

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16

YEAR 3 BOOK 4

Junior 2 Year 3 Book 4

YEAR 3 BOOK 4

JUNIOR 2

Teacher's Guide

The Pauline Epistles



THEME:

The Pauline Epistles

G.A. of the True Jesus Church

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

[HTTP://WWW.TJC.ORG](http://www.tjc.org)

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Watch and Pray

Summer Quarter:
June, July, August

YEAR 3 BOOK 4

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!

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Matthew 26:41)

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JUNIOR 2

Teacher's Guide



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The Pauline Epistles

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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 know as: Saul, his Jewish name, a member of the tribe of Benjamin, to which Paul's family belonged; but following his conversion he was know 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 the least of all the saints" (Eph 3:8). Finally he described himself as the "chief" of all sinners (1 Tim 1:15).

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WELCOME TO THE J2 CURRICULUM

This Teacher's Guide has been designed to help the teachers plan the class and become more effective in the teaching ministry.

Because of the impact of God's word, it is our prayer that we see our students understand and apply the Bible to their lives. Our ultimate goal of this curriculum is to see lives transformed. Here you'll find the materials you will need to teach the unchanging truth of God's word.

This Curriculum

LESSON TITLE

Getting Your Spiritual Life in Shape

LISTED SCRIPTURES

Eph 6:13 –18; Ex 33:17 – 23;
34:28 – 33; Num 12:6 – 8

LESSON AIM

- 1) To examine the important elements of spiritual growth
- 2) To discover how to win the battle between the spirit and the flesh
- 3) To implement a plan to get the students' spiritual lives in shape by using specific goals

MEMORY VERSE

"That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world"
(Phil 2:15) (NKJV)

BIBLE READING FOR THE WEEK

Eph 1-2

Sample

All of these sabbath lessons are built on:

1. (Not listed in the Student Workbook) **BIBLE BACKGROUND**
Extra resource related to the lesson for the students and teachers to know.
2. **WARM UP**
Something to capture their focus to get them started.
3. **BIBLE STUDY**
Lead your students in discovering the timeless truth of God's word through inductive Bible study.
(Student Worksheet is only in outline form)
4. **CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**
Find out if the students comprehend the information that is being presented. Teachers can check for understanding in different ways. One way is to ask them questions related to what they've just learned.
5. **LIFE APPLICATION**
Help each student apply God's word to his/her life as the Holy Spirit leads him/her. Encourage students to come up with a plan of action to practice what they've learned. How are they going to implement their plans? When are they going to apply it?
6. **REFLECTION AND PRAYER**
Ask them to share with you what sticks in their mind after the lesson, before the concluding prayer.



A Reminder!

Unit goals and teacher devotional are listed before each unit. Bible reading for the week and the memory verse are listed in each lesson. Be sure to read through each lesson before you plan and teach your class.



It is important to teach teens in order to equip them with a strong foundation of good, solid faith. This generation that we are working with is searching for answers to truth. Although they may have many ups and downs in their lives or lack spiritual depth, they do want to know who makes a real difference in the real world.

Teens live in a time when believing in God is considered ridiculous. They also live in a world that is in constant violation of God's laws. Some of the results of this are health epidemics, environmental devastation and domestic violence. Therefore, they are faced with important decisions each and every day. What they decide can ultimately affect their values, faith, education, choice in friends, occupation, marriage, and church-life. In addition to

these complexities, teens may be struggling with peer pressure, fashion expectations, substance abuse issues, family/relationship problems as well as issues of identity and self-concept. In other words, they are rocked with change, whether spiritual, emotional, social or physical.

Teens need something or someone to rely on, anything that they can look up to as their standard. Our job, then, is to lead our teens to see a powerful God in this ever-changing world. Surprisingly, teens want to be "spiritual," despite all the hype around them. Therefore, they need to hear personal testimonies, Bible truths, how God's love has touched the lives of other people and what kind of hopes we all have despite living in an often senseless world. The question we need to answer as we teach is, "How can we affirm their faith in a God who loves and cares for them like no other?"

1. Love and Acceptance

Teens have a great need for acceptance by their peers, and they care about what others think of them. They are worried about how others perceive them physically (attractiveness: too tall, too short, too fat, too thin, the notion of sex) and mentally (intelligence: being too smart or dumb). They also look to peers, teachers, sports figures and media personalities as role models. Therefore, the way teachers express their faith and belief will be a positive witness for them.

2. Relationship with God/Finding Faith

At this age, teens will no longer come to church simply because their parents tell them to. They should be beginning to develop their own relationships with Jesus Christ. Although their reasoning skills will cause them to question what part God and the Bible play in their lives, it is important for teachers to continue to challenge them to make time for prayer and devotional life outside of the classroom and church so that they will be able to establish their own faith. Their spiritual goal is to find meaning and purpose in their lives through Jesus Christ.

3. Personal Experiences With God

Up till this point in their lives, teens probably have yet to have many personal experiences with God. Their devotional life has likely consisted of attending church services, going to classes and praying before going to bed. While this regularity is good, it is not enough. Now is the time to encourage them to pray consistently so that they may realize the roles God is playing in their lives. Share with them personal testimonies that will touch their hearts. Soon, they will begin to see God as a personal friend, comforter and advisor.



TEENS' DESIRES (2)



4. Purpose in Life/True Fulfillment

Teens want to know who they are. At this crucial age, they are beginning to ask themselves, "What is my purpose in life?" and "What does it all mean?" A teenager needs to see himself as a separate and a worthwhile person in order to attain a successful transition into adulthood. Their drive for independence is strong and they feel a need to prove themselves as capable individuals. Some parents may have a difficult time letting go and end up being over-controlling because they find this "growing up" threatening. As a result, the teenager may end up rebelling. As teachers, we need to show support and encouragement, and provide helpful advice. We also need to affirm their talents and abilities to let them know their self-worth. Teenagers do respect parents and

adults who show consistency and structure. As they make their own decisions and learn from their mistakes, it will allow them to find their own identities and seek out what it is they believe in. When they are able to do so, they can also become faithful to their beliefs and values.

5. Purity and Holiness

Perhaps because of their young age and their lack of experience in the real world, teens often feel they can overcome anything if they try hard enough. "I can handle it," they might think. "It may have happened to them, but it won't happen to me!" In one sense, it is great to have confidence. However, when they are faced with real temptations, they may also be unprepared to deal with the issues with a clear head. While we don't need to bombard them with stories of people who have failed to remain pure and holy, we do need to let them understand the reality and difficulties. Challenge them to think about what is important to them and encourage them to stand firm in what they believe.

HOW DO I EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH MY STUDENTS?

1. Greet every student at every class session

A friendly and sincere greeting communicates undivided attention. "How's it going?" expresses genuine concern. "It's great to see you" can transform anyone's day. Your greeting may take only 30-40 seconds, but your students will deeply feel that you really care.

2. Send an occasional card/email or pick up the phone to find out how someone is doing

Saying, "I was wondering how you were doing," will make a big difference in someone's life. An investment of four or five minutes and the price of a postage stamp can literally make a teenager's day come alive.



3. Open your home for fellowship or special events

Our greatest memories result from serving the Lord together through fellowship and special services or events. Every fellowship or meeting will provide a new opportunity to "reach out and touch someone."

4. Pray with them

Teens need to know that their teachers are constantly praying for them. Even though they may be very busy with their daily chores, always remind them that praying together at a certain time is the only way to draw wisdom and strength from God.

In this 21st century, 99% of the youth communicate via email every day! With the help of the internet, many people have found a great way to keep in touch with those they normally wouldn't be able to talk to and with those who live far away.

As an RE teacher, using email to reach out to our students is a wonderful way to **build relationships**. Since you



know your students already, send out an email that goes a little deeper than greetings and

praise. Perhaps you could ask your students a thought-provoking question about what goes on in the world, about what he or she believes in, about relationships within their families, or maybe begin with a gentle question about their relationship with God.

The truth is, your students love to find email in their boxes even though you and your students don't really talk frequently. At the very least, consider sending your students an occasional encouraging email or e-card to let them know that they are in

your thoughts or to wish them well on a test or sporting event. You can even make your student's day with a quick note of praise or a written pat on the back.

In order to reach out to your students effectively through email, keep your message brief—two or three short paragraphs is sufficient. And believe it or not, sometimes only a sentence is required. Living in this fast-paced society, not many of us want to scroll through a book-length email. Also, it is very vital to respond to messages within a day or two. Your students look to you for support and guidance. You will easily lose their confidence in you if a week goes by with no feedback.

Last but not least, try to use a gentle tone in your email. Let them know that you are always there, especially when you notice that one of your students is sick or simply feeling low spiritually. Quote Scripture sparingly and use liberal doses of humor. Teens do not respond well to teachers who always condemn. **Be there, and be an example.**

Email is a great door to communicating with your students. May God help us strengthen the faith of our students and nurture understanding with God's word.

HOW CAN I GET THEM MOTIVATED & TO STAY INTERESTED?

You can involve...

1. a game or debate
2. a video clip
3. brainstorming sessions
4. a poster
5. interesting questions and news stories
6. a touching testimony or hymn
7. quiet time for them to reflect
8. arts and crafts



When you deliver your lesson, it can be through...

1. lecture style
2. an in-depth Bible study
3. a skit
4. a meaningful and relevant video

Teachers can check for understanding by...

1. asking the students to share what they have learned
2. asking questions about the Bible study
3. asking the students to come up with a good moral for the lesson
4. asking which one of the characters they would have wanted to be had they been a part of the scene
5. asking the students to apply the Bible study and to make relevant connections to their own lives

MEMORY VERSE CONTEST

Do you know that working on **memory verses** together in class can provide excellent teachable moments about the word of God? Most people think that J2 class students already know many of the verses in the Bible. However, that's not necessarily true. Therefore, we as RE teachers should emphasize this part of the lesson more than others. Why? Because memorizing the Scriptures can help students **resist temptations and build a stronger faith.**

Make sure that it's something that involves the **both** of you. Think about challenging your students to memorize the memory verse with you each week. Maybe you could suggest that both you and the students recite all 13 verses by the end of the quarter. This is a great way to motivate your students. Perhaps you could challenge your students to a contest. Make it a real challenge and see who can memorize the most verses by a certain time. If

everyone wins, take your students out for ice cream or even out to lunch.

Since you need to recite the memory verse from week to week, you can spend more time talking about it with your students. Let the word of God impact them in their daily lives and be a part of their lives too. After a period of time, you will definitely see the lives of your students flourish just as God intended. The key point is that if your students see that you are serious about memorizing Scripture yourself, they will see that it is a **vital way of growing more like Jesus Christ.** May God strengthen our hands as we continue to serve Him.

BIBLE READING FOR THIS QUARTER

1. Rom 1-16
2. 1 Cor 1-16
3. 2 Cor 1-13
4. Gal 1-6
5. Eph 1-6
6. Phil 1-4
7. Col 1-4
8. 1 Thes 1-5
9. 2 Thes 1-3
10. 1 Tim 1-6
11. 2 Tim 1-4
12. Titus and Philemon

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**)

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)

Teacher Devotional

God's word is our treasure map and the Holy Spirit is our guide in our lives. Reading the Pauline epistles can stir our passion until the flames leap upward inside. Paul's life gives us strength to walk and serve God because God has promised to be with us always. As we keep walking, keep soldiering on, like it said in Isaiah, we'll mount up with wings as eagles and we run and not be weary; we will walk and never faint.

The truth is that as soon as we stop living for Christ, we begin dying. To live in the presence of God is the essence of a Christian life.

Run Your Race!

*"Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labor in vain."
 (Phil 2:16)*

Lesson 1

Romans

Listed Scriptures

Rom 12:1-2; Dan 1:1-21; 2:14-49; 6:1-28

Lesson Aim

- 1) To introduce the structure and teachings of the book of Romans.
- 2) To teach students how to present the gospel of salvation to others.
- 3) To encourage students to live sanctified lives that glorify God.

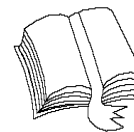
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Rom 1-16

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Paul's Letters

The 27 New Testament books can be divided into three segments:

1. Historical books (the four gospels and Acts)
2. Epistles (13 Pauline epistles and 8 general epistles)
3. Visions (Revelation).

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:

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 - 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.

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."

W A R M U P



What does the "gospel of salvation" mean to you? Ask the students to write their answers on a piece of paper and share with the class. (Please limit to 5 minutes)

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1

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)



Part 2

Bible Study- The Book of Romans



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)
Gentiles should have acknowledged the existence of God because of their conscience (v. 19) and the evidence of creation (v. 20). Yet, professing to be wise, they did not glorify or thank God. Their consciences were darkened as they worshiped creatures instead of the Creator. Therefore, God gave them up to the lusts of their own hearts and permitted them to live in homosexuality and all types of sin (v. 28-32).
- b. The sin of Jews (2:1-29)
The Jews boast of their faith in God and judge the gentiles. However, they themselves are not without sin. Even with the covenant of circumcision, the Jews are no better off than the gentiles because they do not practice the laws and commandments that they are so familiar with.
- c. The sin of all mankind (3:1-20)
No matter Jew or gentile, all fall short of the glory of God. No one can stand before the judgment of God and be called righteous through the law. One must be justified through faith alone (cf. Gal 3:22).

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)
 - i. Abraham is the father of our faith. God called him, blessed him, and increased him (Isa 51:2).
 - ii. Abraham was not justified through works (v. 1-8), circumcision (v. 9-10), or the law (v. 13); he was called righteous by God because of his unmov- ing faith.
 - *Abraham is best known for his works/deeds. He followed God's command even to the point of sacrificing his son Isaac on the altar. However, Abraham was declared righteous before he had children, when God promised him many descendants (Gen 15:5-6).
 - *Abraham did not rely on circumcision to be justified (Rom 4:10-11).
 - *In Abraham's time there was no such thing as Mosaic Law.
 - iii. 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)
 - i. We die, are buried, and resurrect with Christ (6:3-8).
 - ii. Baptism is a critical moment in which we come out of the power of Satan and into the protection of God. Our status changes from a slave of sin to a son of God. We are given the chance to live a new life (v. 4) and become an instrument of righteousness (v. 13).
- b. Our struggle with sin does not end with water baptism
 - i. We will still have moments of weakness because there are two laws warring within us—the law of God and the law of sin (7:18-25).
 - ii. Because of our sinful nature and our residence in a sinful world controlled by Satan, we are often held captive by sin (v. 21).
- c. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to “die to sin,” and find freedom in Christ (6:4)
 - i. The Holy Spirit releases a person from the law of sin and death (8:1-2).
 - ii. As long as we live in the world, sin will try to lure us away from God. Only the Holy Spirit will give us the power to see ourselves as dead to sin (6:11). When we are dead to sin, we will naturally dislike sinful matters and stay away from harm.
 - iii. If a Christian does not pray, he cannot have the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit. It will be difficult for him to resist temptation and he will very likely be overcome by sinful desires.

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

- a. Understanding God's sovereign choice
 - i. God chooses people according to His promise (9:6-9), not because of our deeds or actions (9:10-13).
 - ii. God has absolute freedom in deciding who gets to be saved. He chooses people based on His preference (9:11-13,) mercy (v. 15) and authority (v. 20-21).
 - iii. We have no right to question God's fairness because we are all saved by His mercy (v. 15).
- b. The chosen status of the Jewish race
 - i. The special “chosen” status of the Jewish race is a sign of God's absolute authority.

- ii. The Jews pursued righteousness by works and not by faith (9:32). They did not understand God's righteousness and sought to establish their own (10:3). Therefore, they did not believe or confess Christ and salvation was given to the gentiles (10:9-21).
- iii. The Jewish race will ultimately be saved because of God's promise to Abraham (11:1-36).

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).



C. Conclusion (15:14-16)

Paul concludes by stating his mission to be a minister to the gentiles, sharing his plan to visit Rome, and sending greetings to the church members.

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?”

Johnny (red in the face): “No, just lay off it, man.”

Question- What struggles do you think Johnny is facing? What encouragement would you give Johnny based on Romans 12:1-2? (Johnny is struggling with peer pressure and the temptation to conform. Romans 12:1-2 tells us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is our spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve of what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will. Therefore, it is God’s will for us to keep our body holy. Also, one should be emotionally, mentally, and spiritually stable before dating.)

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? (Sasha’s attitude shows a bit of pride. Romans 12:3 tells us: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.)

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? (Jennifer is not aware that her choice of clothing may cause others to stumble. She has a very spiteful attitude as well. We could encourage her with:

1. Rom 12:17-18. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
2. Rom 14:13. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling blocks or obstacles in your brother's way.
3. Rom 14:21. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.)

REFLECTION & PRAYER



*Dear Lord Jesus,
Thank you for your sacrifice. Because you died on the cross in our place, we are able to be called righteous and escape condemnation for our sins. Indeed, Your grace is wonderful and marvelous. As we continue our journey of life, please strengthen our faith so we may trust in You as Abraham did. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and help us overcome the temptations of youth. Help us be holy and pure as living sacrifices so that we may show Your love to all those around us and attract them to the gospel of salvation. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.*

Lesson 2

1 Corinthians

Listed Scriptures

1 Corinthians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To encourage students to glorify God by living a life of purity.
- 2) To teach students the importance of having unity in the church.
- 3) To teach students to rely on spiritual wisdom and love when resolving conflicts in church.

Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

1 Cor 1-16

BIBLE BACKGROUND



The city of Corinth was nearly destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC and rebuilt in 44 BC as a colony to house Rome's freed slaves and displaced peasants. Due to its strategic location in southern Greece, the city of Corinth quickly became a hub for commerce and one of the most prosperous cities in the Roman Empire. Although Corinth was known for its pursuit of knowledge and philosophy, it was also infamous for its sexual immorality. Its loose moral standards were greatly influenced by the worship of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and the practice of religious prostitution.

Corinth was the first major urban area (besides Antioch) in which Paul preached to. Along with coworkers such as Timothy, Silas, Priscilla, Aquila, and Phoebe, Paul

organized and taught in various house-assemblies for eighteen months. The house-assemblies of Corinthians would periodically meet together as a complete congregation to partake of the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion). After Paul moved across the Aegean Sea to work in Ephesus, Apollos also pastured the Corinthian church. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, circa 57 AD (Eph 16:8), is his response to a letter of questions from the Corinthians and news of conflict within the church. It was penned in Ephesus and hand-delivered by Timothy.

W A R M U P



What do we do when we encounter spiritual or biblical questions in our daily life? Although our friends can give us some answers, we usually like to ask a parent, a trusted R.E. teacher or a minister who has more spiritual wisdom and discernment. However, what do we do when they are not around? We could call or send them an e-mail.

The Corinthian church also encountered questions regarding spiritual gifts and resurrection. Being a fledgling church, they felt the best way to get answers was to write a letter to their preacher. In return, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to answer their questions. He also used the opportunity to give them additional instructions based on news he heard from Chloe's household (1:11). Through the letter, we can learn about some issues we may encounter today and how to deal with them in a godly way.

B I B L E S T U D Y



The Book of 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians begins with Paul's usual address, greeting, and thanksgiving. The body of the letter then 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). When told that a Corinthian believer was having incestuous relations with his stepmother, Paul used the analogy of yeast. To prevent the church from being defiled and puffed up, the members were told to “purge out the old leaven” and “deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh” (5:5).

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).

Teacher’s 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?

Teacher’s Note: Exercising “complaint cautiousness.” Today, we also ought to be cautious about complaining to our non-believing church friends about our church matters. After all, who would want to join a group that is constantly fighting and bickering? Instead, we should try to reconcile with one another and attract people to church with our love.



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 single-hood 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.

Teacher’s Note: Preparing for Marriage: J2 students can begin preparing for a godly marriage by storing up biblical concepts/truths on marriage, keeping themselves sexually pure for their future spouse, and devoting their precious time of single hood to the work of God.




D. Food Sacrificed to Idols (Ch 8–10)

A. Having no part with demons

Idol-worship was rampant in the city of Corinth, and animals were offered as sacrifices in pagan temples. The unused portions of meat were either sold in the markets or served as food in public feasts or in restaurants adjacent to the temples. 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.

Teacher's 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)

The church in Corinth was blessed with many spiritual gifts (such as wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophesying, discerning spirits and tongues v. 14-16). Unfortunately, some members tried to compare and outdo one another in their gifts. Paul corrects this by using the analogy of a body. In a body, there is no greater or smaller body parts, because the body depends on each one to function. Likewise, there is no greater or smaller spiritual gift. We need to utilize the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to work together so the body of Christ may prosper and be glorified.

B. The greatest gift of love (Ch 13)

The Corinthian church was richly gifted, but the lack of love drove the believers to divisions and factions. Here, Paul reminds them that love is the greatest gift. It is greater than any knowledge, faith, or deed. It is self-sacrificing and perfect. It can overcome the jealousy, pride, and boasting caused by unequal allocations of talent. Only through love can all our spiritual gifts, deeds, and church responsibilities have value.

C. Edification by spiritual gifts (Ch 14)

- a. Paul mentions two types of tongues: speaking in tongues (14:2), which is evidence of the Holy Spirit, and prophesying in tongues (14:3), which is the gift of sermon delivery in tongues.
- b. Many believers in the Corinthian church were blessed with the gift of prophesying in tongues. Some believers were able to preach in tongues and did this without restraint or interpretation. This caused chaos during service.

- c. We should worship God with a quiet heart. Whether singing hymns or testifying, everything should be done in an orderly way and for mutual edification.

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.

Teacher's Note: Resurrection: It is important for us to understand that Jesus was the first human being ever to be resurrected from the dead. Lazarus and other Old Testament people were raised from the dead, but none had been resurrected. In Christ's resurrection, Jesus did not come back to the same life the same way as He left. Rather, his body was transformed into a spiritual body no longer belonging to this world. When the Bible uses the term "resurrection," it always refers to the resurrection of Christ and the resurrection awaiting us when Christ comes again.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



- 1 What two things prompted Paul to write his first letter to the Corinthian church?
- 2 What are the seven issues that Paul covers in this letter?
- 3 Why was the Corinthian Church divided?

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

LIFE APPLICATION



Part 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."

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church—Disorderliness (Ch 11)
During the Lord's Supper, the members didn't have any concern for one another.

No one waited for others. Some ate in abundance while others went hungry. Paul advised the church to consider one another and show brotherly love during meals.

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.

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Resurrection (Ch 15–16)

Because of popular Greek culture and heresies, some Corinthian believers had a hard time believing the resurrection of Christ. Paul reaffirms the validity, importance, and hope of Christ’s resurrection and second coming.

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.

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Moral issues (Ch 5–6)

The Corinthians couldn’t forgive one another. They sued each other and brought their disputes to be judged by a third party after church. Doing so not only hurts our brethren but also brings shame upon God and the house of God. It can also hinder our preaching of the gospel.

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.”

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Food sacrificed to idols (Ch 8–10)

Some Corinthians believed that food sacrificed to idols was harmless as long as they didn’t believe in idols. However, Paul tells us that we should refrain from such food so we don’t cause others to fall and don’t have fellowship with demons.

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.”

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Church division (Ch 1–4)

A big problem in the Corinthian church was division over human leaders. The believers misunderstood the roles of God’s workers and aligned themselves with their favorite pastors. Paul reminds the believers that all ministers are only workers working for the same God. Every member should appreciate various gifts from different workers.

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.

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Marriage (Ch 7)

Sexual immorality was a problem in the Corinthian church. Thus, Paul writes to teach them not only about sexual immorality but also about marriage and singleness. Paul urges those who are single to serve God in their youth, before they are burdened by familial responsibilities. They can also serve God more effectively.

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.”

Corresponding issue in the Corinthian Church–Spiritual Gifts (Ch 12–14)

Members in the Corinthian church were blessed with all kinds of spiritual gifts. Yet, they became proud and compared their gifts. Paul teaches that the church is a body with many parts. All parts have different gifts and functions so we may collectively serve and glorify God.

Questions to think about:

Modern day solutions to the problems (based on 1 Corinthian teachings):

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?

Part 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 (see table to the right).

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



It’s easy to imagine how exasperating it must have been for Paul to deal with all of the Corinthian church’s complicated problems and questions. In many ways, the Corinthian church was like a teenager—young, extremely gifted, hotheaded, confused at times, and constantly tempted by a sexually immoral environment. To help the church, Paul very systematically, sternly, patiently, and lovingly answered their questions and pointed them to the right way. The result was a millennia—old real-life survival guide that still pertains to our lives today. As J2 teachers, let us learn from Paul’s parenting techniques toward the Corinthians. Let us be genuinely concerned about our students’ spiritual lives, offer them biblical answers to their real-life questions, and build up a relationship based on the greatest gift of God’s love.

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.						

2 Corinthians

Listed Scriptures

2 Corinthians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To learn about the joys, frustrations, responsibilities, and authorities of a minister through Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians.
- 2) To encourage students to pray for our ministers and joyfully give to God's work.

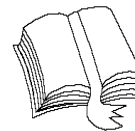
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

2 Cor 1-13

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



1 Corinthians seemed to make an impact upon the Corinthian church, as Paul never again mentions lawsuits among believers (1 Cor 6:1-8) or disorderly conduct during the Lord's Supper (1 Cor.11:11-34). However, after 1 Corinthians was delivered, news came back to Paul that false teachers (Jewish-Christian missionaries) had arrived in Corinth and were trying to undo his character and teachings. Paul immediately put off his work in Ephesus and rushed to Corinth. This visit was known as the "painful visit" in which Paul was grieved (2 Cor 2:1, 12:14, 21, 13:1-2).

After returning to Ephesus, Paul was openly insulted at Corinth (2 Cor 2:5-8). This prompted him to write the "severe letter" (2 Cor 2:4), now lost, which was penned

in Ephesus and delivered by Titus (7:5-16). Later, Paul had to leave Ephesus due to the riot instigated by Demetrius (Acts 19:23–20:1). He evangelized at Troas and traveled to Macedonia. It was there that Titus brought the good news that the Corinthians had responded to the “severe letter” by reforming their ways (2 Cor 7:5-16). Therefore, Paul wrote chapters 1–9 of 2 Corinthians to express his relief and joy and encourage the collection of offerings for the church in Jerusalem. After hearing further problems at Corinth, he wrote chapters 10–13 and sent the letter to Corinth via Titus (8:16-24). Paul then traveled to Corinth (12:14; 13:1, 2). This third visit (56 AD) was a success, as the Corinthians willingly participated in the Jerusalem offering (Rom 15:26). It was during this stay that Paul wrote the book of Romans. (Please also refer to lesson 2 for additional information regarding the history of Corinth.)

W A R M U P



What does the term “apostle” mean? (one that is “sent”) What is the modern-day equivalent of an apostle? Do apostles have to be full-time ordained ministers? Or are we all apostles? What kind of responsibilities does an apostle have? From Paul’s writing in 2 Corinthians, we can learn about the joys, trials, frustrations, and comfort of a first century apostle. As we study Paul’s experiences, let us be reminded of our own apostleship and the apostleship of our modern-day preachers. Let us determine to participate in God’s ministries and pray for His workers.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1

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)



Part 2

The Heart of an Apostle (Ch 1-5)



A. Paul’s Character (1-2)

- a. Thankful (1:1-11)

As an apostle, Paul regularly encountered many trials and afflictions. These experiences of tribulation taught him to have hope through faith. Therefore, he is able to comfort believers undergoing trials and teach them to give thanks in all circumstances.
- b. Pure in heart (1:12-24)

When accused of fickle-mindedness (for changing his plans to visit Corinth), Paul’s only defense was a clear conscience. God could witness that he did all things out of purity and honesty.
- c. Forgiving (2:1-11)

Out of love, Paul urges the church to forgive and embrace the one who had offended him. This person who had caused Paul grief was not the incestuous brother (1 Cor 5), but a person who had openly spoken out against Paul.
- d. Committed (2:12-17)

Paul wore and diffused the fragrance of Christ. No matter where he went, he spread the gospel, edified the church, and glorified the Lord.

Teacher’s Note: 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)
God's power could be seen in the faith and transformation of the Corinthian members. The Corinthian church was a letter of recommendation that proved that Paul's ministry came from God.
- b. Honest (4:1-6)
Paul renounced craftiness, was careful to not misrepresent God's word, and spoke only of the truth of Christ.
- c. Self-sacrificing (4:7-12)
Paul saw himself as a humble earthen vessel that carried the treasure of the gospel. For the sake of the gospel, he was willing to be hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down. Because of such suffering, the life of Jesus was manifested in Paul's life and ministry.
- d. Lifelong (4:13-18)
Paul dedicated his life to God because he felt that his suffering for God was light in comparison to the weight of eternal glory. This perspective allowed him to focus on the spiritual and eternal (things that are not seen).

C. Paul's Motivations (5)

- a. Confident in eternal hope (5:1-10)
A tent can be quickly set up and taken down. It is temporary and offers no permanence. Paul believed that life on earth was like a tent—brief, short and painful. As long as he was at home in the body, he was absent from God. Therefore, he focused on the eternal building in heaven, aimed to please God, and encouraged believers to do likewise.
- b. Compelled by the love of Christ (5:11-21)

Before his conversion, Paul misjudged Christ by the flesh. Afterwards, Paul realized that the blameless Christ had died for all of mankind's sins. Compelled by such love, Paul became an ambassador for Christ, reconciling man to God. Here, Paul implores us to not judge anyone by the flesh but join the ministry of reconciliation.



Part 3

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)
Paul hopes the believers will not receive the grace of God in vain. They ought to suffer for Christ and be cautious in their conduct so that the ministry of God may not be blamed.
- b. Believers are children of God (6:11-18)
Followers of Christ cannot be yoked together with the spiritually dark and lawless. Paul reminds the believers that they are the temples of the living God and Christ lives in them. If they come out from among the gentiles and avoid the unclean, they will be called the sons and daughters of God.



B. Hope That Believers Grow in Spirit (7)

- a. Speaking the truth in love (7:1-4)
Paul loved the Corinthian believers so much that he was willing to live and die with them. This love prompted him to speak boldly concerning the believers' wrongdoings and risk offending them.
- b. A preacher's comfort (7:5-16)
Titus confirmed that the believers had heeded Paul's warning and repented with godly sorrow. The spiritual growth of the Corinthian believers brought much comfort to Paul even though he was facing many of his own trials at the time.



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

- a. The Macedonian example (8:1-15)
Paul uses the example of the Macedonian church's generous free-will offering to encourage the Corinthian church to do the same. He hopes that the believers can participate in the grace of God and have part in the fellowship of min-

- istering to the saints.
- b. Showing hospitality to workers (8:16-24)
Paul urges the church to show love and hospitality to Titus and the brothers sent to collect the Jerusalem offering. He affirms their diligence, work ethic, good reputation, and their role as faithful messengers.
 - 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.

Teacher's Note: The Jerusalem Offering—Why was it important? There were several reasons why Jewish Christians in Jerusalem needed help from the gentile churches: (1) After converting to Christianity, Jews in Jerusalem may have been “punished” by losing their social and economic status. (2) Communal sharing in Acts 2:44-45, 4:32, 34-35 may have deepened the poverty of the Jews. (3) There was a famine in 46 AD (Acts 11:27-30), exacerbating food shortages and overpopulation in Palestine. (4) As the “mother church,” the Jerusalem church supported a large number of teachers and visitors. (5) Palestinian Jews were double taxed by both Jews and Romans. Therefore, during 52-57 AD, Paul spent much effort to collect an offering for the “poor among the saints in Jerusalem” (Rom 15:16). The offering was not only an act of brotherly love, but represented unity of Jews and gentiles in Christ. (Paraphrased from the *Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary*, 1994, Volume 2, p. 661-2)



Part 4

The Authority of a Minister (Ch 10-13)



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

- a. To edify the believers (10:1-11)
Some believers accused Paul of using worldly methods and motives in preaching. They criticized him for being bold in writing but weak in person. Paul reminds them that he does not war according to the flesh. His apostolic authority is given by God for the believers' edification. He has the authority to be

“bold,” but hopes to avoid exercising his authority and correct unrepentant believers during his upcoming visit.

- b. To receive praise from God (10:12-18)
“For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends” (v. 18). Unlike the false apostles, Paul does not boast of his own deeds or take credit for other people's work. His motive in preaching is to win praise from God.



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

As the spiritual “father of the bride,” Paul is filled with a godly jealousy for the Corinthian church. He wished to present the church to Christ as a chaste virgin on the last day. However, as the serpent deceived Eve, false apostles threatened the church's purity of faith. Thus, Paul asks the believers to bear with “a little folly” as he uses his opponents' tactics of “boasting” to defend his apostolic authority and teachings. These boastings include:

- a. The knowledge of God (11:1-6)
Paul addresses the worldly criteria by which he is judged. He admits that he is not as well trained in speech as the false apostles. However, his knowledge in God makes up for his lack.
- b. Financial independence (11:7-15)
It was an apostle's right to receive his living through the believers (1 Cor 3:9-18). Therefore, some people felt that Paul viewed himself as an inferior apostle because he insisted on “teaching for free.” Paul reminds the believers that his financial independence is a deliberate act of love. He is cautious to not burden anyone so that no one can accuse him of personal gain.
- 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.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



- 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?

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



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!

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." In this activity, let us brainstorm a plan of what we would like to contribute to the Lord and how we can accomplish it.

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?

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



1 Corinthians takes us into the heart of a first century church, while 2 Corinthians takes us into the heart of a first century minister. In this lesson, we can witness an apostle's heart, hopes, and expectations. It is touching to witness Paul's genuine and fatherly concern for a young church that has failed and rebelled against him. It is heart-wrenching to see his frustrations as a parent whose daughter has doubted his teachings, succumbed to outside influences, and compromised her purity and faithfulness to God. Yet, it is satisfying to know that our almighty God is there to help His servants solve parental difficulties and turn back to Him. As we leave 2 Corinthians behind, let us pray that the Lord will guide us as we sow in the ministry of young minds and hearts. Let us ask God for spiritual wisdom, so that we may guide our students just as Paul guided the Corinthian church.

Galatians

Listed Scriptures

Galatians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To encourage students to truly understand what they believe in (i.e. what does it mean for us that Christ has died for us? Why do we live for Christ?).
- 2) To help students be thankful for God's gift of grace.
- 3) To teach students how to live as a Christian.

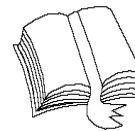
Memory Verse

"...a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ..." (Gal 2:16)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Gal 1-6

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D

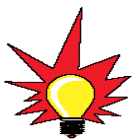


Galatia, a Roman province, is located north of the Mediterranean Sea in the south central area of Asia Minor. Places such as Antioch at Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, etc.—where Paul had preached and set up many churches—are all within this province of Galatia. On Paul's first missionary trip to this region, many gentiles accepted the truth and warmly provided for the needs of Paul and his coworkers. However, after Paul had left, certain men advocating Judaism came to lead them astray, telling the believers of Galatia that they needed to keep the Jewish law and perform circumcision. Moreover, these men slandered Paul, saying he was a false apostle.

To secure the faith of the believers, Paul wrote a letter to reprove the

Galatians, encouraging them to understand the truth of the gospel: that we are justified by faith. Paul emphasizes in his letter that since Christians are already saved by faith, they should not become slaves of the law again.

W A R M U P



At a certain point in our lives, it is important that we understand what we believe in. Perhaps we were baptized when we were babies and grew up in the church. Perhaps we came to believe on our own; but no matter what category we fall under, we are all in the church because we have experienced the grace of God. Yet, if we do not seek to fully understand our faith and be firmly rooted in the truth, we will be easily led astray when we are challenged.

This is what happened to the churches of Galatia. When they first heard the gospel, they received the Holy Spirit because they believed. Nonetheless, they were not firmly rooted in their beliefs and abandoned it when they were confronted with a twisted version of the truth. In response to this failure to keep their faith, Paul wrote this epistle to remind them of their beliefs. Using biblical examples, Paul explained to the Galatians in detail central truths of the Christian faith. Additionally, Paul also gave instructions in how they should continue to live a Christian life.



Part 1

An 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)



Part 2

Bible Study of 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. Such an attitude of “wanting to please God in all circumstances” and an insistence on the truth reflected by Paul in this section are worthy of our emulation. (Ref. Jude 3, Acts 4:19-20)



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

When the Jews—that is, believers of Judaism—slandered Paul in saying he was not an apostle and did not have authority in what he preached, the Galatians became deluded. Paul, having always valued this position that was given to him, gives a rebuttal in this passage to the Jews' slander using facts, proving that the gospel he preaches is indeed from God.

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)

In 3:2, Paul questions the Galatians, "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" The answer is obviously the latter. For God called Abraham righteous because he believed; that had happened before the law and circumcision. Accordingly, those who live by the law are under a curse. This is because no one who is of flesh can be justified by the law. Instead, the purpose of the law is to let people understand the nature of sin and its frightening consequences; hence, leading people to hope and search for the path to salvation.


b. The just shall live by faith (3:11-29)

From 3:11-29, Paul explains that God desires the gentiles to be justified by faith. Paul then quotes Genesis 15:6: "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to

him for righteousness." Therefore, those who live by faith will be blessed along with Abraham. According to God's promise to Abraham, nations shall be blessed by the Seed of Abraham. This Seed is Jesus Christ. Through the cross, Christ has been cursed for us and redeemed us from the curse of the law. It is through Christ Jesus that the blessing of Abraham has fallen on the gentiles. Under the law, all people are bound in sin. Nevertheless, by believing in Jesus Christ, the promised blessing will come upon those who believe. Henceforth, when we put our faith in Lord Jesus and are baptized into Christ, we have become Abraham's seeds and are heavenly heirs entitled to receive eternal life.

c. Law and grace (4:1-31)

- i. Continuing from the last passage, Paul explains that to live under the law in Old Testament times is like being an heir who is still a child. Like a child is under guardians and stewards, those under the law have to keep the rituals and regulations of the law. When they do not, they are punished. Moreover, despite having to read the book of the law and keeping its regulations, they do not understand its meaning. On the contrary, the believers in the New Testament have received the status of sons through the redemption of Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit enters into their hearts, calling "Abba, Father," becoming a deposit of eternal life for these descendants. For this reason, the believers in the New Testament have received great blessings and power and continue to grow by the grace of God. (4:1-7). (Ref. 2 Cor 3:13-14; Rom 8:17)
- ii. Then, Paul recounts the story of Hagar and Sarah to teach about grace. The sons of Hagar and Sarah foreshadow two covenants (4:21-31). On one hand, Hagar was a bondwoman and her son Ishmael was born of human will and desire. Her son was of the flesh and to be cast out, to have no part in the inheritance (Gen 16:3-4, 15, 21:9-12). Sarah, on the other hand, was a free woman and her son Isaac was born of a promise. Her son was to receive all the inheritance (Gen 17:19; 21:1-3; 25:5). The believers of the true church are the spiritual descendants of Abraham. Like Isaac, the believers are born through the promised Holy Spirit and have it as a guarantee to receive an inheritance in heaven (Eph 1:14).



D. Living a Life of Faith (5:1–6:18)

a. Freedom in Christ (5:1-15)

Since Christ has already given us freedom, we ought to stand firm in His grace. We need not be slaves of the law anymore and held hostage by the yoke of

bondage (5:1). Hence, to stand for circumcision and attempt to be justified by keeping the law is to throw away the grace of God and be separated from Christ. To those who do such a thing, the salvation of the cross bears no meaning. Paul writes: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." Of course, although we are called to freedom, we cannot use this as an opportunity to gratify our desires and allow sin to rule over us.

b. Victory over the flesh through the Holy Spirit (5:16-26)

In this passage, Paul points out that the flesh and the Holy Spirit work against each other. It is important that we submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the works of the flesh (adultery, fornication, uncleanness, etc.) are of the devil. The people who do such things cannot enter God's kingdom. Moreover, since we have already received life through the Holy Spirit, we need to also walk in the Holy Spirit and bear the fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.). In doing so, we will be able to enter God's kingdom with an abundance of the fruit of the Spirit.

c. Sharing one another's burdens (6:1-10)

On the matter of sharing burdens, Paul continues in saying that if someone has been overcome by sin, we need to use a gentle heart to bring the person back. While doing so, we need to be careful, for we might also be tempted. Nevertheless, Paul points out that we need to be active by showing love and understanding to our fellow brothers' and sisters' weaknesses and shortcomings. We need to support one another and share in our burdens. Furthermore, we need to do our best in supplying the needs of the ministers and workers of the church. This is so they will not be tied down by the matters of the world and will be free to focus on serving the Lord. Paul commends us to not grow weary in doing all this good, "for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

d. Boasting in the cross (6:11-18)

In this final section, Paul points out the crooked motives and hypocrisies of those false teachers who had led the Galatians astray. These people wanted to look good and boasted in their flesh. They compelled others to be circumcised when they do not keep the law themselves. However, we see that Paul is different. He does what is right in front of God and only boasts in the cross of Christ. He is willing to forsake all in the world for the salvation of the cross.

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."

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



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.

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



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.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Sing hymn 356: Faith Is the Victory.

This hymn tells us that as long as we have faith in Christ, we shall be victorious over the world. That means that if we rely on and walk according to the Holy Spirit, we are able to overcome our fleshly desires and pursue a life of faith and holiness. Let us continue to strive for a deep-rooted faith in Christ so that we will be confident of a victorious life that will bear fruit for His glory. Let us continue to give thanks to His wondrous name!

Ephesians

Listed Scriptures

Ephesians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To re-examine our faith and standing with Christ.
- 2) To renew our spiritual life so we may live to give glory to God.
- 3) To walk in unity and obedience to His good will.

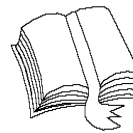
Memory Verse

“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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Eph 1-6

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



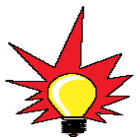
Ephesians was written around 61 AD while Paul was a prisoner in Rome (Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20). Written mainly to the gentile converts that formed the core of the Ephesian church, Paul sought to further explain the wonders of the salvation given by our Lord Jesus Christ and shed light on the mystery of the Gospel.

Though Paul was not able to visit and pastor the church in Ephesus, he instructed, taught and encouraged the believers through a letter that Tychicus delivered—the epistle of Ephesians. During his life, Paul was able to fully utilize times of imprisonment to continue pastoring the churches. The letters to Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse and Philemon were written during his imprisonment in Rome. Subsequently, these letters were grouped and collectively known as the Prison Epistles. After his release, Paul traveled and wrote letters to Timothy and Titus before he was arrested again. It was this second imprisonment that led to another letter to Timothy and ulti-

mately his martyrdom in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero.

The book of Ephesians is also called the “Joshua of the New Testament.” While there are many parallels in the teachings between the two books, the main similarity lies in their central theme: receiving the promised inheritance. The book of Joshua records how the chosen people obtained the promised land of Canaan, while the epistle of Ephesians describes how a believer receives the heavenly inheritance.

W A R M U P



Often when we live in a comfortable and relaxed environment, we tend to let complacency get a hold of us. When we allow our spirituality to slacken, even our precious memories—those of how we came to know God and all the blessings and graces He has given us—become distant memories.

While everybody enjoys feasts during times of abundance, few people take time to retrace the origin of those blessings. We know that all the wonderful things in our lives have been given to us by God. So while we bask in the glow of God’s blessings, we must question ourselves: Do we practice our faith and live a life that demonstrates a true appreciation for what God has given us? God gives us a chance to become His masterpiece so that we may glorify Him and benefit the people around us. It would be a pity if we gave up this opportunity. Have we forgotten that we are “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light”? (1 Pet 2:9). Do we know our true value and standing with Christ?

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1 Overview

Ephesus was once a leading center in the Roman Empire in terms of cultural, political, and commercial influence. Located on the western coast of Asia Minor (mod-

ern day Turkey), it offered easy accessibility to the river Cayster and the Aegean Sea. Its mild climate and lush valleys gave the region a reputation for luxury and pleasure. However, the city of Ephesus was primarily known as a center of religion.

Even though 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 worshippers 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.

Unlike the books of Romans, and First and Second Corinthians, 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). In 1 Timothy 1:5, Paul encouraged Timothy (who was in Ephesus then) that the “purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.” The theme and message of love had to be stressed over and over again to the believers in Ephesus. One interesting side-note is that out of the 107 times Paul used the word “love” in all his epistles, 19 of them are found in this little epistle to the Ephesians. 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.



Part 2

Bible Study of Ephesians



A. Greetings & Salutations (Ch 1:1–3)

Paul praised the saints in Ephesus for being faithful to Christ Jesus. He also mentioned that the Lord Jesus had blessed them in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. By Paul's praises and thanksgiving to God, we can sense that he really missed the Ephesian church.



B. Grace in Christ

a. Eternal Blessings

i. Son-ship (1:4-10)

In accordance with His good will and pleasure, God chose us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ. It is therefore the prerogative and sovereign will of the Adopter and a privilege for us, the adoptee. Such blessing is indeed priceless!

ii. Heavenly Inheritance (1:11-14)

Other than becoming God's children, believers ought to believe in the truth and be marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit, which is a guarantee of our heavenly inheritance, and ultimate glory.

b. Spiritual Wisdom (1:15-23)

In this passage Paul describes his intercessory prayer. He asks that God, our

glorious Father, may give the members at Ephesus the spirit of wisdom and revelation. This is so that they may know Him better and clearly recognize God's incomparable power and authority as the church's supreme ruler. Likewise, we ought to pray for spiritual wisdom in order to gain a better understanding and knowledge of God, and daily renew our love and committed allegiance to Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 9:24 says, "But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord."

c. Grace of Salvation

i. Dead in Sins (2:1-3)

Prior to being saved, we lived under the rule of Satan: we followed our fleshly desires and thoughts and gratified the constant cravings of our sinful nature. In the sight of God we were regarded as the sons of wrath, dead in transgression and unqualified for His kindness.

ii. After Receiving Grace (2:4-22)

However, due to His great and immense love for us, God delivered us from death to let us know that we can be saved through faith in Him—not by our own works. Through Jesus' precious blood and the Holy Spirit, we who were formerly gentiles and spiritually separated from Christ can now become members of God's household. We are joined together and built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. We are all familiar with the expressions "You reap what you sow" and "There is no free lunch." In this life, we learn that we get out of life what we put into it. If we want something, there is always a price to be paid. Thankfully, God does not hold us to this standard. For God declared, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways" (Isa 55:8). God does not demand much from us. As long as we are willing to believe, His salvation will come to us.

By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called and went to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, even though he did not know where he was going (Heb 11:8). By faith, Abraham offered his son Isaac (Heb 11:17). By faith, Moses chose to pass up the pleasures of sin and instead suffered for the sake of Christ (Heb 11:24-29). In contrast, what have we done by faith? Understand that faith is being hopeful in the unrealized, and without faith it is impossible to please God.

d. Share in the Mystery and Love of Christ

i. Mystery in Christ (3:1-13)

This passage unveils a mystery previously unknown. This mystery is that through the gospel the gentiles are made heirs together with Israel, becoming members of one body and the same partakers in the promise of our Lord Christ Jesus. Paul became a servant of this gospel and a preacher to the gentiles. Through the church, the manifold wisdom of God will be made known, thereby opening the door of salvation to the gentiles.

ii. Love of Christ (3:14-21)

The love of God is beyond measure. God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask for or imagine. Paul also prayed for the believers to be strengthened in the Lord not to lose courage just because Paul was in prison. He exhorted the believers to always be rooted and grounded in love, in order to bring glory to Christ.

There is no denying the enormous challenges we face in preaching to the people of this day and age. The prosperity of society and personal achievements reinforce humans' belief in their own ability. Gradually God's existence becomes irrelevant. However, we cannot use all these trends as excuses not to preach. After all, it's our Christian duty to preach in and out of season. "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship" (1 Cor 9:16-17). At the end of the day, it is the love of Christ that will compel us (2 Cor 5:14) and dictate our motivation to do His work.

C. Sainly Conduct

a. Corporate Living (4:1-16)

This passage lays down guidelines for Christians living corporately, as in and with the church. The church is the body of Christ and we, the believers, are her individual members. We ought to strive to be joined and held together, growing and building the body up in love, as each member does its work. This is emphasized in verses 2-3: "With all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." For we all belong to the same body sharing in one Spirit, one faith, and one baptism. Every believer ought to utilize his/her own God-given gift to help one another grow in faith, wisdom, character, and love.

b. Personal Living

i. Do not imitate the gentiles (4:17-32)

We need to put off our old self, which is full of corruption and deceitful desires. We can no longer give ourselves over to lustful gratification, lying, thievery, and unwholesome talk. This means getting rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Then, besides being made new in the attitude of our minds and putting on the new self, we are created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Also, being kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as how Christ forgave us. The Greek word for "new" does not refer to something that is the most recent or the latest thing. Instead, the word refers to something having a different quality or nature. Thus, our new nature is the new humanity created in Christ Jesus.

To be united is to be strong. We also know the adage "unity is strength." Ecclesiastes 4:12 tells us that "a threefold cord is not quickly broken." The church is a spiritual body, one that wields the most power when working as one unit or body. Victory or defeat is not immediately determined in a long and drawn-out spiritual warfare. Hence, we need to watch out for each other and support one another by extending timely help. As Joab, the commander of David's army, said to his brother Abishai when fighting the Ammonites and Syrians, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you" (2 Sam 10:11). If there are differences in opinion, do not turn hostile and let it become an argument. Instead, be tender-hearted and accommodating to bring everyone together in peace. Do not let Satan use it to turn us against each other.

This letter details many Christian beliefs in real life settings. Clearly the Bible is not just a Jewish history book, nor is it simply a book on moral codes. The Bible contains numerous practical daily teachings about life. Abiding by such teachings will ensure an endless supply of blessings for us. From Paul's epilogue, one recognizes that Christian life does not end on a note of morality, but of warfare. Nevertheless, upright moral living does lay the essential groundwork for a triumphant spiritual life. Only when we live godly lives at home, at school, in our neighborhood, at church, etc., and depend on God will we be able to stand firm.

- ii. Imitate Christ (5:1-21)
Remember that Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. How? By having nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, and instead bearing the fruit of light—goodness, righteousness and truth. We need to make the best use of our time, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. By doing so, we distinguish and set apart ourselves as holy from the unbelievers. We should never doubt the goodness of God. Only when we stop our doubting will our trust and faith in Him grow because we realize that God is indeed full of goodness and worth all our worship!

c. Family Living

- i. Between Husband & Wife (5:22-33)
Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies, much as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord.
- ii. Children & Parents (6:1-4)
Children should obey parents in the Lord, for this is right. Parents are not to exasperate their children; instead, they must bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. A godly family is one of the key factors in the growth and prosperity of the church.
- iii. Masters & Bondservants (6:5-9)
Bondservants ought to obey their earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as obeying Christ. They ought to serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men. Masters should treat their bondservants in the same way. Masters should not threaten their bondservants, since masters and bondservants have the same master in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. Both bondservants and masters need to practice restraint and show each other proper respect.

Paul’s main emphasis in this passage is to show the readers the duty of those who are in authority. Husbands are to imitate Christ. Parents should not provoke their children to wrath. Masters are not to threaten their bondservants. What Paul wants to get across to us is that serving is more important than being in authority over others. Serving is a privilege and we can learn to have a healthy attitude of service in our Lord Jesus. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:5-8, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and

became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Jesus did not use His privilege and authority as God to boss around and lord over men; instead He humbled and emptied Himself to be a servant for us all. We also read in John 13:12-16 about Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. This is a task that is supposed to be reserved for the lowliest servant of the household. Although Jesus, as God’s Son, could demand obedience from all of us, He did this first to be our example. Thus, we must all the more strive to be obedient in our walk with Him. A lot of times, we tend to allow our emotions and feelings to control or dictate our minds and make decisions for us. This is a recipe for a precarious and disastrous Christian life! We must instead have a spirit-filled and spiritually renewed mind and a steadfast will to help us make godly decisions in this tumultuous stage of our lives. Daniel, for example, purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine that he drank (Dan 1:8).

 **D. Epilogue**

a. Spiritual Warfare

- i. The Adversary (6:10-12)
Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- ii. Spiritual Armor (6:13-18)
“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, you must take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Above all, we need to pray in the Spirit in all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests, so that we may be alert and always keep praying for all the saints.”

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 mys-

tery 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)

Paul asked Tychicus to relay how he is doing and give them his blessings so the believers may be encouraged.

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. The Lord's church must not be divided, as our body parts cannot be divided. The concurrent growth of each part will contribute to church growth and development. 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.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



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.

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

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 activi-

ties 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?



Sing hymn 168: Onward, Christian Soldiers
 We are the Lord's soldiers fighting this spiritual warfare together with Him. In order to fight it effectively we need to protect ourselves with the full armor of God. Wherever we go in life, whatever we do, we need to ensure that we bring the truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation and the word of God with us. Only by doing so will we be thoroughly equipped and well-prepared to fight this spiritual fight. May the Lord bless each one of us so that we will be strong Christian soldiers.

Philippians

Listed Scriptures

Philippians; Acts 16:6-40

Lesson Aim

- 1) To rejoice in the midst of adversity.
- 2) To imitate Jesus Christ.
- 3) To prioritize God as first in our lives.

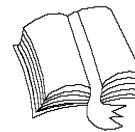
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Phil 1-4

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



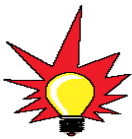
Paul wrote this epistle while first imprisoned in Rome, circa 62 AD. The church in Philippi was abundant in love and often supplied Paul's missionary needs. Upon hearing of his arrest, the Philippians gathered money and other necessities and sent them to Paul. Epaphroditus delivered the Philippians' gifts but fell ill, either along the way or while in Rome. Upon recovery, he was sent back to Philippi and delivered this letter from Paul.

The church in Philippi was the first established in the province of Macedonia, and thus, in Europe. During his second missionary journey, Paul left Troas in the province of Asia and traveled to Macedonia in response to a vision from God (Acts 16:8-10). Normally Paul and Silas would preach at the local synagogue, but apparently none was established in Philippi because they went outside the city gate to find the prayer gathering. This indicates the Jewish population was slight at that

time, since according to Jewish regulation a synagogue may be established if there are at least 10 Jewish men living in a particular locale. Paul and Silas met with the group of women who were praying and worshiping during Sabbath, and Lydia and her household became the first Christian converts in all of Europe (Acts 16:14-15). Later, a Philippian jailer and his family were also converted (Acts 16:16-34).

Philippi, named after Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, was situated strategically on a major crossroad called the Egnation Way, which connected Europe to Asia. It was also fortunate in natural resources; numerous springs and goldmines were in the area. Under Roman rule, Philippi was granted the highest status of a provincial city, which was as a Roman colony, and given special privileges. People born in this city were considered Roman citizens. Residents could buy, own and transfer property. They had the privilege of filing civil lawsuits in Roman courts, and they were exempted from paying poll and land taxes.

W A R M U P



School, friends, parents, relatives, church. They can be sources of stress or pressure, but how the stress and pressure affect us and how we handle them differ depending on the situation. Ask the J2 students to think back to the times when they remained calm and levelheaded, like when two of their friends argued and they remained the voice of reason. Or when they had a big school project to finish or the SATs to take. Between life skills and spiritual knowledge, how do they diffuse stress and find a sense of peace?

Ask the students if they understand the distinction between joy and happiness. Do they say that joy comes from within, while happiness comes from without, that joy needs no cause for effect, but happiness does? Ask students to share their response.



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.

Echoing the message of unity in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul may be suffering physically but spiritually, he is rejoicing (2:17-18). He is one with Jesus and with the fellowship of believers. He finds joy in the Philippians' partnership in spreading the gospel (1:4-6). He is also joyful for their belief and progress in faith (1:7, 9-11, 19-26). He rejoices in the brothers who see his grace under adversity and are encouraged to take up the cross for the sake of the gospel (1:12-14). And he is comforted by the Philippians' sympathy, prayers and gifts (2:25; 4:14-18). He encourages them to continue to be united in their Savior, in the Spirit, in the gospel, in love, and in their actions.

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)

Of course, Jesus Christ is the best example of humility. It is one of the greatest aspects of His life of love towards God and towards mankind. He did not place His needs above others. The Philippians were a generous church, and Paul reminds them that their charity is not in vain because they follow Jesus Christ's example. And if they share with Jesus Christ in life, then they will share with Him in death.

When your best friend needs someone to talk to, it's natural to listen and be there for him or her. That's an example of love and humility. It isn't always this easy to show humility, of course, but as Paul said, God gives us strength. And if you make a concerted effort, He'll help you follow through. And even better, He can make use of us without us knowing it. An unconscious act of kindness, which seems nothing personally, can mean a lot to the recipient or someone who witnesses it. We only need to be a vessel that God can make use of (2 Tim 2:21).

b. Shining (2:12-15; 3:12; 4:8-9)

Salvation is a continual process, and as we spiritually mature, obedience to God shouldn't be predicated by the presence of church leaders but rather by an understanding that God enlightens within each of us. Our actions should show us as children of God, spiritual heirs of Abraham. If the world is argumentative, discordant and depraved, we should be peaceful, uncomplaining and pure. As the light of the world, we should strive for whatever brings glory to Jesus Christ (Mt 5:14-16).

c. Two Examples (2:19-30)

Paul mentions Timothy and Epaphroditus in regards to sending them to Philippi. Epaphroditus delivered the current letter, and Paul hoped to send Timothy to check on the congregation. They are also two examples of men who imitate Christ in humility and who shine like stars in their actions.

In Paul's eyes, Timothy is genuinely concerned for others and wholeheartedly serves the gospel. He shows loyalty and respect to Paul, and he is devoted in helping Paul's ministry. Epaphroditus is a fellow worker and soldier in spreading the

gospel. He does holy work, supports it and risks his life for it.

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. There was no thought about a career or about making money. Paul had the prestige of his Jewish lineage and his position as a Pharisee, but he turned away from man's praise in exchange for Jesus (3:3-9). 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).

J2 students shouldn't feel overwhelmed by the idea that Jesus Christ wants to be first in our lives. It's a continual struggle, especially when they have ambitions and obligations in this world. J2 students are struggling with balancing school, a social life and God, and between what they and what their parents want, Jesus Christ doesn't always make it to the top of the list. But if they place God first, He'll never have them regret it.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



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				

Ask the J2 students to share in class and elaborate in what way these influences affect them. How can they eliminate or reduce the negative influences? Are there any other influences that weren't listed? What trends or conclusions do they make?

*Please ask everyone to keep the sharing confidential.

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 below.

Other possible questions:

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?



Although Paul was in prison, his letter to the Philippians frequently mentioned the joy he has in spite of his suffering. Being united with Christ in his life, he is given the strength to find peace and contentment in any circumstance. And Paul reminds the Philippians of his conviction in the surpassing greatness of Jesus Christ's salvation. 12 students are young adults and a world of independence and possibilities await them. It's sobering to think of all their life decisions in relation to death and judgment day. But the inevitability of God isn't meant to frighten but to comfort. Paul never thought of Jesus Christ and death as dreaded ends; he saw them as indescribable joy and a far greater existence. And although Paul mentions working out salvation "with fear and trembling," Jesus Christ was always a positive motivation in his life of faith. God wants to be the same for us. Through the ups and downs in our lives, God wants to be a positive motivation on our spiritual focus so that we may progress in faith.

Colossians

Listed Scriptures

Colossians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To help students understand the background and main teachings of Colossians.
- 2) To encourage students to be rooted and built up in Christ.
- 3) To encourage students to pursue a life of renewal in Christ.

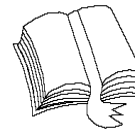
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Col 1-4

BIBLE BACKGROUND

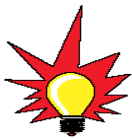


Colosse was a minor city, situated in the fertile Lycus Valley by a mountain pass about 100 miles east of Ephesus in Asia Minor. Colosse was an important center of commerce and was well-known for its glossy black wool. The area was rich in mineral deposits and subject to frequent earthquakes. However, by the time of Paul, the city of Colosse was already in decline in terms of its vibrancy and prominence.

Paul wrote the letter to the Colossian church circa 61 AD while imprisoned in Rome. Paul had never visited this church, as indicated in verses 1:7, 2:1 and 4:12. It is possible that the church in Colosse was founded by a Colossian believer, Epaphras. Epaphras came to visit Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. The Colossian's visit and report prompted Paul to write a letter to the church in Colosse.

At the time, heresy was threatening the predominantly gentile church. The nature of the heresy combined elements such as Greek speculation (2:4; 8:10), Jewish legalism (2:11-17), and Oriental mysticism (2:18-23). Circumcision, dietary regulations, and ritual observances were included in this system, including asceticism, worship of angels, and using mystical experiences as an approach to the spiritual realm. Heresy caused Colossian church members to seek salvation through human intellect and reasoning. They denied the glory of Christ, His redemptive work and the assurance of His salvation. In order to protect the truth of the word of God and the purity of the believers' faith, Paul wrote to warn the Colossian believers against heretical teachings.

W A R M U P



Have you met someone who reads and believes in horoscopes, uses science or philosophy to disprove the existence of God, or practices yoga in order to achieve enlightenment? How do you preach to such a person about Christ? How do you defend your faith if they try to preach to you instead? In the book of Colossians, Paul writes to a church that is under attack from heretical beliefs such as these. Through this lesson, let us learn how to defend against false teachings and stand firm in Christ.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1 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



Part 2 Teachings in the Book of Colossians

A. In Christ's Kingdom (Ch 1)

- a. We can receive true hope (1:3-8, 12-14)
 - i. True hope is not earthly or material. It is heavenly (v. 5), does not decay (1 Pet 1:4), and is the inheritance of the saints of light (Col 1:12). We can receive this eternal hope only through Christ.
 - ii. Only the precious blood of Christ can forgive our sins, deliver us from the power of darkness, and allow us to live in the kingdom of God (v. 13-14).
- b. We can experience God's fullness (1:9-12)
 - i. In Christ's kingdom, we can be fully reconciled with God (v. 20-22). Through Christ's blood on the cross, we can reconcile with God and be at peace with Him. When we ask of Him, we can be sanctified and blameless. This is something non-Christians hope to achieve through human means but can never be successful in (2:23).
 - ii. We can be filled with God's knowledge and spiritual understanding (v. 9). Through the Holy Spirit, we will have wisdom to differentiate right from wrong. We will be able to focus on spiritual matters, understand and

- obey God's plan for us, and please the Lord (v. 10).
- iii. We can experience the fullness of God's power (v. 11). God's power will allow us to have patience and joy.
 - iv. In Christ's kingdom, we can experience the fullness of God's glory (v. 15-19). We will know that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God (v. 15), that He has preeminence in all things (v. 18), and all fullness dwells in Him (v. 19).
- c. We have part in God's work
- i. Christ's work is to save us. Therefore, we should hold fast to our faith so God's work can be completed (v. 23).
 - ii. Christ's work is to save all mankind. Since we have received the grace of God, we should view preaching as our responsibility. We should imitate the work ethic of the saints before us (v. 24-29), and preach in and out of season to complete the work of salvation.

B. Building Up in Christ (Ch 2)

- a. Avoiding the secularization/misconstruction of faith (2:8-18)
 - i. In the Colossian church, heretics secularized the faith and denied Christ's identity as God and Savior. They used human philosophy, empty deceit, the traditions of men, and the basic principles of the world to interpret Christ's deity and humanity. Likewise, people today use philosophy and science to discredit Christ and the miracles He performed.
 - ii. Heretics promoted the Jewish practices of circumcision, observance of festivals and angel worship.
 - iii. All these are faulty concepts of worship. Only when we are rooted in Christ can we resist temptation and hold fast to the truth.
- b. Preventing a habitual, legalistic faith (2:20-23)
 - i. Heretics tried to prove their faith through asceticism (denying oneself all pleasure). At the end, they became like the Pharisees, whose faith was legalistic and based on superficial, outwardly conduct.
 - ii. We should rely on the Holy Spirit to build up a genuine faith that begins from the inside and emanates outward.
- c. Building a firm faith in Christ (2:6-7)

These verses tell us that we must be rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith. To do this, we must:

- i. Truly know Christ (v. 3,9-10)

Our Lord Jesus is the one foundation of our faith (1 Cor 3:11). We can receive all wisdom, knowledge, and grace through Him alone.
- ii. Understand the purpose of the law (v. 16-17)

Through Christ, we can understand the spirit of the Law. The purpose of the law is to prove Christ's identity and lead people to believe in Him.
- iii. Encourage and connect with each other (v. 16)

As the body of Christ, we can help each other by teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (interceding for one another).
- iv. Live a steadfast life of faith (v. 5)

The best defense against heresy is to live a steadfast life of faith that is free from the bondage of sin.

C. Life in Christ (Ch 3)

- a. Characteristics of life in Christ (3:1-4)
 - i. Life in Christ is new. In 3:1, the verse begins with, "If then you were raised with Christ..." When we resurrect, we receive a new life. With this new life, we should set new goals and set our minds on things above, not on things of the earth (v. 2).
 - ii. Life in Christ is stable. When our life is hidden with Christ in God (v. 3), our faith will be stable, firm, and unmoved by outward pressures (Rom 8:35-37). Stability in Christ can be especially valuable to teenagers dealing with fast-paced change and peer pressure.
 - iii. Life in Christ is glorious. When Christ who is our life appears, we also will appear with Him in glory (v. 4).
- b. The renewal of life (3:5-17)
 - i. Taking off the old man (v. 5-9). After we accept a new life from God, we should put to death all our bad habits, evil thoughts, and bad deeds. These include fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness (greed), anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of our mouths, and lies.
 - ii. Putting on the new man (v. 10-17). The new man is constantly renewed in the knowledge of Christ (v. 10). He is holy, merciful, kind, humble, meek, and longsuffering. He bears with his fellow brethren and is forgiving. He is loving, thankful, peaceful, and filled with God's word and wisdom.

- c. The manifestation of life in Christ (3:18–4:1)
 - i. In the Christian home (3:18-21). When our “new self” is manifested at home, Christ will be the head of the household. Everyone will fulfill their duties to build a happy, blessed family. Husbands and wives will love one another, children will be obedient, parents loving, and everyone respectful toward one another.
 - ii. In society (3:22–4:1). We should fear the Lord as we work and live in society. If we fulfill our duties at work and serve our earthly masters, we will be able to edify others.

D. Pursuing Christ Application of Faith (Ch 4)

- a. In prayer (4:2-4)
 - i. Pray for ourselves. Let us pray vigilantly and earnestly and give thanks so our spirituality may grow and be preserved.
 - ii. Pray for the work of God. As we prepare for Christ’s second coming, let’s pray for the workers of God. Pray that God will open doors to preach the word and to speak the mystery of Christ.
- b. In our relationships with others (4:5-6)
 - i. Use wisdom in dealing with outsiders. We should use every opportunity to preach the word. However, we should exercise caution and wisdom so that we may not be led astray.
 - ii. Treat others with gentleness. Let us keep a humble heart and pursue peace with everyone so that the Lord’s name may be glorified.
- c. In treating our co-workers in Christ (4:7-18)
 - i. Show hospitality to the workers. As Christians, it is our duty to show hospitality and support to our ministers. Let us welcome them and accept their teaching and encouragement.
 - ii. Work together with one heart. Let us utilize our different gifts to edify the believers and build up the church.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



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- 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?

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



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 replace 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 the qualities of the “old man.”
 2. Write an example of each negative quality in the space provided (11 total).
 - a. fornication – (being sexual with someone before marriage)
 - b. uncleanness – (not being pure in thinking, watching bad movies)
 - c. (fleshly) passion – (indulging in video games with no self control)
 - d. evil desire – (the desire to hurt someone)
 - e. covetousness – (feeling greedy and wanting more brand name clothes)
 - f. anger – (blowing up at little brother)
 - g. wrath – (having an uncontrollable temper)
 - h. malice – (trash talking about someone to lower their popularity)
 - i. blasphemy – (using God’s name in vain)
 - j. filthy language – (using bad words when talking to friends)
 - k. lies – (lying to parents about the reason for coming home late)
 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):

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Diagram 1:
old man

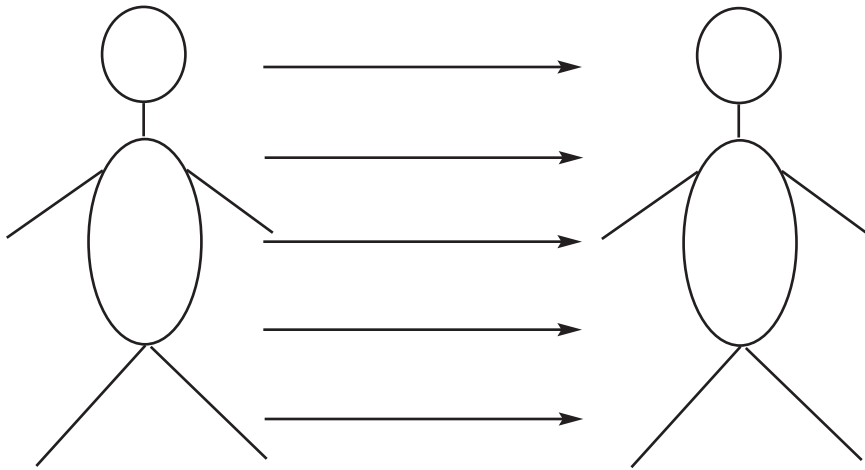
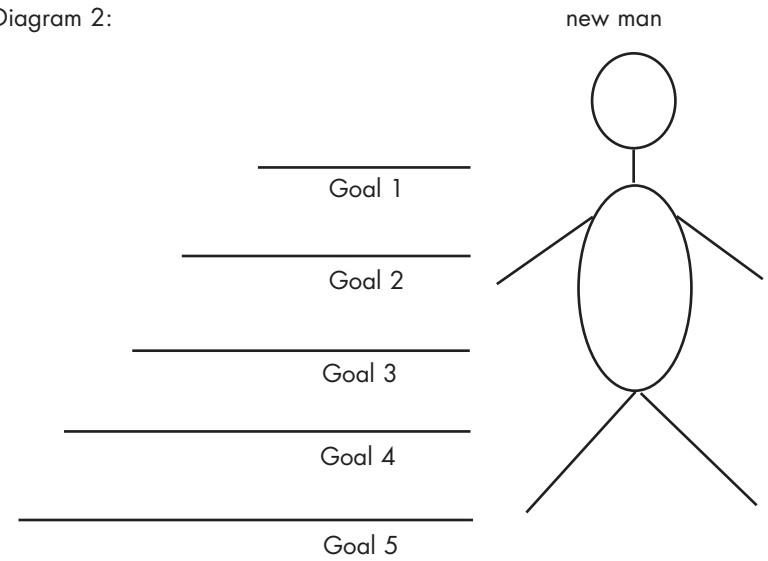


Diagram 2:



b. Putting on the New Man

1. Turn to Colossians 3:12-15. Please list all the qualities of the "new man."
 - a. holy
 - b. merciful
 - c. kind
 - d. humble
 - e. meek
 - f. longsuffering
 - g. bearing with one another
 - h. forgiving one another
 - i. loving
 - j. peaceful
 - k. thankful
 - l. the word of Christ dwells in him richly
 - m. teaches and admonishes one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
 - n. sings with grace in his heart to the Lord
 - o. does everything in the name of Christ
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."

REFLECTION & PRAYER



We must not take for granted our position and standing as a precious child of God. We were in bondage once, but our Lord Jesus paid a heavy price to bring us out of sin's clutches and into His redeeming grace. Since Christ died for us, there's nothing we need to do to "earn" our salvation. We don't have to use outward conduct such as starvation, circumcision, or observation of religious festivals to prove our faith. Yet, our world is filled with heresies that confuse us and make us doubt. At school or work, we will find people who use science, logic, philosophy, worldly wisdom, and traditions of men to attack or diminish our faith. In order to stand firm in Christ, we must be rooted and built up in the truth of the Bible. May we encourage each other to pursue a steadfast life in Christ and to renew our lives daily so we may keep our faith and boldly preach the word of God.

1 Thessalonians

Listed Scriptures

Acts 16-18, 1 Thessalonians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To encourage students to live a life pleasing to God in good times and bad.
- 2) To emphasize the importance of evangelizing.
- 3) To teach students to prepare for eternity by aiming for spiritual purity.

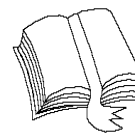
Memory Verse

“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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

1 Thes 1-5

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



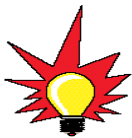
The city of Thessalonica (present day Salonica or Thessaloniki) was a prosperous city due to its strategic location near the north-west corner of the Aegean Sea. The Egnatian Way that passed through Thessalonica linked Rome to the East and made it one of the wealthiest trade centers of the Roman Empire. At the time 1 Thessalonians was written, Thessalonica was the capital and the largest city of the province of Macedonia, with a population of about two hundred thousand.

Thessalonica was one of the first cities on the continent of Europe that Paul and Silas preached in. Their visit there was initiated by a vision of a man from Macedonia (Acts 16:9) who pleaded to Paul to go to Macedonia to help. It was during Paul's second missionary journey that the church was established there.

After leaving Thessalonica, the well-being of the new believers was always on Paul's mind. Out of his great affection for the infant church, Paul sent Timothy to visit, counsel and check up on their spiritual progress (1 Thess 3:2). When Timothy rejoined Paul in Corinth with encouraging news (Acts 18:1, 5; 1 Thess 3:6-7), Paul wrote a letter to express his relief and encouragement.

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians was written around 51 AD. The letter is considered to be one of Paul's earliest epistles (with Galatians as the only one preceding it). The letter is full of Paul's concern for the church. In it, Paul urges the Thessalonian believers to maintain their purity and commends them for their steadfastness in the face of persecution. Paul also corrects false accusations that arose after his departure. He clarifies the truth regarding Christians who die before the Lord's return. In speaking of death, Paul reminds the believers that the certainty of standing before God is the greatest assurance of all. Structurally, the first three chapters of 1 Thessalonians are more personal in nature, while the last two lean toward practical application of the doctrines.

W A R M U P



How does purity relate to eternal life? What will happen to us if we die today? Do we have assurance of our salvation? In this sex-saturated society, maintaining purity is one of the biggest struggles of our youth today. However, staying pure is not only a present-day matter. Spiritual purity is an essential part of pleasing God and preparing for His second coming. In this lesson, let us learn how Paul relates a God-fearing life to our hope of eternal salvation.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Teachings of 1 Thessalonians

A. 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.

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)

Although the believers in Thessalonica faced persecution for their faith, they exhibited the work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope.

b. The spirit of giving (1:7-8)

Because they had experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit, the faith of the Thessalonian believers was strong. They became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia and were known for their spirit of giving (2 Cor 8:1-8). They were willing to help other believers financially even though they themselves were in want. As a result, the Thessalonians' faith touched others at home and abroad.

c. A testimony to others (1:9-10)

The transformation of the Thessalonians was a living testimony to others. People could see how they turned from idols to serve the true and living God. No doubt, the believers fully understood and testified of Jesus' loving sacrifice and the hope of eternal life.

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)

Prior to the visit to Thessalonica, Paul suffered insults and imprisonment in Philippi.

His visit to Philippi was marked by strong opposition and persecution (Act 17:5-9). However, Paul remained fearless and spirited in preaching the Lord's gospel with all his heart. Persecution may be demoralizing, but it can also be a cause for spiritual growth. In James 1:2-4, it says that trials and tribulations that come our way test character. Suffering together also produces fellowship and helps believers bond together as one in Christ Jesus.

b. Motivated by love (2:3-8)

Paul's preaching did not spring from impure motives for the sake of personal gain. On the contrary, he spoke the genuine gospel in order to please God. He did not seek praise, but treated the church as lovingly as a mother cherishes her baby.

c. Testifying with action (2:9)

Paul's ministry would naturally require funding. But realizing the early Thessalonian believers were not well off, Paul worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while he preached the gospel of God. Paul and his coworkers also testified with their daily living (2:10). This teaches us that holy, righteous and blameless conduct is the best witnesses for the gospel.



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)

When Paul found out about the Thessalonians' hardships, he immediately sent a worker to offer them spiritual relief and encouragement. We, too, should be proactive in our love. We should grasp the opportunity to help others by showing them concern when they need it most.

b. Encouragement through praise (3:6-9)

Paul gave the Thessalonians high praise for their faithful endurance under trial (1:3). Showing genuine appreciation for others' strength and merits is the most positive way to motivate people.

c. Unceasing Prayers (3:10-13)

One of the best gifts one can give is the prayer of intercession. Night and day, Paul earnestly prayed that God might supply what was lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians. Even though they were steadfast in enduring trials, the Thessalonians were "young" believers who needed direction and care. Paul prayed that God would strengthen the believers' hearts so that they would be

blameless and holy in the presence of God during the second coming of Christ.



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)

The believers were new converts. They were continually being surrounded by immoral and irreligious practices. Therefore Paul urged them to stay away from sexual immorality and live a sanctified life. Today, we are no less vulnerable to worldly pressures than the Thessalonians. We must constantly examine ourselves and "bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5). We must also allow the word of God to sanctify and cleanse us (Eph 5:26).

ii. Living an orderly life (4:9-11)

The Thessalonian believers already knew how to love one another, but Paul urged them to try to set the bar even higher. He asked them to not only love, but maintain an orderly lifestyle in order to set an example for non-believers. He encouraged them to pursue a quiet life, mind their own business, and work with their own hands to support themselves.

iii. Being thankful & joyful (5:16-18)

When we are working hard for the Lord, it is inevitable that we encounter discouraging situations. In those times, we must remember that it is God's will for us to be joyful, prayerful, and content under any situation.

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)

Many people of the world live in darkness and continue to sin without fearing God or His judgment. We, however, are children of the light and the day. We must remain sober and set our minds on God's commands. We should not be like those of the night (of darkness), who are spiritually asleep and reveling in worldly pleasures like drunkenness. Instead, we should guard our hearts with the breastplate of faith and love. We should

also protect our minds (head) with the thought of God's hope and salvation.

- ii. Mutual encouragement (5:11-14)
Since we are only human, we will all inevitably experience moments of weakness. To build up our faith in the body of Christ, we need to edify and encourage one another.
- iii. Constant prayer (5:17)
Human strength is extremely limited. To overcome worldly temptation and persecution, we must pray constantly to receive greater power from God.
- iv. Testing all things (5:19-21)
How do we know what's right and wrong in such a complicated society? The best standard of judgment is based on the truth and wisdom given by the Holy Spirit. We will then be able to test and affirm what is God's good, pleasing and perfect will (Rom 12:2).

F. Resurrection

As new believers, the Thessalonians had questions regarding death and the second coming of Christ. Thus, Paul uses a portion of his letter as a Q & A session. Reviewing the truth of the second coming also helps us keep focus on our end goal in faith.

- 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. We don't need to be afraid of death. 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. Doing so will demonstrate the spirit of belonging to the household of God.

- ii. With such a beautiful hope in eternity, we should try to evangelize so that more people can be saved on the last day.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



- 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 can those examples 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.

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:

Ask the class to brainstorm temptations that may compromise the purity of J2 students today. (For example: dating, dances, TV, R-rated movies, video games, billboards, romance novels, magazines...)

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 the students to see. They can 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...				



The Thessalonian believers were considered the “role-model Christians” who loved the Lord, gave generously to those in need, and testified of God’s faith. Yet, they had much room to grow and learn. Just because they were fervent in the Lord did not mean that they were immune from daily persecution and temptations of sexual immorality, disorderliness, and apathy. They were also fuzzy on basic doctrines such as the second coming of Christ. We may find many of our J2 students to be like the Thessalonian believers. Although they love the Lord and come to church, they are only coming of age in the spiritual sense. They have the heart to do good and work for the Lord, but face the challenges of peer pressure and tempting situations. Let us learn from Paul and guide them in a gentle and loving matter; let us pray that they will be able to grow in the Lord, overcome youthful temptations, preach the word, and aim for eternity in their daily lives.

2 Thessalonians

Listed Scriptures

Acts 17, 2 Thessalonians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To learn how to encourage someone undergoing persecution.
- 2) To help students recognize signs of the end times.
- 3) To encourage students to prepare for Christ’s second coming by pursuing a godly and productive lifestyle.

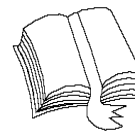
Memory Verse

“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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

2 Thes 1-3

BIBLE BACKGROUND



Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians was written in Corinth, approximately half a year after the first letter (circa 50-51 AD). The first letter had greatly encouraged the members in Thessalonica. However, false teachers soon began distorting Paul’s message regarding eschatology (the theology of the end times). Some even counterfeited Paul and taught in his name (2 Thess 2:1-2)! As a result, many believers stopped working because they believed the world was about to end. They became idlers who whittled away their time and lived off the labor of others. This created a chaotic situation for the church. Thus, Paul wrote this second letter with three purposes in mind:

1. to encourage believers undergoing persecution,
2. to correct false teachings regarding the second coming,
3. to urge believers to return to work and live a godly, productive lifestyle.

Note: For a more thorough understanding of the background of 2 Thessalonians, please review the Bible Background section in Lesson 8.

W A R M U P



In the news, we sometimes hear of religious leaders who predict that the world will end on such-and-such a date. Some followers even sell their property, congregate at a certain place and time and wait for the Lord's coming. Unfortunately, Christ never appears at the proclaimed time and the movement ends in tragedy or disappointment. Is it wrong to believe in the urgency of the end times? How should we live in preparation for Christ's coming?

B I B L E S T U D Y



Part 1

Outline of 2 Thessalonians

- 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



Part 2

Teachings of 2 Thessalonians



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

The believers did not cower in persecution. Instead, their faith grew more and more in the face of trials and persecution.
 - ii. Love

Although they themselves were suffering, the believers proactively cared for, comforted, and supported others (Heb 10:32-34). This demonstrates the fullness of their love.
 - iii. Ability to comfort others

Paul was comforted by the faith of the Thessalonians. He boasted about them and was able to thank God for them. In the same way, we can comfort and assure our parents and elders when we stand firm in the face of persecution and hold on to biblical principles.
- 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)

The Lord is pleased with those who suffer for His name's sake (Mt 5:10). Because the believers have suffered for the kingdom of God, they have the assurance of receiving the Lord's reward (v. 10).
 - ii. Stand before the Lord on the last day (1:8-10)


God is just. Although the wicked may seem to prevail at the moment, God will ultimately punish those who oppose the truth and cause suffering (v. 6-7). He will reward those who suffer for His name's sake, so those who belong to Him will witness the glory of the Lord.

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 (v. 2)
There will be rumors and spiritual events leading up to the second coming. To stand firm, believers must be able to discern true from false.
- ii. Patiently wait upon the Lord (v. 3)
The Lord Jesus clearly told us that we will be able to observe signs to know that the end is near (Mt 24:34). He also said that "but of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Mt 24:36). As Christians, all we can do is diligently and patiently wait for the Lord's second coming. We should not make judgments regarding the hour of the Lord's Day, nor believe in the speculations of others.

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 (v. 4)
The man of sin opposes God and tries to exalt himself above all that is worshiped. He sits at the temple, claims to be God, and has the power to perform signs and wonders. However, under the light of truth, the man of sin will be exposed as a proud, cheap imitation of God.
- ii. Limitations (v. 9)
Although the man of sin will have satanic powers to perform miracles, his time and power is limited by the Lord (v. 7). The lawless one may deceive

others, but the Holy Spirit will instruct and keep us away from deception as long as we fear God and stand firm in our faith.

iii. Ending (v. 8)

The lawless one will be consumed by the breath of the Lord and destroyed by the brightness of His coming. The man of sin will ultimately fail and be eternally condemned.

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

i. Keeping the faith (v. 15)

Believers should not be alarmed by false teachings regarding the end times. We should hope for, but not obsessively anticipate, the second coming of the Lord. We should hold fast to the traditions that were taught to us, whether by word (sermons) or the epistle (the Bible). The truth will help us discern right and wrong, overcome selfish desires, and escape from heresies and trends of the world.

ii. Pursuing holiness (v. 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 (v. 1-3)

The Thessalonians are asked to pray for Paul, Silas, and Timothy so they may spread the gospel swiftly, be delivered from opposition, and glorify the Lord. Today, we must also remember to pray for the workers of God so they do not lose heart in their preaching.

ii. Praying for ourselves (v. 5)

We should pray that the Lord will direct our hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

b. In deed (3:6-12)

i. Orderly conduct (v. 6-11)

Paul urges the believers to live orderly lifestyles. In our daily living and interactions with others, we should use the truth of the Bible as our guiding principle. We should keep a distance from defiant and disorderly brethren, respect the church, and live to glorify God and edify men.

ii. Quiet labor (v. 12)

Although we hope for the second coming of Christ, we should not sit around all day doing nothing. Instead, believers need to avoid idleness and be a productive part of society. We need to work and earn an honest living so that we may have income to support our selves, our family, and holy work. This way, we will not be a burden to others and will be able to contribute to the work of the Lord.

c. In love (3:13-15)

i. Not growing weary in doing good (v. 13)

We should try our best to help those in need. When we are rich in good works (2 Tim 6:18), we demonstrate the spirit of unity in Christ's family (1 John 3:17-18).

ii. Keeping one another in check (v. 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.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



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?

*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:

- 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)
- 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.
- 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							
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12:00 AM							
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM							
5:00 AM							

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:

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



As we wait upon the Lord's coming, many heresies and false teachings will appear to deceive the world and cause believers to abandon the truth. Therefore, we must exercise discernment and allow the Holy Spirit and truth to guide our daily lives. Just as Proverbs 16:25 tells us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Let us pray that the Lord will give us His strength and wisdom so that we can avoid the way of death and stay on the path of life. Let us prepare ourselves for the Lord's second coming by living as faithful and useful servants of Christ.

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

1 Timothy

Listed Scriptures

1 Timothy; Ephesians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To teach students how to be young leaders in the church, handling challenges that they may encounter with other members.
- 2) To encourage students to understand what and why they believe, so their faith withstands non-biblical ideas.
- 3) To remind students that godly conduct is expected in the church, God's household.

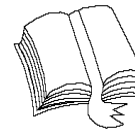
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

1 Tim 1-6

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



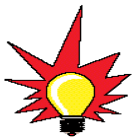
Through glimpses in the book of Acts (17:14-15, 18:5, 20:4) and a number of Paul's epistles (1 Cor 4:17; Phil 1:1, 2:19-23; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1, 3:2; 2 Thess 1:1; Phm 1), his close connection with Timothy is evident. Referring to Timothy as a "son in the faith," their initial mentor-student relationship evolved into a father-son bond. Born to a Greek father and a Jewish mother, Eunice, Timothy was converted during Paul's first missionary trip when Paul and Barnabas fled Iconium and preached in Timothy's hometown of Lystra, in the Roman province of Galatia.

When Paul returned to Lystra on his second missionary journey, he took Timothy under his wings to labor with him in the ministry (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy accompa-

nied Paul to Berea, Athens, Corinth and Jerusalem, and he went to Corinth, Philippi and Thessalonica at Paul's behest as his representative, often to address issues.

Timothy was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment, and after his release was sent to Philippi to preach the good news (AD 62-64). Timothy later joined Paul in Ephesus, where he remained while Paul continued to Macedonia. At this time Paul wrote 1 Timothy, his first of three pastoral letters, containing useful principles of leadership in the house of God as well as instructions on righteous living.

W A R M U P



Do you still come to church because it is your parents' habit? Is your faith truly your own? Do you have unanswered questions that prevent you from believing deep within? It's okay to have questions. They should lead to personal reflection, enlightening fellowship, biblical meditation and prayer. Knowing and understanding God is a wonderful, evolving process (in the big picture); admittedly, this isn't always easy. J2 students are on the cusp of greater responsibility for work in the church. In order to be an effective worker, let alone a leader for God, we need to know whom we are serving and believe in how He wants things to be.

B I B L E S T U D Y



The Teachings of 1 Timothy

Although Timothy was about forty years old at this time, he was considered young to lead and instruct a church on his own. Despite being more spiritually knowledgeable than the other members of the church, Timothy faced problems because of how others perceived him. In his case, age was the issue. Although J2 students are not in the same spiritually (and physically) advanced shoes as Timothy, they can probably relate to the hindrance that perception plays.

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. As a more practical, versus theological letter, these points do not build upon themselves but

are interspersed. This is less a brilliant essay like the book of Romans and more like a genuine letter meant for one person, where ideas are written down as they are thought of.

Note: Please refer to Lesson 5 (Ephesians) for background on the city and church.

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)

Although the church members in Ephesus were mostly gentiles who converted to Christianity, false doctrines related to Judaic law occurred because some men found financial profit in them. Combined with pride and a lack of understanding, these false teachers had no problem creating confusion and controversy.

*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 culturally. 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)

Prayer requests extend beyond those we know to those already saved and those we pray will be saved. God wants to save everyone, and He only asks us to pray and care about this thing that means so much to Him.

*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)

The qualifications of an elder or deacon may seem a far-off thought, but all the qualities that make an older man a God-approved man are applicable to younger men too: temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, gentle, peaceful, humble, not greedy, genuine, steadfast in faith, honors women. Also, they do not pray in anger and do not rebuke older men. We need to be role models to younger brothers.

*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)

Timothy was brought up in the truth through his grandmother, Lois, and mother, but he learned even more with Paul on the second missionary trip. And he continued to learn as Paul gave him more instructions and bits of wisdom through his two letters. Just as we encourage members to read the Bible daily, Paul told Timothy to devote himself to the public reading of Scripture. And in order not to corrupt his beliefs, Timothy should meditate and examine doctrines closely.

b. Qualities of a Good Leader in Church (4:6-16; 6:11-21)

A good leader understands that he is not simply a worker but also an example to others who see him/her do that work. Therefore, any good leader remembers that he/she is a role model and his actions can affect others both positively and negatively. A person who is right with God is one who can lead because He will make use of him. Paul encouraged Timothy to pursue the following in order to be a good leader:

- 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?

LIFE APPLICATION



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).

Part B: Change Begins With You—Being a Better Worker for God

What are some weaknesses in the church work we do? What can we do to improve?

Step 1:

Ask the students to write their current church duties on a sheet of paper, and in what ways they would like to improve in their work. They can also write down work they hope to be part of in the future.

Step 2:

Have the students pass their sheets to the person next to them. Looking at their classmate's sheet, have the students write down advice or encouragements on how he can meet his goals. Give students 30 seconds and continue to pass along the paper until each student has his sheet back.

Step 3:

Ask the students to share the advice and encouragements they find useful.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Some J2 students face a growing responsibility in church work and they can relate to the burden Timothy may have felt. It takes a patient and humble person to be wise enough to pastor everyone in a loving and godly manner. Paul encouraged Timothy to remain grounded through daily study and meditation of the Scriptures. Knowledge of God draws us closer to Him, and the closer we are, the easier it is for Him to use us as vessels, It is not Timothy's will or our wills that allow us to gently and wisely pastor members of the church and do church work, but God's.

Lesson 11

2 Timothy

Listed Scriptures

2 Timothy

Lesson Aim

1) To be a model servant of Christ.

Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

2 Tim 1-4

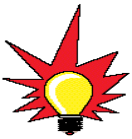
BIBLE BACKGROUND



Paul wrote 2 Timothy (his last letter) around 67 AD, during his second Roman imprisonment and prior to his execution. Unlike his first Roman imprisonment, which was more like a house arrest, Paul was locked up in jail and there was little hope of his release. Only Luke kept Paul company.

Unlike his first letter to Timothy, which consists mostly of practical and pastoral advice, the second letter is full of spiritual and evangelical encouragement: be steadfast and preach the good news. The two themes come from Paul's love of Jesus Christ and his love for Timothy. Paul and Timothy's close relationship is evident in his greeting, calling Timothy his "dear son," and in his wish for Timothy to come to Rome before he dies. Their relationship has progressed from teacher-student and leader-helper to father-son in the faith.

W A R M U P



You see that someone your age or younger needs some encouragement with his or her faith. This brother or sister is tempted to live a life more like his or her non-Christian or casual-Christian friends. What would you say to encourage this person? What would you do to pastor this person? Think back to the times when someone said something that lifted your spirits.

B I B L E S T U D Y



Teachings of 2 Timothy

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.

Note: Please also refer to Lesson 10 for background on the main points in Paul's first letter to Timothy.

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 para-

ble of the talents (Mt 25:14-30), if God gives us a skill, He expects us to use it. Sometimes we may think we have no talent to offer in service to God, but if we have a heart to serve Him, He'll find a way for us. A model servant must also absorb the Scriptures and apply it. He must read the Bible, meditate on it, and live it. Knowing whom he believes and what he believes keeps his faith steadier and makes following and preaching God's Word easier.

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's ministry reflected this as he preached through his three missionary trips and counseled through his epistles. He 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).

There should be no shame in preaching the gospel. Nor should we be timid. In Paul and Timothy's time, Christian persecution was rampant under Nero, but Paul was more concerned with spiritual death than physical death. He knew the value of Jesus Christ's salvation, even if others didn't, and he had no shame in himself or the God who was so much a part of him.

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

Paul gives three metaphors on how Timothy can be strong in Christ. (J2 students may have other strong impressions they could discuss.)

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 athlete analogy highlights obedience. If life is a game created by God, then the only way anyone can win the eternal reward is by playing by His rules. Otherwise, we must face the penalties. It can be tempting to ignore God's rules because they seem contrary to being successful in the world. But His reward is infinitely better than the world's.

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. It takes patience and humility to reduce an argument, especially when you are part of it, but the power of gentleness cannot be doubted. “Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone” (Prov 25:15).

While rebuke and admonishment can be effective in correcting others, gentleness and tactfulness use patience and love to turn people around. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov 15:1).

The fellowship between brothers and sisters is unique, and although it can be difficult to open up about personal feelings or troubles for fear of looking bad in front of church members, it is very satisfying to be spiritually edified through friends.

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

This is a well-known passage for most J2 students, but this never fails to serve as a reminder of the constant potential each one of them has.

The vessels in the house, recorded in verse 20, are similar to the servants in the parable of the talents: no matter how much better one seems over another, to the Master, the potential is all the same. The servant with the five talents wasn’t considered better than the servant with the two talents. Likewise, the vessels of gold and silver are not necessarily better than the ones made of wood and clay. They are all potentially useful, but only if they cleanse themselves 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.

Paul elaborated on all things ignoble in verse 22, and like Jesus Christ said in Matthew 12:43-45, the “evil desires” cannot simply be cleared out. The space needs to be replaced with righteousness, faith, love and peace.

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

The description of godlessness in the last days sounds familiar. We hear or see these things in the news, magazines, television shows or people we know. Not only does the world fall prey to these behaviors, but according to verse five—“form of godliness”—church members will fall prey to too. Apostasy, meaning to depart from one’s faith or religion, is a word often used for this section.

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.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



- 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 J2 students 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 the J2 students in your church? What godlessness of the last days are they encountering (which aren't necessarily temptations for them)?

Step 1:

Cut strips of paper and have them prepared before class starts.

Step 2:

Give a handful of paper strips to the students (with more available) and ask them to write down the temptations they face and the un-Christian behavior they encounter. They should write ONE temptation/un-Christian behavior per strip. Have them fold the pages and place in a bag.

Step 3:

Once the students are finished, pass the bag to a student and have him/her pick out a strip and read it aloud. Ask the students to discuss how this is a problem. Is

it prevalent? Ask them to discuss how they can solve the problem and the steps they can take. Ask them for ways to encourage classmates to step up and solve the problem; many times the solution is simple but the students don't want to face the consequences (losing school friends, etc.).

Step 4:

Pass the bag to the next student and repeat step three. As the bag goes around, if there are repeats the topic can be further discussed; if the students have talked it out, teachers should keep these repeated mentions in mind for future mentoring of the students.

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



With his spiritual parent soon unable to guide his faith any further, Timothy is in a position similar to some of the J2 students who are starting to discover their own relationship to God as something more than an extension of their parents'. The model that Paul has set may have seemed like overwhelming achievement to Timothy, as it undoubtedly seems to most J2 students. But Paul had the key to making it easy: the Scripture. Through daily reading and meditation of the Bible, everyone can better understand who God is and what He wants. And amazingly, between His Word and His Spirit, being what He wants us to be becomes easier. Rather than being nudged in the right direction, we naturally go in that direction, easily and happily.

Titus and Philemon

Listed Scriptures

Titus; Philemon; 1 Timothy; Colossians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To exercise self-control over ungodly actions and pursue God-glorifying deeds.
- 2) To forgive others as Jesus Christ forgave us.

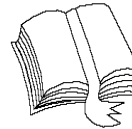
Memory Verse

"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)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Tit 1-3 and Philemon

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Titus was a Greek Christian (Gal 2:3) who, after his conversion, assisted Paul on his second and third missionary journeys, and became one of Paul's closest and most trusted aides. Thus when Paul saw the need for someone to handle the Cretan churches, he chose his "true son in our common faith," Titus.

The churches in Crete were established during Paul's first imprisonment. Crete, the largest Greek island at 160 miles long and 35 miles wide, is situated south of the Aegean Sea. The people of Crete developed a thriving agricultural and trading economy and made the island one of the premier business centers of the ancient world. However, this prosperity apparently led the Cretans to an excessive lifestyle. As Paul quoted the Greek poet Epimenides in Ch 1:12, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." Paul wrote this letter to Titus around the same time as 1

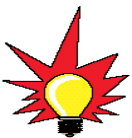
Timothy (62-64 AD), between his first and second Roman imprisonments. This epistle constitutes one of the three Pastoral Epistles of Paul; the other two are 1 and 2 Timothy, which have already been studied. It is very similar to 1 Timothy as it addresses the themes of false teachings, church organization and christian living.

The Book of Philemon, written around 60-61 AD before Titus or the other Pastoral Epistles, constitutes one of Paul's four Prison Epistles (the other three being Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians). Tychicus and Onesimus delivered this letter along with Paul's letter to the church of Colosse. Philemon, a Colossian (Col 4:9, 17) and one of Paul's converts (Phm 19), was a wealthy man who opened his house as a meeting place for worship. Included in Paul's greeting are Philemon's wife, Apphia, and son, Archippus, who also helped out with the church. Although his name meant "useful," one of their slaves, Onesimus, was quite the opposite as a thieving runaway. But God led Onesimus to Rome where he met Paul and after becoming a Christian, lived up to his name.

The epistle to Philemon gives a personal glimpse into the relationship of the early church and the institution of slavery. Slavery was an essential part of the Roman Empire and it was not uncommon for a household to have more than one slave. Rather than relegating them solely to menial or physical labor, masters educated some of their slaves to work as doctors, teachers, accountants, etc. But still, as commodities, running away from one's master was a crime punishable by death in most cases.

Although the New Testament does not condemn the possession of slaves, it does promote the benevolent treatment of them and purports the spiritual equality of slaves and their masters (Phm 16; Gal 3:28; Eph 6:9; Col 4:1; 1 Tim 6:1-2).

W A R M U P



In both letters, Paul points out that the Cretans, Titus and Philemon should be inclined to do good as converted Christians. They cannot remain in the ways they were before, however good, but need to press forward to a Christ-like image. What changes have you made as you mature spiritually as a Christian? Think back to your strengths and weaknesses. What have you fostered? Overcome? What remains a challenge? What has developed into a challenge?

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.



Part 1

The Teachings of Titus



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.

Note in verse 7, Paul uses the word "bishop" in the NKJV translation, which means overseer but also refers to elders.

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.

In addition to the previous lesson, most J2 students are familiar with Galatians 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit, and know that self-control is one of the traits. 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.



Part 2

The Teachings of 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 Cor 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?

LIFE APPLICATION



Part A: Exercising Self-Control

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

Step 1:

Ask the students to give examples where they face temptation and need to exercise self-control. You can do this anonymously with strips of paper the students can write on, fold and give to you, or you can discuss it openly in class.

Step 2:

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

Step 3:

Take the scenarios the students shared in step 1 and ask the groups to select one to act out. Give them 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.

Divide the students 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:

Create scenarios for the students to debate for or against forgiveness. Examples: someone talking behind your back, someone dropping you as a friend because he/she has a boy/girlfriend or new friends, someone stops being a good friend to you, someone you share church work with leaves all of it to you, someone takes advantage of you (for rides, money, homework, notes, etc.), someone steals from you, someone lies to you, etc.

Note: Remind the students that 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 students shouldn't necessarily "win" the debate without arguing well. The teacher will be the judge.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



J2 students are gaining more independence and freedom from their parents year after year. They are getting their driver's licenses and they are starting to face leaving home and going to college. So the thought of exercising self-control and of being slaves to Christ probably doesn't seem appealing. They're entering a period of self-discovery and limits sound constraining. But students may not realize that people experiment and adopt vices in an attempt to fill insecurities or emotional voids. If you look to God for fulfillment, He will provide. And if students reflect on their own great experiences from SSCs, many of them can probably understand how He satisfies.

Review-The Pauline Epistles

Lesson Aim

- 1) To review each Pauline epistle covered in this quarter.
- 2) To help students remember the main teachings of each Pauline epistle and apply them to their daily lives.

R E V I E W

PART I MEMORY VERSE QUIZ

The purpose of this test is to help teachers and students review and remember Bible verses. We highly recommend both students and teachers to take the quiz.

Fill in the blank (40 points total)

1. (4 pts) "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. (4 pts) "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. (2 pts) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____(creation); the _____(old) has gone, the new has come." (2 Cor 5:17)
4. (4 pts) "...a man is not justified by the works of the _____(law) but by

_____ (faith) in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by _____ (faith) in Christ and not by the works of the _____ (law); 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 ____ (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. (2 pts) “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. (3 pts) “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. (3 pts) “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. (3 pts) “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. (4 pts) “Let no one despise your _____ (youth), but be an example to the believers in word, ____ (conduct), in love, in spirit, in _____ (faith) and in _____ (purity).” (1 Tim 4:12)
11. (4 pts) “____ (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. (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

_____ (good) _____ (works). These things are good and _____ (profitable) to men.” (Titus 3:8)

PART II BOOKS & MESSAGES

The purpose of this section is to help students remember the Pauline epistles and their main messages. If students are unfamiliar with the books, it is suggested that the students 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. _____ (Galatians)
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. _____ (1 Thessalonians)
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. _____ (2 Thessalonians)

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. _____ (1 Corinthians)
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. _____ (2 Corinthians)
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. _____ (Romans)
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. _____ (Ephesians)
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. _____ (Philippians)
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." _____ (Colossians)
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. _____ (Philemon)
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. _____ (1 Timothy)
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. _____ (Titus)

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. _____ (2 Timothy)

PART III REVIEW GAMES

Option 1: Brain Jog

For each Pauline epistle, choose one of the two listed "key phrases" to answer the following questions. This can be done in a group or individually.

1. Explain in your words what this phrase means.
2. How does this phrase fit into the theme of the listed Pauline epistle?
3. How does this apply to my life today?

Option 2: Pictionary

This is a fun game in which students are able to express the main ideas of each Pauline epistle in pictures.

Materials: White board, markers, bell, clock or timer, paper, scissors, hat or bag to contain strips of paper

Preparation: Write/type the listed KEY PHRASES onto small strips of paper. Fold the small strips of paper and place them into a bag/hat to be drawn. If students are unfamiliar with the key phrases, the teacher may briefly review them before the game.

Rules:

1. Students may use their Bibles.
2. No words may be spoken or written by the person drawing the picture.
3. Students may not continue drawing after their allotted time.

How to play:

1. Divide students into two teams.
2. Students from each team will take turns drawing a KEY PHRASE from the bag/hat.
3. Students will hand the KEY PHRASE to the teacher and have 1 minute (or allotted time) to depict the KEY PHRASE on the board.
4. While the student draws, his/her team members may guess the answers. If the teacher hears the correct phrase (does not have to be word-for-word), the team receives 2 points and continues to draw another KEY PHRASE.

5. During the one minute, the team may say "HINT" and receive a hint from the teacher and guess the answer for 1 point (instead of 2).
6. The teacher will ring the bell at 1 minute.
7. If the team is unable to guess by the allotted time, the other team may discuss and guess the phrase for 2 points before moving on to their turn.
8. The team with the most points wins.

Key Phrases:

ROMANS

Key Phrase: "Justified through faith" (4:24—5:1)

Key Phrase: "Living sacrifice" (12:1)

1 CORINTHIANS

Key Phrase: "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit" (6:19)

Key Phrase: "The Lord's Supper" (11:20)

2 CORINTHIANS

Key Phrase: "Sow generously" (9:6)

Key Phrase: "Super-apostles" (11:5)

GALATIANS

Key Phrase: "Slave woman & free woman" (4:30)

Key Phrase: "Fruit of the Spirit" (5:22)

EPHESIANS

Key Phrase: "Children of Light" (5:8)

Key Phrase: "Sword of the spirit, which is the word of God" (6:17)

PHILIPPIANS

Key Phrase: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (4:4)

Key Phrase: "Citizenship in Heaven" (3:2)

COLOSSIANS

Key Phrase: "Rooted and built up in Christ" (2:6)

Key Phrase: "Set your heart on things above" (3:2)

1 THESSALONIANS

Key Phrase: "Trumpet call of God" (4:16)

Key Phrase: "The Lord will come as a thief in the night" (5:2)

2 THESSALONIANS

Key Phrase: "Man of sin (lawlessness)" (2:3)

Key Phrase: "Idle brother" (Chapter 3)

1 TIMOTHY

Key Phrase: "Lift up holy hands in prayer" (2:8)

Key Phrase: "Love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (6:10)

2 TIMOTHY

Key Phrase: "Workman approved by God" (2:15)

Key Phrase: "All Scripture is God-breathed" (3:16)

TITUS & PHILEMON

Key Phrase: "Sound in faith" (Tit 1:13)

Key Phrase: "No longer a slave" (Phil v 16)

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



During this quarter, we have briefly covered each of Paul's epistles in the New Testament. From these letters, we have gained much insight about Paul's faith as a believer, his attitude as a worker, and his heart as a minister. In Romans, Galatians, and Colossians, we see Paul's familiarity with scripture and deep conviction in Christ as he defends the gospel and lays down doctrinal foundations for gentile churches. In 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, the Thessalonians, and 2 Corinthians, we learn of Paul's humility, work ethics, and clear understanding of his apostolic calling. Finally, in 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon, we witness Paul's love for the churches and hope for their unity and growth. May we learn from Paul's example of faith and workmanship; let us strive to know what we believe in, work diligently for the Lord, and repay God's love by caring for the body of Christ.



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SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY STRENGTH
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POWER OF CHRIST
MAY REST UPON
ME." (2 COR 12:9)**

*"Whatever your task,
work heartily as serving
the Lord and not men."
(Col 3:23)*

*"In all things showing yourself to be
a pattern of good works; in doctrine
showing integrity, reverence, incor-
ruptibility." (Titus 2:7)*