. Look, there's so many Christians who go to church every week, but they still cheat people and are a bunch of hypocrites; so going to church won't make you a better person." Even his Christian friend chimed in, "I know that keeping the Sabbath is a big deal for you, but we're not in the Old Testament anymore. Paul said in Romans 14 that it doesn't matter which day you worship God, because the important thing is that you do it every day. So why not come out with us this Saturday? You can think and praise God while you go down the slopes. You know us, we never do anything bad; it's not like we drink, do drugs, or party. This weekend we're going snowboarding. We have this great free package that can only be used this weekend. Everything's paid for and our parents are fine with it, we're just missing one thing: that's you. Come on, come with us. You have every day to worship God, but only this one time to hang out with your best friends."

Upon hearing this, Thomas didn't know how to respond. However, two verses that he memorized a while back popped up in his mind. One was in John 14:21, where Lord Jesus had said that those who love Him will keep His commandments. The other was from Isaiah 58:13-14, where it is written that if you refrain from trampling the Sabbath by pursuing your own interests or your own affairs, but instead delight and honor the holy day of the Lord, God will bless you. Keeping the Sabbath is a commandment of God. If he did go and enjoy the weekend, he'd have to justify it so his conscience



would not bother him. But if he did that, who knows what else he might do in the future?

He had seen many of his church friends stop coming to church. It always started with something small and harmless: a recital, SAT prep classes, field trips, sporting events, AP exams. Gradually they all became too busy to come to service. Eventually, even if they weren't that busy, they would rather rest at home. He did not want that to happen to him.

Thomas realized that he had to stand firm to the word of God and not let his own thoughts twist it. After thinking about it, Thomas told his friends that he really had to keep the Sabbath. If he doesn't, then God would be displeased with him, and that would defeat the whole purpose of being a Christian.

As a result, Thomas' friends never asked him out to do anything again. Although Thomas felt sad because he missed out on a great opportunity to bond with his friends, he felt joyful that he was able to do what was right. He guarded his heart by holding fast to the teachings of the Bible.

3. Shod Your Feet with the Gospel of Peace (Eph 6:15)

In 1981, after an unfruitful missionary effort in Nigeria, a few True Jesus Church preachers were heading back home and transiting through Liberia. While waiting for their flight in Liberia, they decided to pass out all of the flyers they had on hand at the airport. One person, who had taken and read the flyer, wrote to the church to express interest in the gospel. This opened the way for subsequent missionary trips, leading to the establishment of churches in that country. As of today, there are more than 300 believers in Liberia.

One African sister saw a vision of Lord Jesus on the cross. When she saw how much the Lord had suffered and all the blood that He shed, she cried sorrowfully and asked, "Lord, what can I do for you?" Lord Jesus said to her, "You must preach for me."

4. Take the Shield of Faith (Eph 6:16)

There was a sister who was taught a lesson about faith through a dream. In her dream she was cornered by two thugs. As they slowly closed in on her, she felt helpless and lost, so she started to pray to the Lord. Suddenly a man in white garments appeared. He took her hand and brought her into the clouds until they came into the wilderness. There, He sat her on a rock. A voice said, "Trust in the Lord and you shall be delivered." A streak of light flashed up into the sky. She looked at her hands which this man had just held and saw that they were dripping with blood. The dream was explained to her: Jesus had suffered and died for us; He shed His blood for the remission of our sins. God would like us to appreciate this and have faith in Him.

5. Take the Helmet of Salvation (Eph 6:17)

Around 320 AD, Emperor Licinius ruled the eastern half of the Roman Empire. Since his rival, Emperor Constantine, openly tolerated Christianity, Licinius sought to eliminate the Christians for fear of treason in his ranks. He issued an edict banning all Christian practices and forced all his subjects to offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods.

It was during winter in the small, remote Armenian city of Sebaste, that forty soldiers were found to be Christian. When they were commanded to carry out this new order, they refused to obey. As a result, they were stripped naked and brought to the center of a frozen lake to freeze to death. If they simply renounced their beliefs, they would be immediately released. A hot bath of water was kept on the shore to tempt them.

When night came upon them, one gave in to the cold and denied his faith, leaving the 39 men to freeze to death. It was then that one of the guards on the shore saw a vision. He saw a host of angels appear. The angels laid a crown of life on the heads of those who perished for their faith as a chorus sang, "Forty martyrs, forty crowns." Suddenly, he saw one crown left hanging in mid-air. It appeared that this last crown belonged to the soldier that forsook his faith. The guard then said to the soldier, "If you had seen what I had seen tonight, you would never have forsaken your crown. Come, I will take your place and your crown will be mine." Without a thought, the guard immediately took off his clothes and joined the 39 men on the frozen lake. Ironically, according to popular tradition, the man who gave up his crown died the moment he entered the hot tub waiting for him—the temperature difference between the frozen lake and the hot tub was so great that he died of shock.

These 40 soldiers were willing to give up their lives for the sake of the truth because they knew that a crown of life awaited them. Likewise, in times of tribulation, we must always look towards our salvation that awaits us, and draw strength from that helmet of salvation.

6. Take the Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God (Eph 6:17)

For as long as anyone can remember, Tatiana has always been a social butterfly. As a sophomore in high school, she is known for being extremely outgoing and friendly. Tatiana has also made it a point to make her belief in God as much a part of her personality as her social skills. As a result, Tatiana also has a reputation as a fervent Christian. Lately though, standing firm in her faith has become increasingly difficult. Most of Tatiana's good friends on the field hockey team have started drinking and partying on the weekends.

One day after practice, Ellen, a senior varsity team captain and one of the most popular girls in the school, gives Tatiana a personal invitation to a party at her house on Saturday night. Without thinking, Tatiana accepts Ellen's offer. During Sabbath service that week, all Tatiana can think about is the party. She knows that underage drinking is not only dangerous, but it is against God's will. She still remembers the verse from 1 Peter 4:3 that her RE teacher purposefully drilled into her before she started her freshman year of high school: "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries." Still, Tatiana can't help but think that if she bails out on Ellen, she'll be treated as an outcast by her team. And if she goes, she'll look like a fool if she's the only one not drinking. In fact, will she even be able to resist drinking in the first place? Before service ends, Tatiana finds Lisa, her best friend in Christ, and tells her about the party. Lisa suggests that Tatiana come over to her house instead. She gently reminds Tatiana of the pact they had made to live by 2 Timothy 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Thank God.



Questions to think about:

1. How can we gird our waist with truth so that we will always do what is right and pleasing in the eyes of God?
2. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:20). What does it mean to "exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees"? How can a breastplate of righteousness guard our hearts against spiritual decline?
3. Have you passed out flyers to people before? How did you feel? Have you spoken to your friends or non-believing family members and relatives about Jesus Christ? If not, why?
4. A shield is used to protect us from harm. How can faith act as a shield? How does the death of the Lord Jesus help us in our faith?
5. The 40 soldiers were willing to give up their lives for the sake of the truth because they knew that a crown of life awaited them. Would you be willing to give up your life for the sake of the truth?
6. The word of God is an effective weapon we have in fighting off temptations. However, like a sword, you must be skilled at using it to be effective. How have you trained yourself with the word of God so that you may become a master swordsman?

TEACHINGS OF PHILIPPIANS

The letter to the Philippians is nicknamed the “Letter of Joy” because it details Paul’s joy in the Lord in spite of tribulations. It contains no deep philosophical teachings, but Paul encourages the Philippians to strengthen their faith by showing them, through his own life, that true joy comes only from Jesus Christ. No form of trials dampens his zeal and love for God. Difficulties are not reasons to turn aside from Jesus’ standards and expectations. Instead, these adversities teach Paul to be content in all circumstances.

Philippians is a rather distinctive letter that delves into the satisfaction of Christian lives and encourages believers that regardless of the circumstances we can still hold onto Jesus as our greatest treasure and find joy in and through God.

A. Rejoice in the Midst of Suffering

Although Paul talks about rejoicing in the midst of suffering from the beginning of the letter, the most important point is made at the end. Rejoicing during the low points of our lives seems paradoxical. But Paul’s life is a testament that this can be achieved. How? Through God who gives him strength (4:13). And what does God give him strength for? Contentment. Whatever the circumstance, easy or difficult, God can guide us through it. When life is smooth, we need Him to keep us humble and content to enjoy the blessing. When life is difficult, we need Him to keep us faithful and confident in His good will for us. In good times and bad, He can give us the strength for self-control, peace of mind, and a calm, quiet heart.

B. Imitate Christ

Imitating Jesus Christ is an aspect of being united in Him. We are all parts of His body and thus should work for the greater good of the body, which is the church. By following His incredible example of what a godly person should be, we can shine as the spiritual descendants of Abraham (Gen 22:17-18; Heb 11:11-12).

- a. Humility (2:3-11)
- b. Shining (2:12-15; 3:12; 4:8-9)
- c. Two Examples (2:19-30)

C. Prioritize Jesus Christ as First



There is no doubt that Paul placed Jesus Christ first in his life. After Jesus Christ called him out, his purpose in life was to spread the gospel. He redefined and reprioritized his life because he understood and deeply appreciated the salvation of Jesus Christ (3:10-11).

And in placing Jesus first in our lives, we have a wonderful goal that we’re pressing towards. An eternal life with our benevolent Savior awaits, but we need to live up to what He has given us: salvation. We need to be more concerned with godly matters than earthly matters (3:12–4:1).

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 What is the main theme in the epistle to the Philippians?
- 2 How do we rejoice in the midst of our suffering?
- 3 How can we imitate Jesus Christ?
- 4 Why do we need to imitate Jesus Christ?
- 5 What did Paul gain by placing Jesus Christ first in his life?



Part A: Influence Survey

Who holds the greatest sway on what you think, do and say?

Step 1:

Rate each of the following according to the degree of influence they have on your thinking and behavior. Place an "X" in the category that applies.

Step 2:

Now go back and put a + or - to the left of each influence listed to indicate whether the influence is mostly positive (+) or negative (-). If you think the influence is neither positive nor negative, put a 0 instead.

+ , - , or 0	Influence	None	A Little	A Lot	Too Much
	Mom				
	Dad				
	School Friends				
	Siblings				
	Preacher				
	Lord Jesus				
	Church Brothers and Sisters				
	Relatives				
	Internet				
	Television				
	Movies				
	Magazines				
	Music				
	Books				

Part B: Match Game

What are the students' perspectives on Paul's life and this letter? How do they see it in relation to them?

Step 1: Pick one student to be the "matcher."

Step 2: Give all the students the first question and ask them to write down their answers. For example, "If you were Paul, what is the one thing you most hope the Philippians will send to you?"

Step 3: After everyone has written down their answer, have your matcher display his/her response first and explain why he/she chose it.

Step 4: Then have the other students show their answers and see how many of the answers match the matcher's. Give points for however many answers match the matcher's. Have the ones with non-matching answers explain their choices. This is a good way for students and teachers to see how everyone thinks.

Step 5: Repeat steps 1-4 with the next "matcher" using the questions in the next column.

1. If you were a Philippian, what is one thing you would send Paul?
2. If you had to choose between living for Christ or dying for gain, which would you choose?
3. If you were Paul, what would be your greatest hardship as a prisoner?
4. If you went on a missionary trip, what is one item you would definitely take?
5. If you went on an extended missionary trip, what is one care-package item you hope your church peers would send you?
6. What seems like a more difficult sacrifice to you: money or prestige?
7. What aspect of Jesus Christ's love personally impacts your actions the most?
8. Which of the Hebrews 11 people of faith do you most admire?
9. If you were a Philippian, what would you do to support the holy workers?
10. What would you do to support the holy workers today?
11. What Bible story about prayer personally impacts you the most?

OUTLINE

Colossians may be regarded as the most Christ-centered book in the entire Bible. It stresses that we can obtain God's grace and His spiritual wisdom only through the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the only one whom we worship as the head of all principalities and powers. Chapters 1 to 3 explain the doctrines of Christian theology while the latter part of chapters 3 and 4 contain Christian living exhortations.

- a. In Christ's Kingdom (Ch 1)
 - i. We can receive true hope
 - ii. We can experience God's fullness
 - iii. We have part in the Lord's work
- b. Building up in Christ (Ch 2)
 - i. Avoiding the secularization/misconstruction of faith
 - ii. Preventing a habitual, legalistic faith
 - iii. Building a firm faith in Christ
- c. Life in Christ (Ch 3)
 - i. Characteristics of life in Christ
 - ii. The renewal of life
 - iii. The manifestation of life
- d. Pursuing Christ (Ch 4)
 - i. In prayer
 - ii. In our relationship with others
 - iii. In our relationship with co-workers in Christ

TEACHINGS

A. In Christ's Kingdom (Ch 1)

- a. We can receive true hope (1:3-8, 12-14)
- b. We can experience God's fullness (1:9-12)
- c. We have part in God's work (v. 23)

B. Building Up in Christ (Ch 2)

- a. Avoiding the secularization/misconstruction of faith (2:8-18)
- b. Preventing a habitual, legalistic faith (2:20-23)
- c. Building a firm faith in Christ (2:6-7)

C. Life in Christ (Ch 3)



- a. Characteristics of life in Christ (3:1-4)
- b. The renewal of life (3:5-17)
- c. The manifestation of life in Christ (3:18—4:1)

D. Pursuing Christ Application of Faith (Ch 4)

- a. In prayer (4:2-4)
 - i. Pray for ourselves.
 - ii. Pray for the work of God.
- b. In our relationships with others (4:5-6)
 - i. Use wisdom in dealing with outsiders.
 - ii. Treat others with gentleness.
- c. In treating our co-workers in Christ (4:7-18)
 - i. Show hospitality to the workers.
 - ii. Work together with one heart.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 According to Colossians 1, what three benefits can we gain from being a part of God's kingdom?
- 2 In what areas will we be able to experience God's fullness?
- 3 According to Colossians 2, what kinds of problems existed in the Colossian church? How can we avoid the same pitfalls? (hint: 2:6-7)
- 4 What four things can we do to build up a firm faith in Christ?
- 5 What are three characteristics of life in Christ?
- 6 How can we experience the "renewal of life" and manifest Christ?
- 7 In what areas should we pursue Christ, according to Colossians 4?

Taking Off the Old Man, Putting on the New

Pursuing a life in Christ is a life-long process that requires the discipline and determination to take off bits and pieces of our old man and replacing them with qualities of our new man. In this exercise, let us explore the qualities of the old man and the new man and think about how we can get rid of or gain each quality.

A. Taking Off the Old Man

1. Turn to Colossians 3:5-9. Please list all qualities of the "old man"
2. Write an example of each negative quality in the space provided (11 total)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

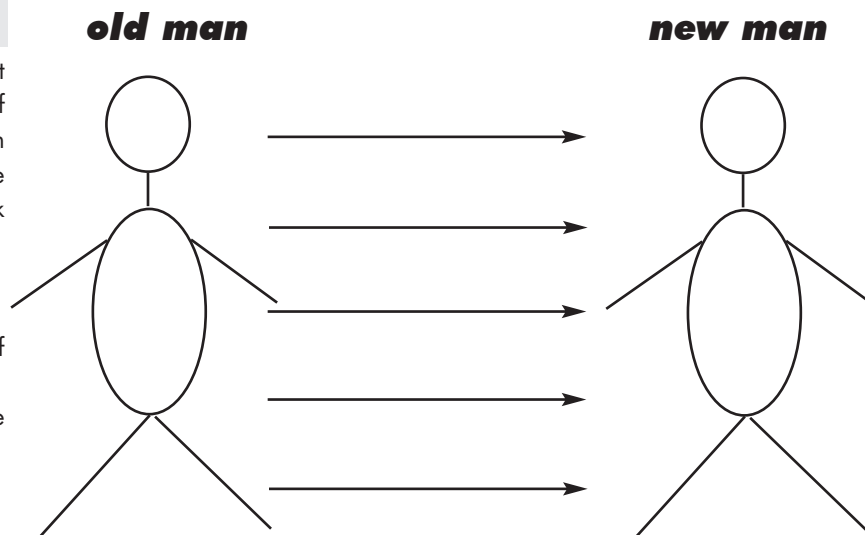
i. _____

j. _____

k. _____

3. Circle and number the top 5 bad qualities that you struggle with.
4. Write five determinations (one each) to help you strip away "old man" qualities in the next month (see Diagram 1).

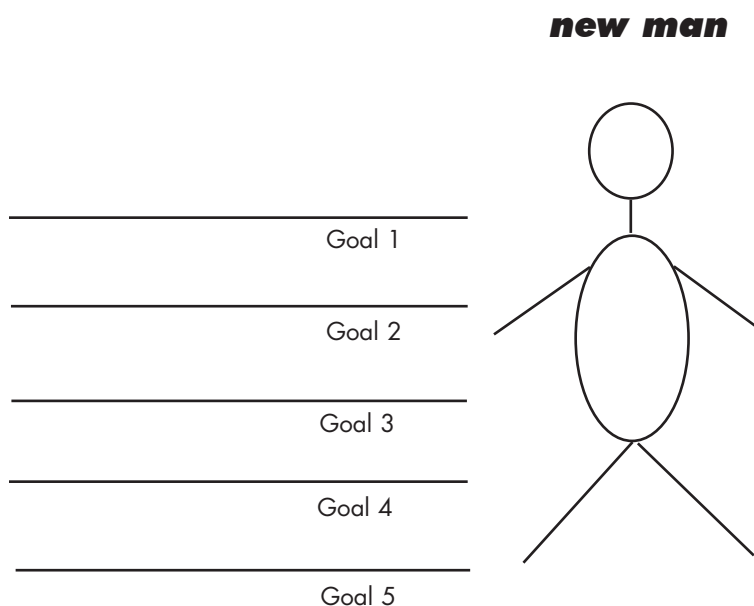
Diagram 1



B. Putting On the New Man

1. Turn to Colossians 3:12-15. Please list all the qualities of the "new man."
2. Circle 5 "new man" qualities that can replace your "old man" struggles.
3. In Diagram 2, list each "new man" quality and one goal you can achieve in the next month to work toward becoming the "new man."

Diagram 2



OVERVIEW

Though savvy and materially blessed, Thessalonica was not a welcoming place to the gospel. Since Paul could not spend more time in Thessalonica to lay a more solid foundation, he was very concerned about the new believers' survival in such a spiritually hostile environment. In this letter, we can see how Paul builds up the newly-converted believers. First, he encourages them to continue their steadfast course in the Lord. Second, he teaches them how to apply Christ in their daily lives. Third, he reminds them of the gospel of Christ and the hope of His second coming. By doing so, Paul helps the believers keep the end in mind as they live a life worthy and pleasing of the Lord's sacrifice.

TEACHINGS

B. Commendable Faith of the Thessalonians

The church in Thessalonica was founded amidst a period of great persecution. However, instead of buckling under tribulation, they prospered in their faith and increased in number. Here are a few things we can learn from their faith:

- a. Spiritual Endurance (1:3-6)
- b. The spirit of giving (1:7-8)
- c. A testimony to others (1:9-10)

C. Paul An Example of Christian Living

In chapter 2, Paul relates the events leading up to his visit and the establishment of the church in Thessalonica. In the process, he sets an example of Christian living for the new believers.

- a. Undaunted by troubles (2:1-2)
- b. Motivated by love (2:3-8)
- c. Testifying with action (2:9)

D. Building Up Faith Through Encouragement

In chapter 3, Paul continues to show his concern for the Thessalonian believers.

- a. Display of timely concern (3:1-5)
- b. Encouragement through praise (3:6-9)
- c. Unceasing Prayers (3:10-13)

E. Encouragement Spiritual Growth



Chapters 4 and 5 contain practical instruction in matters pertaining to what was lacking in the Thessalonians' knowledge of the second coming of our Lord Jesus. These chapters encourage the believers to apply the truth in their Christian lives.

a. Aiming for Higher Spiritual Ground

Paul encouraged the believers to strive for higher spiritual ground by:

- i. Pursuing sexual purity (4:1-8; 5:23)
- ii. Living an orderly life (4:9-11)
- iii. Being thankful & joyful (5:16-18)

b. Preparing for the Second Coming

Paul encouraged the believers to prepare for Christ's second coming by practicing:

- i. Spiritual alertness (5:1-10)
- ii. Mutual encouragement (5:11-14)
- iii. Constant prayer (5:17)
- iv. Testing all things (5:19-21)

F. Resurrection

a. What will happen at the moment of resurrection? (4:16)

- i. We will know for sure when the Lord comes, because He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God (4:16).
- ii. Christians who died in the Lord will rise first (4:15, 1 Cor 15:23).
- iii. Those who belong to Christ and are still alive will be transformed into spiritual beings (4:17).
- iv. Transformed Christians will be caught up together with the previously sleeping saints in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Those who belong to Christ will live with the Lord forever (4:17).

b. What does the teaching of resurrection have to do with us today?

- i. When loved ones in Christ pass away, we should not grieve like unbelievers who have no hope of eternal life (4:13). Rather, we ought to comfort the grieving family (4:18), take care of their needs, and uphold their faith.
- ii. With such a beautiful hope in eternity, we should try to evangelize so that more people can be saved on the last day.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



- 1 Why did Paul say that the Thessalonian church was a model church? What can we learn from them?
- 2 How did Paul treat the Thessalonian church? What kind of qualities did he demonstrate?
- 3 What was Paul's attitude when encouraging the Thessalonian believers?
- 4 What are three spiritual goals Paul gives the Thessalonians?
- 5 How did Paul encourage the believers to prepare for the second coming?
- 6 According to 1 Thessalonians, what will happen to Christians who die before Christ's second coming?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

Part A: The 3-Step Plan to Sexual Purity

As believers living under the hormonal changes of young adulthood, how can we be pure and stay pure? Take a look at the table and read the various passages about staying pure. Then think about how those examples can relate to your life.

STEPS	What the Bible has to say	How it applies to my life
1. Read Job 31:1	Job made a conscious determination not to lust. The promise was implanted in his heart to guide him before temptation even came to him.	I should make the determination to remain pure and holy. This way, I will have a plan of action when faced with unexpected temptations.
2. Read Genesis 39:12 and 2 Timothy 2:22	Joseph fled from temptation by physically running away.	I can physically run away or remove myself from situations that compromise my purity and my faith in God.
3. Read Psalm 119:9 and Galatians 5:16-25	A young man can keep his way pure by living according to God's word. We can avoid the lust of the flesh by walking in God's Spirit.	I can rely on God's word and His Holy Spirit to guide me and cleanse me in my daily life. I should set aside time for prayer and Bible reading in order to draw close to God.

How can the above examples relate to my life?

Part B: Cost Benefit Analysis

Living a sanctified life may cause us to be seen as odd by mainstream society, since being “separate and holy” may require shying away from cultural norms such as dances, games, parties, and social situations that are affiliated with sin and temptation. However, though the cost of forgoing “fun” may seem great, the benefits may be even bigger. In this activity, let us help the students visualize the cost and benefits of carnal pleasure vs. spiritual purity.

Step 1:

Brainstorm temptations that may compromise the purity of you today.

Step 2:

As a class, vote on and choose the top 3 most difficult temptations to overcome.

Step 3:

Fill in the following analysis for each of the 3 temptations. An example has been done for you to see. Fill in the blank table below.

Temptation Example: Going to websites I should not be visiting	...gave into temptation now		...resisted temptation now	
	Cost	Benefit	Cost	Benefit
What would be the results if I...	a little guilt	excitement, wonder at new things	denying myself of what my friends can see, seeming naive	a guilt-free conscience
How I will feel 20 years down the line if I...	I may be addicted to bad Internet sites because of the habit I formed in J2	the knowledge of the world	not much	being able to be a good example to my children
How I will feel when I die and face God if I...	I will be judged for my actions	none	none	glad to stand before God with no regrets about visiting bad sites

Temptation Example:	...gave into temptation now		...resisted temptation now	
	Cost	Benefit	Cost	Benefit
What would be the results if I...				
How I will feel 20 years down the line if I...				
How I will feel when I die and face God if I...				

OVERVIEW

- a. Encouragement
 - i. Commending spiritual growth
 - ii. Reminding about the end goal
 - 1. Suffering for the kingdom of God
 - 2. Punishment for those who oppose the truth
 - iii. Praying for the Lord's work
- b. Eschatology
 - i. Resisting temptation
 - ii. Recognizing the man of sin/lawlessness
 - iii. Standing firm in hope
- c. Living a godly, productive life
 - i. In prayer
 - ii. In deed
 - iii. In love

TEACHINGS

A. Encouragement (Ch 1)**a. Commending spiritual growth (1:3-4)**

Paul begins the letter by encouraging the Thessalonian believers who were undergoing intense persecution. He commends them for their perseverance and their spiritual growth in the following areas:

- i. Faith
- ii. Love
- iii. Ability to comfort others

b. Reminding about the end goal (1:5-10)

Sometimes the best way to stay focused is to keep the end in mind. Philippians 3:14 talks about pressing "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Likewise, Paul helps the Thessalonians refocus on the end goal, which is to:

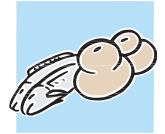
- i. Enter the kingdom of God (1:5)
- ii. Stand before the Lord on the last day (1:8-10)

c. Praying for the Lord's work (1:11-12)

An athlete is motivated to do his best during a sports game when there are fans and supporters cheering on the sidelines. The same concept applies to the spiritual battlefield. It is much easier to fight the good fight when we have someone supporting us through prayer. Here, Paul prays:

- i. that God will count the Thessalonians worthy of the calling,
- ii. that God will help believers fulfill His good work,
- iii. that God will give believers power in their holy work

The purpose behind all of these is to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

**B. Eschatology teachings on the end times (Ch 2)**

In the second section of his letter, Paul clarifies teachings regarding the end times. He not only corrects false teachings regarding the second coming, but teaches the believers how to prepare and react towards the second coming of Christ.

a. Resisting temptation (2:1-3)

In order to resist temptation, we need to:

- i. Understand signs of the end times (2:2)
- ii. Patiently wait upon the Lord (2:3)

b. Recognizing the man of sin/lawlessness (2:3-12)

The Day of the Lord will not come before the man of sin (man of lawlessness in NIV) is revealed. Therefore, it is important for us to be able to recognize the man of sin.

- i. Characteristics (2:4)
- ii. Limitations (2:9)
- iii. Ending (2:8)

c. Standing firm in hope (2:13-17)

- i. Keeping the faith (2:15)

The truth will help us discern right and wrong, overcome selfish desires, and escape from heresies and trends of the world.

- ii. Pursuing holiness 2:13)

One way to stand firm in hope is to constantly and actively pursue sanctification and spiritual improvement through the Holy Spirit.

C. Living a Godly, Productive Life (Ch 3)

Chapter 3 is the life application section of 2 Thessalonians. Here, Paul urges the believers to turn away from idleness and aim for improvements in the following areas:

a. In prayer (3:1-5)

- i. Praying for the ministers (3:1-3)
- ii. Praying for ourselves (3: 5)

b. In deed (3:6-12)

- i. Orderly conduct (3:6-11)
- ii. Quiet labor (3:12)

c. In love (3:13-15)

- i. Not growing weary in doing good (3:13)
- ii. Keeping one another in check (3:14-15)

With love, believers need to comfort the brokenhearted, encourage the weak, warn the disobedient, and heed each other's warnings. This way, the body of Christ may grow in love toward perfection.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



- 1 What are the three main reasons why Paul wrote the second letter to the Thessalonians?
- 2 How does Paul encourage believers who are suffering for their belief?
- 3 According to chapter 2, what attitude should Christians have toward the Lord's second coming? What can they do to prepare for the end times?
- 4 Who will appear before the second coming of Christ? What are his characteristics, limitations, and ending?
- 5 Why is it important to stay away from idleness? What should we do instead?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

Where Does My Time Go?

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul urges the believers to stay away from idleness and live a godly and productive life. While it's less likely that we will sit around and wait for the Lord's coming, it is very possible that we do not use our time as wisely as we should. This first exercise will help us see where the majority of our time is spent.

Materials required:

Five or six colored markers/pencils per student

Instructions:

1. Each box is ONE HOUR. Use a pencil/pen to color in all non-discretionary time in the table below. This is time you have no control over. Non-discretionary time includes:
 - Life-sustaining functions (eating, sleeping, bathroom time)
 - Socially required hygienic duties (grooming)
 - Occupation (school, work, includes transportation)
 - Other _____ (part-time job if financial necessity)
2. The remaining white space should be your discretionary time. Count the white boxes.
 - Your discretionary time PER WEEK is _____ HOURS.
 - Divide your discretionary time by 7 days a week.
 - Your discretionary time PER DAY is _____ HOURS.
3. Use colored pencils to mark each of the following categories. You may include categories that take up significant amounts of time per day.
 - Group worship (church time, fellowships)
 - Individual worship (individual prayer and Bible reading)
 - Relationship building (time spent with family and friends, phone, email)
 - Self improvement (studying, practicing instruments)
 - Leisure activities (sports, hobbies, travel, reading, movies, music, browsing Internet)
 - Other _____

A TYPICAL WEEK IN THE LIFE OF

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
6:00 AM							
7:00 AM							
8:00 AM							
9:00 AM							
10:00 AM							
11:00 AM							
12:00 PM							
1:00 PM							
2:00 PM							
3:00 PM							
4:00 PM							
5:00 PM							
6:00 PM							
7:00 PM							
8:00 PM							
9:00 PM							
10:00 PM							
11:00 PM							
12:00 AM							
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							
5:00 AM							

4. **Count** the number of boxes for each color.

The average time you spend on group worship per week is _____ hours

The time you spend on individual worship per week is _____ hours

The time you spend on relationship building per week is _____ hours

The time you spend on self improvement per week is _____ hours

The time you spend on leisure activities per week is _____ hours

The time you spend on _____ per week is _____ hours

5. **Calculate** the percentage of your discretionary time spent on each category by dividing the number of hours by the total discretionary time. Rank the percentages in order. (Optional: create a pie chart with the percentages.)

6. **Think & reflect:** Is there anything that is surprising about how you use your time? According to your time chart, are there surplus amounts of idleness in your life? Are you currently living more of a godly, productive life or an idle one? Please circle where you think you are:

embracing idleness —1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10— godly, productive
wasting life away using time wisely

7. **Write** down three areas you would like to change about your time usage and how you can improve your life:

TEACHINGS

Paul wrote this epistle in order to advise Timothy on how to safeguard God's truth, how the church should function and how to develop godly leadership.

A. False Doctrines and Myths

The purpose of Timothy's stay in Ephesus was to correct the men teaching false doctrines and devoting themselves to myths and genealogies (1:3-4). The goal of the commandments, for Timothy himself and for the Ephesians, was to learn love through a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith (1:5).

a. False Doctrines (1:3-11; 6:3-10)

*Pride, little knowledge of God and a quarrelsome nature are still ingredients for arguments in the church today. *How would you diffuse such a situation?*

b. Myths (4:1-8)

Apparently the Ephesians adopted unnecessary restrictions based on cultural reasons. These myths may have been ones they grew up with or ones they recently heard of, like a fad. This could correlate to ethnocentric issues we have today (mixing of Asian culture, American culture, biblical teachings, church expectations).

*The church's "old guard" today tends to be more Asian cultural. This becomes an issue for the youth with more Western cultural thoughts. There's a gap between the two groups when culture plays a part in church's spiritual definition of "good." *Is this something that can be addressed? If so, what would be the godly way? If not, why?*

B. Expectations for Believers (Ch 2 3, 5, 6:1-2)

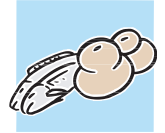
To show love to God and love to the members of His household, the brothers and sisters are responsible for behaving a certain way. The church is the pillar and ground for truth and the church members should reflect this fundamental reality of Jesus Christ. And for those who want the honor of serving the Lord in a greater capacity as an elder or deacon, there are greater expectations placed on role models and those in authoritative, high profile positions. The following are key points for J2 students.

a. Prayer (2:1-7)

**What can you include in your prayer requests now? How do you make it heartfelt?*

b. Brothers (2:8; 3:1-13; 5:1, 17-20; 6:1-2)

**What have you noticed is a specific example of good brotherly behavior? What is one thing you could do to be a better example to younger brothers?*

**c. Sisters (2:9-15; 5:2-16)**

Women should dress modestly with decency and propriety, i.e. dress for God, not for man. To grab God's attention, they adorn themselves with godly deeds. Learning in quietness and full submission means to be "settled down, undisturbed and not unruly." This seems contrary to the idea of independent women in modern society. But Paul's suggestion pertains to learning and is meant to create an orderly environment to do so. Also, for men, treat older women as mothers and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

**What are the challenges to such godly sisterly behavior?*

**Even brothers can give negative reinforcements (like encouraging sisters to dress in a more worldly style). What can you personally do to help sisters (younger/older/yourself) be godlier?*

C. A Good Leader Regardless

Some members of the Ephesian church may not have thought much of Timothy because of his age, but a good church leader is not measured by the approval of the members. A good church leader is measured by God's approval.

a. Study and Continually Learn (1:18-19; 4:6-16)**b. Qualities of a Good Leader in Church (4:6-16; 6:11-21)**

- i. Like Jesus, a leader in the church serves. Use those spiritual muscles! Timothy was commanded to order, teach and preach.
- ii. Like Jesus, an effective leader in the church is close to God and spiritually cultivated. Paul told Timothy to continually study the Scriptures and pursue godly qualities: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.
- iii. Like Jesus, focus! Timothy was warned to shun the things that could corrupt his faith: pride, love of money, worldly pursuits, godless chatter and opposing ideas. He should keep the hope and tenacity to fight the good fight of faith.
- iv. Like Jesus, love. In this pastoral letter, Paul gave Timothy the big-picture tip on how to minister to the different members of the church: treat them with the forgiveness and tolerance accorded to members of his own family.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



- 1 What was the purpose of Timothy's stay in Ephesus and what was the goal of that purpose?
- 2 What false teachings was Paul warning Timothy against?
- 3 What can we learn to fight against false teachings and teachers?
- 4 What behavior is expected of us as young men and women in church?
- 5 What are the qualities of a good leader?

Part A: Brushing Up on the Five Basic Beliefs

True Jesus Church's five basic beliefs set it apart from mainstream Christianity. Our Christian friends may wonder why we believe the things we do, and as they share why they don't, we may wonder if we really have it right. Let's review what it is we believe and why we believe it.

Step 1:

Break into groups of two. The teacher can randomly select or assign which belief each person has. A set of partners should not have the same belief.

Step 2:

In the first round, the first partner will explain to his partner the belief and why it is a TJC basic belief. Feel free to refer to the Bible. The other partner should ask questions with an inquisitive purpose.

Step 3:

In the second round, the second partner will do the same thing with his assigned belief.

Step 4:

If there are enough groups, pick pairs to act out a basic belief explanation in front of everyone. Otherwise, each student will explain and field questions from the class. Discuss as a class whether the main and subtle points were hit upon. Refer to TJC's *Essential Biblical Doctrines* for more in-depth information on each belief.

Basic Beliefs—What and Why

Holy Sabbath

The day God set aside as holy (Gen 2:3); a day of rest dedicated to Him (Ex 16:23). The Sabbath is the last day of the week—Saturday, according to the Roman calendar. Today, we know orthodox Jews follow tradition and observe the Sabbath beginning Friday night. God commanded that the Israelites observe the Sabbath in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:8-11). The early church continued to observe the Sabbath (Acts 13:14) not because of legalistic tradition, but because of the spiritual substance of the Sabbath.

Water Baptism

Based on John the Baptist's baptism: immersion in living water. Jesus set an example when He was baptized by John the Baptist. While John's baptism was one of repentance, after Jesus' death, His baptism was for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16). His disciples baptized others when He was alive (Jn 4:2). After Jesus resurrected and returned to heaven, they continued to baptize new believers (Acts 8:38).

Footwashing

Washing the feet of believers. Occurs after the sacrament of water baptism. Jesus washed His disciples feet at the last supper. When Peter first objected, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part of me" (Jn 13:8). And after He washed all their feet, He told His disciples, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (Jn 13:15).

Holy Communion

Remember Jesus' sacrifice and death (1 Cor 11:24-26), and partake in His body and blood (1 Cor 10:16). Established at the last supper during the Passover Feast. The bread is the body and the cup of juice is the blood, spiritually transfigured after consecration (Mt 26:26-28). One bread is broken into pieces because there is only one body of God (1 Cor 10:16-17). Because yeast is a negative symbol in the Bible, the bread is unleavened and the "fruit of the vine" is juice since wine ferments through yeast.

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is Jesus (Jn 14:16-17), who is God (Acts 5:3-4). Although there were movements of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, it wasn't until Jesus resurrected and returned to heaven that the Holy Spirit dwelled in men (Acts 1:1-5). The Holy Spirit first came down during the Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). It came upon gentiles as a sign that God's salvation was not limited to the Jews (Acts 10:44-48). Evident through the speaking of tongues (Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6). Necessary for salvation (Jn 3:5, Rom 8:9, 2 Cor 1:22).

* If time allows, please refer to Part B Life Application in the T.G.

Although Paul was imprisoned with only Luke for company, he wrote this peaceful and intimate letter of encouragement and hope to Timothy. After living difficult and persecuted years as an apostle of Jesus Christ, Paul has no regrets and stands firm in his faith. He exhorts Timothy, who won't suffer nearly as much, to do the same. Paul's letter creates a model for a servant of Christ, and it gives teachings for why reaching that standard is a worthy goal.

A. *The Model Servant of Christ*

Paul wrote nearly half of the books in the New Testament. Between his teachings and glimpses of his life as an apostle (outside of the Book of Acts), he is perhaps the most familiar Christian in the Bible. Although we learn about Peter and John early on through the Gospels, we only hear from them in a few short letters after their appearance in the Book of Acts. Jesus Christ is the standard whom every Christian aspires to, and Paul is the best example of a person successfully drawing near that goal.

a. Use Gifts and Apply Knowledge (1:6; 3:16-17)

Paul encouraged Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." Although we don't know what particular gift Timothy received, we can see that he was timid in using it. But as we know from the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30), if God gives us a skill, He expects us to use it.

b. Evangelist (1:7-14; 4:1-5)

Jesus Christ gave the disciples the great commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20a). Paul encourages Timothy likewise: "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Tim 4:2).

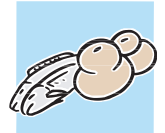
c. Strong in Christ (2:1-7)

Paul gives two metaphors on how Timothy can be strong in Christ. The soldier analogy highlights three traits: endurance, focus and loyalty. Paul says to ride through the difficult or tempting times and follow Jesus Christ.

The farmer analogy highlights toil and effort. The farmer's hard work was fruitful so he would be duly rewarded. Regardless of the level of talent, working hard for God is encouraged. As James said, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (Jas 2:26).

d. Smart in Speech (2:14-19, 23-26)

The body of Christ has many parts and some are naturally not inclined to get along. It is tempting to snap, to be passive-aggressive and to get angry, but Paul reminds Timothy to not quarrel and to diffuse situations. "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone" (Prov 25:15).



e. Prepared for Noble Purposes (2:20-22)

We are all potentially useful, but only if we cleanse ourselves from ignoble purposes. (Ignoble meaning "characterized by baseness, lowness, or meanness," according to Merriam-Webster.) So a gold vessel steeped in ignominy would be less than a cleansed clay cup in the Master's eyes.

f. Steadfast and Faithful (3:1-15)

Between the godlessness and the persecution, Paul encouraged Timothy to stand firm by holding onto the teachings of the Scriptures and by looking at Paul's example of steadfastness.

B. *Motivations to Become the Model Servant*

Paul offers some spiritual reminders to motivate Timothy.

a. Repay the Grace of Jesus (1:9-12)

Paul says he and Timothy were not saved and called to a holy life for nothing. In Jesus Christ's grace there was also a purpose. Paul was humbled and in awe of receiving such mercy that without hesitation, he took the duties Jesus Christ planned for him (Acts 9:1-29; 1 Tim 1:12-17).

b. Salvation (2:8-12; 4:6-8)

Although Paul had to suffer hardships as a model servant of Jesus Christ, he knew there was an eternal reward for his resilience. Paul was secure in the knowledge that dying with Jesus, enduring hardships and keeping the faith would lead to a crown of righteousness and living and reigning with Him. Paul's love and deep understanding of eternal life compelled him to endure hardships for "the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain salvation that is in Jesus Christ." He stayed a model servant not only for his salvation but for others too.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 What are the three metaphors that Paul used to describe being strong in Christ, and what are their qualities that should be mimicked?
- 2 What type of vessel can be useful to the Master and prepared for any good work?
- 3 What should a model servant avoid?
- 4 How can the model servant stay firm?
- 5 How was Paul's life an example to Timothy?
- 6 What was Paul's charge to Timothy?



L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

Part A: Bolstering the Faith of Others

Think about the purpose and themes of Paul's last letter. Practice encouraging brothers and sisters by writing one of the following two letters.

Option 1:

Write a modern-day version of 2 Timothy. Think about the church, its members and society today. What advice would you give Timothy on things to avoid and things to aspire to? What encouragement would you give? What problems would you mention and what solutions would you advise? What else could you include?

Option 2:

Write a letter in response to Paul. Imagine yourself as Timothy. What are the things you would say to comfort Paul? Which of his advice helped? What challenges do you still face? What questions do you still have? What else can you include?

Part B: Godlessness

What are you facing today? Paul never mentioned any specific "evil desires of youth," and while there are some inherent things, what are the new and specific things for you in your church? What godlessness of the last days are you encountering (which aren't necessarily temptations for you)?

Step 1:

Give a handful of paper strips to each other (with more available) and write down the temptations you face and the un-Christian behavior you encounter. Write ONE temptation/un-Christian behavior per strip. Fold the pages and place in a bag.

Step 2:

Once you are finished, pass the bag to the next student and have him/her pick out a strip and read it aloud. Discuss how this is a problem. Is it prevalent? Ask how we can solve the problem and the steps we can take. Talk about ways to encourage classmates to step up and solve the problem; many times the solution is simple but we don't want to face the consequences (losing school friends, etc.).

Step 3:

Pass the bag to the next student and repeat step two.



TEACHINGS IN TITUS

Even though Titus is a short epistle, it covers the same themes as 1 Timothy. A church needs good organizational structure, sound doctrine and truthful teaching in order to fulfill her God-appointed mandate. Refer to Lesson 10 for particular details.

Paul tells Titus that through the grace of God, which promotes good works among His people, the church members can exercise self-control and build up the church. By practicing Christian qualities such as the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” (Mt 5:13-14), they emulate Jesus Christ and glorify Him.

Paul’s short letter to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus emphasizes forgiveness and re-examines a Christian’s slave-master relationship in Jesus Christ. Just as Onesimus faced his Christian duty to mend the wrong in his past and to return to his master, Paul entreats Philemon to respond with similar Christian goodness, receive Onesimus, now a fellow brother in Christ, and show him love and mercy.

A. Church Leadership

From the early apostolic days in Jerusalem, we know the importance and impact of effective leadership in the church.

a. Elders and Overseers (1:5-9)

Since Paul’s visit to Crete before his first imprisonment was brief (Acts 27:7-9, 12-13, 21), Titus was assigned to continue the work of improving the organizational structure of the churches, mainly by appointing qualified men to be elders. They are the same qualifications that Paul lays out later to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:2-7.

b. False Teachers (1:10-16)

While pastoral leaders were initially established to evenly distribute the food amongst the Grecian and Hebraic Jews (Acts 6:1-7), by the time Paul wrote the letter to Titus, they served a more spiritual purpose in addition to their administrative ones. Church stability and effective leadership were important because they better protected members from falling away in faith. Paul impressed the significance of this role to the Ephesian elders, analogizing them as shepherds, the members as the flock and false teachers as wolves (Acts 20:28-31).

Paul wanted Titus to learn how to detect the false teachers and how to challenge them. They were mostly rebellious talkers and deceivers, similar to the false teachers in Ephesus, but in Crete Titus also had to face the “circumcision group”—the Jewish Christians. They were imposing Jewish laws upon the gentile Christians for the purpose of dishonest gain.

B. Godly Living

In 2:11-14, Paul says the grace of God can teach us to turn away from ungodliness and worldly passions, and to be self-controlled and upright. Jesus Christ’s life exemplifies this grace, that godly lives can be achieved through Him who gives us strength. And this grace motivates Christians to strive for godly lives in light of the debt of love we owe. Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself to redeem us from wickedness and to purify Himself for people. Redemption alone does not make us one of His own; holiness is necessary too.

a. Self-Control (2:1-10)

In the NIV translation of this chapter, the word “self-control” frequently appears and can be used as a focal point for behavior amongst the different church groups.

It can be hard to exercise self-control at any age. We want to enjoy life and sometimes, by exercising self-control, we feel like we’re missing out on something. But self-control is meant to sway the balance away from our sinful nature and towards pleasing God (Rom 8:5-8).

Paul encouraged Titus to teach the older men and women in the Cretan churches to exercise self-control as role models to the younger men and women. The younger men and women and the slaves should exercise self-control in order to glorify God and to spread Jesus Christ’s salvation, showing they are His followers in conduct and not only in name.

b. Doing Good (3:1-11)

The idea of being submissive and meek is difficult for modern youth to accept. In part, it may be because words like weak-willed, trampled-upon or no backbone come to mind when we think about submission. But we know it isn’t a bad thing. Otherwise, God wouldn’t have asked this of us. Submission involves trust (Eph 5:24), reciprocation (Eph 5:33), and most importantly, obedience to God. It is also difficult to slander no one, to be peaceful and considerate, and to show true humility. But no matter the trends in society, most people are drawn to those who do good.

Paul also reminds Titus to encourage the Cretans to do good deeds as a sign of themselves as new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). If their “before” picture included foolishness, disobedience, malice, envy, hatred and lust, then their “after” picture should be of them only doing good. Paul also mentions, as he has in other letters, that our doing good is a speck of dust in contrast to what Jesus Christ did for us. He saved us without us deserving or earning it. And though we were far below, He raised us up to be heirs of eternal life with Him.

TEACHINGS IN PHILEMON

A. Forgiveness

Interestingly, Paul uses a fairly passive-aggressive tone in this personal letter to nudge Philemon in the right direction (8-9, 13-14, 18-19, 21). That could explain the absence of the word "forgive," even though it is what Paul wanted Philemon to do. From Jesus Christ's seventy-times-seven conversation with Peter and the parable of the wicked servant (Mt 18:21-35), we know the importance of forgiveness. But with Onesimus' elevated status as a fellow brother in Christ, we can see that a Christ-like forgiveness includes humility. Paul did not encourage Philemon to forgive Onesimus from the lofty height of a benevolent master, but rather at an equal position as a spiritual brother. It takes humility to ask for forgiveness; it also takes humility to accept it and let grudges go.

B. Slaves to Christ

The relationship between Onesimus and Philemon echoes the relationship Christians have with Jesus Christ. We are the slaves and Jesus Christ is our master. Living our day-to-day lives, it's easy to forget that we are not our own. But we were bought and redeemed at a price (1 Co 6:19-20), by the blood of the Lamb. We belong to God and one of the ways He wants us to acknowledge that is through keeping our bodies, His temple, holy. As Christians, we are no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:15-23).

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1 Why was Titus left in Crete and what was the goal of his work?
- 2 What is the goal of self-control?
- 3 Why should we do good deeds?
- 4 What are the similarities and differences between the books of Titus and 1 Timothy?
- 5 Why should Philemon forgive Onesimus?



L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

Part A: Exercising Self-Control

When faced with a situation where you should exercise self-control, what can you say or do?

Step 1:

Divide into groups with 2-4 people in each group. It's skit time!

Step 2:

Take the scenarios you shared in step 1 and ask the groups to select one to act out. Give each group time to come up with how the scene unfolds, how self-control does or does not come into play, and the result.

Part B: To Forgive or Not to Forgive

It isn't easy to ask for forgiveness and it isn't easy to genuinely give it, but that's what God asks us to do. That doesn't mean He wants us to forget and be naive in the future, but He wants us to learn to forgive as He forgives.

The class will be divided into two groups. It's debate time! Flip a coin and let the winning team decide which side they want to argue.

Option 1:

One group will argue for Philemon to forgive Onesimus and the other group will argue for Philemon not to.

Option 2:

The teacher will give scenarios about forgiveness to debate.

Note: Debates are not arguments. There is no name-calling or degradation. They are about smart and sound arguments and finding weaknesses in your opponent's points. In these debates, one side will be arguing for what God wants but the group shouldn't necessarily "win" the debate without arguing well. The teacher will be the judge.

PART I MEMORY VERSE QUIZ

The purpose of this test is to help everyone review and remember Bible verses.

Fill in the blank (40 points total)

1. (4 pts) "For I am not _____ of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the _____. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from _____ to _____; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" (Rom 1:16-17)
2. (4 pts) "Or do you not know that your body is the _____ of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your _____? For you were _____ at a price; therefore glorify God in your _____ and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor 6:19-20)
3. (2 pts) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____; the _____ has gone, the new has come." (2 Cor 5:17)
4. (4 pts) "...a man is not justified by the works of the _____ but by _____ in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by _____ in Christ and not by the works of the _____; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified." (Gal 2:16)
5. (4 pts) "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one _____, one _____, one _____; _____ and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph 4:4-6)
6. (2 pts) "What is more, I consider everything a _____ compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them _____ that I may gain Christ." (Phil 3:8)
7. (3 pts) "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so _____ in Him, _____ and _____ up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." (Col 2:6-7)
8. (3 pts) "Now may the God of peace Himself _____ you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved _____ at the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess 5:23)
9. (3 pts) "We constantly _____ for you, that our God may count you _____ of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good _____ of yours and every act prompted by your faith." (2 Thess 1:11)
10. (4 pts) "Let no one despise your _____, but be an example to the believers in word, _____, in love, in spirit, in _____ and in _____." (1 Tim 4:12)
11. (4 pts) "_____ also youthful lusts; but pursue _____, faith, love, peace with those who _____ on the Lord out of a _____ heart." (2 Tim 2:22)
12. (3 pts) "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain _____. These things are good and _____ to men." (Titus 3:8)

BOOKS and MESSAGES.

The purpose of this section is to help you remember the Pauline epistles and their main messages. If you are unfamiliar with the books, it is suggested that you be given a brief review by the teacher before this portion of the test

A. List the 13 Pauline Epistles in the order they appear in the Bible:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____

B. Match the name of the Pauline Epistle to the main ideas listed:

1. Paul writes this letter to a young, predominately gentile church. The believers in this church had accepted the faith fervently, but were swayed by Jewish teachers who preached the importance of law and circumcision. Paul uses this letter to refute the bondage of the law and urges the believers to live as freed men under Christ—freed men who fight their sinful nature and bear the fruit of the spirit in their daily lives. _____
2. This was the first letter to the church that had many questions about resurrection. It clarifies the resurrection process and what will happen to Christians who die before the Lord's coming. _____
3. Some people believed that since the Lord Jesus was about to come soon, they no longer needed to work. They were sitting around all day, waiting for the Lord and living off the labor of others. Paul addresses the problem in this letter and reiterates the truth about resurrection. _____
4. Paul wrote this letter to a church with many gifts and many problems. Members were blessed with the gift of prophesying in tongue, but service was disorderly. People didn't partake of the Holy Communion with reverence and women had their heads uncovered. The church couldn't function as one body and even tolerated acts of incest. _____
5. In this letter, Paul defends his apostleship so his ministry may not be shamed. He counters accusations by false apostles and explains why he works for his own living. He "boasts" of his weaknesses while stating his qualifications as an apostle. He also encourages the believers to complete their pledge to help less fortunate brethren in Jerusalem. _____
6. This letter contains Paul's most complete explanation about the gospel of salvation. It talks about how we are justified by faith and sanctified by the blood of Christ in baptism. _____
7. Although written in prison, this letter is dubbed the "gospel of love" because love is mentioned so many times. Paul describes the loving relationships between husband and wife, parents and children, slaves and masters and encourages believers to put on the full armor of God. _____
8. This is a prison epistle in which Paul talks about joy in suffering. He thanks the church for their love and participation in the ministry and encourages them to imitate Christ and prioritize Him in their lives. _____
9. This church was confused by a mix of worldly philosophies and heresies. Church members pursued spiritual knowledge in the same way they pursued worldly knowledge and had problems with asceticism and angel worship. Paul writes this letter from prison to help the believers re-focus on Christ and "put on the new man." _____
10. This letter was written to the master of a runaway slave who became a believer in Christ. Its main message is forgiveness and acceptance. _____
11. This letter was written as an encouragement to a young minister. It is full of practical advice about how to safeguard God's truth, how the church should function and how to develop godly leadership. _____
12. This letter was written to a young minister who was put in charge of the churches in Crete. In the letter, Paul instructs the minister on how to choose elders (bishops) to assist in church affairs and how to encourage each demographic within the church to walk according to the word of God. _____
13. This was Paul's last letter before his execution. In it, Paul encourages a young minister to be steadfast in the truth and preach the good news. The two themes in this letter are Paul's love for his "son" and Paul's love for Christ. _____

God's Purpose For Paul's Epistles

Whether written to a church or to an individual, these letters are especially for Christians (Rom 8:9). Only God can help us understand what God's Word means (1 Corinthians 2:24-26). Only He can give you power to obey the Word of God and please Him.

Each of Paul's letters has a special message. Each has a message for us today. **What did you learn from each letter? How does it apply to your life?**



Spiritual hunger is the requirement for your growth!!

The lack of spiritual hunger is the reason for your spiritual failure!!

Keep the Fire Burning