



DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____

- Day 1: Do section A, B. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2:7
- Day 2: Do section C. Read 1 Timothy 2:8-4:16
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 1
1 Timothy, Titus
1 Timothy 1:1-4:16

A Paul's Letters to Timothy and Titus.

There are three epistles Paul wrote which do not fit in as easily as those we have already studied. While the epistle of 2 Timothy is definitely written during an imprisonment of Paul, the situation seems to have changed from his other prison epistles. Instead of being confident of release he is certain of death. Paul seems to have written this second letter to Timothy either later in his imprisonment or after being released and then rearrested. A possible release from prison would help to explain the events he mentions in 1 Timothy and Titus. These do not seem to fit in his earlier travels as recorded by Luke in the book of Acts. The most likely explanation seems to be that he was released from prison, did more traveling and wrote these two epistles and then was rearrested, when he wrote 2 Timothy.

Regardless of when he wrote these epistles, the letters themselves contain a great deal of practical teaching about roles in the church and the work of an evangelist. Both Titus and Timothy are instructed about how to do this work.

B Paul Instructs Timothy. Read 1 Timothy 1-2:7

Timothy had accompanied Paul on his second preaching journey. He had served Paul in many ways in helping to preach the gospel. Now Timothy was busy working on his own as an evangelist.

1. Where had Paul left Timothy to work?
2. What was he to teach his hearers about doctrine? 1:4-11
3. What had the Lord done for Paul? 1:12-17 How does Paul refer to his past activity? Where did Paul rank his sin? What had God shown himself to be?
4. What two men had made shipwreck of the faith of others? 1:18-20
5. Paul described different roles that individuals were to have in the church.
 - What was to be offered for all men? 2:1-7
 - What part did Christ have between God and men? As what did He give himself?

B Roles in the Church. Read 1 Timothy 2:8-4:16

Paul now describes the various roles individuals were to have in the church.

1. What role were men to have? 2:8-15 Women? Why was there to be a difference?
2. What kind of qualities was an elder to possess? 3:1-7 Were the qualifications of a deacon much different? What differences are there?
3. What does Paul say is the reason he was writing Timothy? 3:14,15
4. What did Paul predict (by the Spirit) would happen in the future? 4:1-5 What do each of these mean?
5. Did Paul say it was good to exercise? 4:6-11 What would be of even greater benefit? What is this?
6. How did Paul tell Timothy to overcome the tendency of older members to overlook him? 4:12-16
7. What were some of the responsibilities he was given as an evangelist?



Thought Questions

1. Compare the work of a man and a woman in the church. Who is more active in a public sense? Why do you think God made it that way? Does this mean there is inequality between men and women? Who has the greater responsibility?
2. Why is it important for a church to have elders? Can a church exist without them? Are the qualifications of an elder that much different from other Christians? Should we all be trying to possess these qualities?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: _____

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Timothy 5,6
- Day 2: Do Section B. Read Titus 1-3
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 2
1 Timothy, Titus (2)
1 Timothy 5:1-6:22
Titus 1:1-3:15

A Paul Gives Further Warnings to Timothy. Read 1 Timothy 5,6

1. How was Timothy to treat other members? 5:1-16

2. What would qualify a woman as a real or true widow?

3. What responsibility did the members of a widow's family have? How important was it for them to do this?

4. What did Paul tell younger widows to do?

5. Who was to take care of those who were really widows?

6. What does it mean for an elder to receive double honor? 5:17-25 Was it easy to bring an accusation against an elder?

7. How were slaves to treat their masters? 6:1,2 How were masters to treat their slaves?

8. What was considered great gain? 6:6-10 With what should we be content?

9. Why is it dangerous to love money?

10. What was to be Timothy's attitude toward these things? 6:11

11. What would be the improper use of riches? The proper use? 6:17-19

B Paul Writesto Titus. Read Titus 1-3

1. Where was Titus? 1:1-9 What was his responsibility there?
2. What was he to appoint in every city? Are these qualifications the same as those given to Timothy (1 Tim.3:1-7)?
3. What kind of people were the Cretans? 1:10-16 Did this mean they were too evil to believe and obey the gospel?
4. Describe in your own words how the following were instructed to behave: Older men? Older women? Young men? Young women? 2:1-10
5. What did it mean to adorn the doctrine of God?



Thought Questions

1. Paul seems to emphasize the role of the women in the home (1 Tim.5:10; Titus 2:4). Why is this so important? Should a woman be seeking a career outside of home? Why or why not? What are some reasons women work outside the home?
2. Paul does not condemn money, but the love of money. Name some reasons money can be destructive to us. Should we try to exist without it? Name three guidelines that would allow us to use it but not be overtaken by it.
3. Is there a need today for young men like Timothy and Titus to do the work of an evangelist? Why or why not? Does this mean they cannot hold another job? What can you do now to prepare yourself for such service?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read 2 Timothy 1, 2
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read 2 Timothy 3, 4
- Day 3: Do Thought Question

Lesson 3
2 Timothy
2 Timothy 1:1-4:22

A Paul's Last Epistle.

When Paul wrote the prison epistles, he expected to be released from prison. When he writes his second letter to Timothy, everything has changed. Some who were with Paul have deserted him, leaving him alone in prison. Paul now urges Timothy to remain faithful and be willing to suffer for his beliefs. He asks Timothy to come quickly to him and bring some of his personal belongings. Paul no longer has an expectation of release, but of execution. The end is near.

We do not know the exact circumstances that resulted in Paul's situation. He may have been released from his first imprisonment, then rearrested. It is possible he was never released. Tradition tells us he was executed in Rome. This epistle reveals some of his teaching when he knew his end was at hand.

B Willing to Suffer. 2 Timothy 1, 2

1. How did Paul describe Timothy's faith? 1:3-7 Who had been responsible for supplying this?
2. What did Paul tell Timothy to stir up? What could Timothy have been experiencing? Why might he feel this way?
3. Of what did Paul want Timothy not to be ashamed? 1:8-12 What kind of example did Timothy have that he could follow?
4. Who had turned away from Timothy in Asia? 1:13-18 Who had come to help him? What had he done to be of help?
5. How was the gospel to be taught? 2:1-13 What figures did Paul use to demonstrate the attitude that a teacher must have? What was the point of each one?

6. How was Timothy to prove himself? 2:14-26 To whom was he accountable?
7. How did Paul tell Timothy he could be a useful vessel for the Lord?

C. DifficultTimesAhead.2Timothy3,4

1. What would characterize the evil times to come? 3:1-9 What is the key element in all these?
2. What did Paul warn would happen to those who try to live godly? 3:10-17 Who had Timothy seen suffer such things?
3. How was Timothy to guard himself against these evil times? Of what was he to be reminded?
4. How was the Scripture able to make Timothy complete?
5. What was Timothy's work? 4:1-5
6. What was Paul's expectation? 4:6-8
7. What details does he mention in closing?



Thought Question

Do we have to suffer anything today for being a Christian? Why or why not? When people are wicked, how do they view someone who is trying to do what is right? Why do they feel this way?

Do you think the time we are living in fits the description of 3:1-4? What can we do to make sure that we do not become a part of it?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: _____

- Day 1: Do Section A. Read Acts 22:1-29
- Day 2: Do Sections B, C. Read Acts 22:30-23:35
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 4
Hebrews(1)
Hebrews 1:1-6:20

A The Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews is a unique book because it addresses a unique problem. The book of Acts reveals that the Jews had a difficult time accepting that the Gentiles could be saved. Once they acknowledged this reality, they then attempted to make the Gentiles keep the law of Moses. The writer of Hebrews, through the Holy Spirit, wrote to Jewish Christians who were in danger of turning back to their old religion. Having decided to follow Jesus, they had become weary of persecution they suffered and began longing for the way things had been before. The author of Hebrews (some think it was Paul but there is no way to be absolutely sure) tried to persuade his Jewish readers to stay the course with Christ.

The key theme throughout this book is that Christ has revealed a better system. He is better than the angels and Moses. He is a better priest, having brought in a better law and offered Himself as a better sacrifice. If this new covenant is better than the old, there is no reason for the Jews to go back to a law that was inferior and could not save them from their sin.

B God Has Spoken Through Christ. Read Hebrews 1-3

1. How had God spoken to men in the past? 1:1-14 How did He speak to them in the last days?
2. How did Christ compare to the angels? What was the main difference between them regarding creation? Had they been exalted as Christ?
3. What slow, steady danger does the author foresee for his readers? 2:1-9
4. What did Jesus' suffering accomplish for Him? 2:10-18 Who did He desire to bring to glory? What does this mean?
5. What did the death of Jesus destroy? Who did it release?
6. How did Jesus compare to Moses, the lawgiver? 3:1-19
7. What warning did he give about unbelief? How could they avoid this?

C. Jesus as High Priest. Read Hebrews 3-6

1. What remains for the people of God who remain faithful? 4:1-10
2. How effective is God's word? 4:11-13
3. Since Jesus is sinless and is our High Priest, can He understand our weaknesses? 4:14-16
4. How does Jesus compare to the High Priest under the law of Moses? 5:1-4
5. Why was it hard for the readers to understand this message? 5:11-14 What growth should they have accomplished?
6. To what does the writer compare those who experience God's blessings, then turn away from Him? 6:1-8
7. What confidence did he have in his readers? 6:9-20
8. What enabled Abraham to inherit the promises God made to him? What will it do for us?



Thought Questions

1. The Jews had a hard time remaining faithful because they had given up all the things familiar to them. Some had turned their backs on their families. They had to give up their culture and their friends. Their religion changed radically. Instead of attending ceremonies each year that were visibly impressive, they were now eating the simple meal of the Lord's Supper. Everything they saw and experienced was different. How does this compare with someone who becomes a Christian today? Does it demand that we trust things that we cannot see? Why should we be willing to do that?
2. The writer warns about the deceitfulness of sin. It can cause us to harden our hearts over a period of time (3:12,13). What does it mean to harden our hearts? Does it mean that we cannot remember anything we learned or does it mean that we do not care about it as much? How can we avoid this? Why should we be careful to avoid it? Will God prevent us from hardening our hearts? Why or why not?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: _____

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Hebrews 7-10:18
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read Hebrews 10:19-13
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 5
Hebrews (2)
Hebrews 7:1-13:25

A The New Covenant - Better than the Old.

The Hebrew author continues his comparison between the old and new covenants throughout the rest of the book. He introduced Jesus as someone better than the angels and better than Moses. Then he spoke of Jesus as a High Priest - perfect yet able to sympathize and understand how others suffered. He demonstrates in the second half of the book how Jesus enacted a better covenant based on better promises and a better sacrifice. He urges his readers to continue to be faithful and suffer if necessary. In doing so, they were following the example of the great examples of faith under the old law.

B A New and Better Covenant. Read Hebrews 7-10:18

1. Who was Mechizedek? 7:1-19 How was Jesus like him? From what tribe did Jesus come? How did this compare to the Old Testament priesthood? What had obviously changed?
2. What qualities does Jesus possess as our High Priest? 7:20-28
3. Where is Jesus serving as our High Priest? 8:1-6 Why not on earth?
4. Why is it obvious that the first covenant had fault? 8:7-13 Had God intended to replace the first covenant with a second covenant that was better?
5. After describing the tabernacle under the first covenant, how had the Holy Spirit indicated that the existence of the tabernacle meant there was no way to enter into the presence of God? 9:1-10 What did this mean for the Jew who wanted to live under the first covenant?
6. How did Jesus act as both the High Priest and sacrifice? 9:11-28 What did this accomplish for us?
7. What could the sacrifices under the law never do? 10:1-18 How did the sacrifice of Jesus solve this?

C. Remaining Faithful. Read Hebrews 10:19-13

1. Since Jesus had provided a way into the presence of God (the Holiest) by His sacrifice, the Jews could have an individual relationship with God. What three things does the writer urge them to do? (10:19-25 - Let us...)
2. What risk was there for those Jews who turned away from the gospel and ignored what Jesus had done for them? 10:26-39 What did they especially need? 10:36
3. The writer now lists a number of characters who lived under the law and were faithful to God (11:1-40). Each of these is noteworthy because they acted obediently on the basis of what God told them He would do for them, even though they could not actually see what He had promised them. Choose two of the individuals mentioned and describe how their faith caused them to obey concerning the unseen. How does this fit with the definition of faith? 11:1
4. To what athletic event does the writer compare the efforts of a Christian? 12:1-11 To whom are we to look? Why? Why should we accept God's chastening?
5. Why does he warn them not to make the mistake of Esau? 12:12-17
6. The Israelites had been terrified by God's presence at Mt. Sinai. 12:18-29 These Christians were experiencing the blessings of God. Who are they urged not to refuse?
7. In the closing chapter, there are various exhortations given to purity and faithfulness. Just as the Israelites had eaten from the sacrifices made at the altar, the writer says these Christians were able to eat of the altar of Christ, which was "outside" the camp. What did he tell them to be willing to suffer?



Thought Question

Notice again how the faith of the Old Testament characters is described in chapter 11. In what ways is our faith similar to theirs? Do we obey God based on what we can see or on the unseen? What is the ultimate reward for which we hope? How do we know it exists? How is our life different because we believe that this is a reward?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____:

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read James 1-2
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read James 3-5.
- Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 6
James
James 1:1-5:20

A The Book of James.

Even though James appears toward the end of the New Testament, it is probably the earliest of all the books written in the New Testament, even earlier than the gospel accounts. It is the first of what we refer to as the "general epistles." These are letters written by those other than the apostle Paul. James was probably one of the earthly brothers of Jesus. He seems to have resided in Jerusalem and writes this letter to his Jewish brethren in Christ, many of whom seem to have been spread throughout the world. The book is full of admonitions. It is like the short, forceful sayings of the book of Proverbs in some ways. It is a book that urges the Christian to action.

B Temptation, Favoritism and Faith and Works. Read James 1-2

1. What is the benefit of trials for a Christian? 1:2-18 When faced with such difficulties, what can we do that will supply wisdom from God?
2. How should the poor man feel? How about the rich man? Why?
3. Does God tempt us to do evil? Why are we tempted? What happens if we do not control temptation?
4. What does God provide for us?
5. How should we deal with our fellow man in conversation? 1:19-27
6. What is the difference between hearing and doing? Why is our action so important?
7. How were some of James' readers guilty of showing favoritism? 2:1-13 Do we ever do this?
8. What does James mean when he says faith without works is dead? 2:14-26 What illustrations does he use?

C. The Tongue and Other Concerns. Read James 3-5

1. Give at least two reasons according to James why it is important to control our tongues. 3:1-12
2. What is the difference between worldly wisdom and the wisdom from above? 3:13-18 How would we know which one we possess?
3. What will happen if we submit to God? 4:1-9 What will happen if we draw near to Him? What attitude is necessary?
4. How many lawgivers are there? 4:11-17 What should this keep us from doing?
5. What should we not assume about tomorrow? What will reflect this?
6. How does James illustrate the patience we should have? 5:1-12 How does this demonstrate patience?
7. What should we do for those who are sick? 5:13-20 What good will this do? How did it help Elijah?



Thought Questions

1. James emphasizes the importance of faith and works in our salvation (2:14-26), but Paul emphasizes faith instead of works (4:4,5). How can they both be right? What kind of works is Paul describing? What kind of works is James describing? Can we rely too much on our works, even when we are obeying God? Can we be guilty of merely saying we believe and not doing what our faith should cause us to do?
2. Why is it so hard to control our tongue? What are some ways we fail to do this? Why is what we say important? What does it reveal about us? (Cp. Matt. 15:19,20) Name two things we can do to make sure that we control our tongue.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____:

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read 1 Peter 1:1-3:12.
- Day 2: Do Sections C. Read 1 Peter 3:13-5:14.
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 7
1 Peter
1 Peter 1:1-5:14

A Peter's First Epistle.

The book of Acts begins by focusing on the apostles in Jerusalem. Peter is prominent among the apostles. His sermon at Pentecost is recorded, then he makes a journey to Cornelius and converts him before returning to answer his critics in the Jerusalem church. He is then arrested in Jerusalem, but secretly released by an angel. From this point forward the focus in Acts switches to Paul and Peter is not named again.

Even though we know little more about his activities, we do have two of the epistles he wrote to other Christians. His first epistle is addressed to those who are sojourners throughout Asia Minor. This perhaps indicates that Peter traveled in this region. He indicates a knowledge of the suffering through which they were going. They were being persecuted because of their faith. His letter is written to encourage them to remain faithful and understand why they were having to suffer.

B Demonstrating the Marvelous Grace of God. Read 1 Peter 1:1-3:12

1. What kind of inheritance do Christians have? 1:1-12 What is the power that enables us to endure the many trials under which we are placed?
2. Instead of silver and gold, with what have we been redeemed? 1:13-21 How had they purified their souls? 1:22-25 How long will God's word abide?
3. What Old Testament language is used to describe the Christians who were living stones? 2:1-10 As what had they been chosen? (Similar to Israel's description in Exodus 19:5,6) Why had God called them out of darkness into light?
4. Peter warns them that others will speak of their good works in an evil way (2:11,12). What three relationships does he mention in which that might happen? 2:13-3:6 Describe how it could happen, using either Peter's information or thinking of situations yourself. Who did they have as an example in this?

C. Suffering for Right Doing. Read 1 Peter 3:13-5:14

1. What should Christians always be ready to do? 3:13-17 Do you think this is more by answers they give or by the way they live?
2. What example does Peter give of how water can have a part in saving us? 3:18-4:6 Does it physically wash away our sins?
3. What will our friends think when we do not continue to practice immorality after becoming a Christian? Why would someone feel this way?
4. What are some things we can do to help prepare for the Lord's coming? 4:7-11
5. Is it a blessing or a curse to suffer as a Christian? 4:12-19 Why do you think so? Why does Peter think so?
6. What attitude are elders to have? 5:1-4 What attitude should young people have? 5:5-14 How should we feel about Satan?



Thought Question

Peter warns that the devil is seeking to destroy us like a roaring lion. Are we afraid of Satan like we would be of a lion? List some reasons why you think this is so. What can we do to have a greater respect and fear of what Satan can do to us?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____:

- Day 1: Do Sections A, B. Read 2 Peter 1.
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read 2 Peter 2-3; Jude
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 8
2 Peter, Jude
2 Peter 1:1-3:18; Jude

A Peter's Second Epistle and Jude's Epistle.

Peter's first epistle was concerned with the dangers and threats of those who were not Christians. His second epistle concentrates on threats from within. There is the danger of each Christian failing to grow. The second and third chapters cast the spotlight on false teachers who influence and lead away Christians who do not have a solid foundation. They entice them with teaching that offers freedom in the area of personal morals. They deny that Jesus is returning. Jude is very similar to the second chapter of this epistle, so we will combine them together. Peter intends his teaching not only as a reminder of principles these Christians knew, but as a permanent record that will survive and strengthen Christians after his death.

B Growing in Character. Read 2 Peter 1

1. How much of the things that have to do with life and godliness does God's divine power give us? 1:1-4 What does it enable us to escape?

2. Name the different qualities we are to add to our character. (1:5-11) What is each one? Why is each one important?

3. What kind of vision do we have if we don't add these to our life? What will adding them enable us to enter?

4. What was Peter expecting? 1:12-15 What was his tent? What would his epistle enable them to do?

5. How do we know that Peter and the apostles were not teaching fables? 1:16-21 What experience does he recount? How were he and others able to speak?

B The Danger of False Teachers. Read 2 Peter 2-3; Jude

1. What do false teachers bring in? 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 1-4 Do they announce their arrival? Who do they deny?
2. Give at least two examples that should remind us (and these readers) that God will punish the wicked (including false teachers). Also list two lessons that we learn from them. 2 Peter 2:4-11; Jude 5-11
3. List three negative qualities of these false teachers. What do each of these mean? Why do you think they are like this? 2 Peter 2:12-17; Jude 12-15
4. What would cause someone to follow a false teacher? What makes him appealing? 2 Peter 2:18-22; Jude 16-19
5. What will some deny in the last days? 2 Peter 3:1-9 What reasoning do they use to reach that conclusion? 3:4 Why does the Lord delay His coming? How will He come? What should we be doing in expectation of His coming?



Thought Question

Is it difficult to believe that the Lord is returning again? Why or why not? Does our belief affect how we live? Why or why not? If so, what can we do to be more aware that He could come at any moment? Would you consider yourself prepared if He was to come right now?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____:

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read 1 John 1, 2.
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read 1 John 3-5.
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 9
1 John
1 John 1:1-5:21

A John's First Letter.

The apostle John, the brother of James, wrote a series of epistles known as 1 John, 2 John and 3 John. The first epistle is the longest and best known. In this epistle, John is attempting to give his readers that Jesus did come to the earth in a physical body. There were those who claimed that Jesus was merely a spiritual being and did not possess a body. John's teaching in this letter denies this claim. In addition, he provides other spiritual principles that demonstrate that we are in fellowship with God and therefore, with others who are in fellowship with God. In doing so, He affirms the nature of God. God is a God of light, or truth. He is also a God of love, having sent His Son to die for us. He is a God who provides life. This life is not simply physical life, but spiritual life - union with God.

B God is Light - Walk in Light. Read 1 John 1, 2.

1. What evidence did John give that Jesus came to the earth and lived in a physical body? 1:1-4
What can we hear that allows us to have fellowship with Him?

2. Some were teaching that since our spirit is good and our body is evil, it makes no difference how we live and what we do with our bodies. How does John prove this to be untrue? 1:5-2:2
How is a Christian forgiven of sin he commits after being baptized?

3. What provides the real proof that we know God? 2:3-11 What test does he give us as far as our brother?

4. What relationship should a Christian have with the world? 2:12-17 What is the world? Is it the sphere on which we live? The people who live on the earth? Something else? What things are we not to love? How do they influence us to disobey God?

5. John writes of the antichrist. 2:18-29 In fact, he says there are many antichrists. What did the antichrist deny? What do you think this means? Are there antichrists today?

C. God's Love and Light. Read 1 John 3-5

1. What will Christ be like when He appears? 3:1-3 What will we be like? If we desire to be like Christ, what must we do?
2. John describes how a child of God will not knowingly continue to commit sin (3:4-9). What test does he give to allow us to know whether or not we abide in God?
3. John gives a very practical way of determining whether or not we are children of God. The child of God loves his brother. 3:10-23 What example does he give of one who hated his brother? How do we know that Christ loves us? Instead of loving just in word or in tongue, how must we love?
4. What confession should one be willing to make? 3:24-4:6 How do we know whether someone is of God? (Hint: Who does he hear? What does this mean?)
5. How do we know that God loves us? 4:7-21 Why should we love others? If someone hates his brother, what do I know about him as a result?
6. What is one sign John gives of one who loves God? 5:1-5 In whom is the eternal life God has given us? 5:6-13 What confidence can we have? 5:14-17 Under whose power does the world lie? 5:18-21



Thought Question

There were those in the time of John, several decades after Jesus had lived and died, who denied that He had come in the flesh - that is, lived as a real human being upon the earth. There are many today who claim that Jesus might have existed, but He was not the Son of God. What evidence does John give us that Jesus did exist? 1:1-4 How are we able to know this evidence today? What is the importance of the testimony given by John and the other apostles who saw Jesus? Is that testimony still good evidence today? Why or why not?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS _____:

- Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read 2 John.
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read 3 John.
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 10
2 and 3 John
2, 3 John

A John's Other Epistles.

These two epistles were mostly likely written by the apostle John. The style is similar to the first epistle and the Gospel of John. The designation "The elder" with which both begin would fitly describe John. Each of these epistles is short and to the point but they have a distinctive, important message.

The second epistle is written to the elect lady. This may be a specific woman, but more likely it is a particular church. John repeats his message from the first epistle concerning loving God and keeping his commandments. He then issues a warning concerning the anti-christ.

The third epistle is addressed by the elder to Gaius, apparently an honored friend and brother in Christ. John commends Gaius, then warns him concerning a man whose name is Diotrephes.

B The Second Epistle of John. Read 2 John

1. About what did John rejoice?
2. What command does he repeat?
3. What is another outward expression of love? How long had they known it? What does this mean?
4. Where were the deceivers? What are they also called? What did they believe about Jesus?
5. What is the danger of being deceived by the anti-christ? What could be lost?
6. What is true of one who transgresses the doctrine of Christ? What does it mean to transgress? What does it mean to "not have" God or to "have" the Father and the Son?
7. How is someone to be treated if they do not follow after this teaching?
8. What was John's hope? Why?

C. John's Third Epistle. Read 3 John

1. Where else do we read of a Gaius? Do you think this is the same one?
2. What kind of prosperity does John hope for on Gaius' part?
3. What had others testified about Gaius? Why did that make John joyful?
4. What does John exhort these brethren to keep doing for others? Why were they in need of such?
5. What is one way in which we become fellow workers for the truth? Can you think of any way in which we might do this today?
6. Diotrephes, who is a part of the church there, had caused problems. Describe his attitude and the problems he had created. What action was John going to have to take?
7. With such a situation brewing, what might be the possible reason for John to give the counsel he does in vs.11?
8. Why was it clear that Demetrius was worthwhile?
9. What did John seem to anticipate as far as visiting these brethren?



Thought Question

Do you think anyone today ever acts like Diotrephes? When is this more likely to occur - with or without elders? Why would anyone act this way?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

- Day 1: Do Section A,B.
- Day 2: Do Section C,D.. Read Revelation 1:1-2:11.
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 11
Revelation -
Letters to the Churches
Revelation 1:1-2:11

A The Book of Revelation.

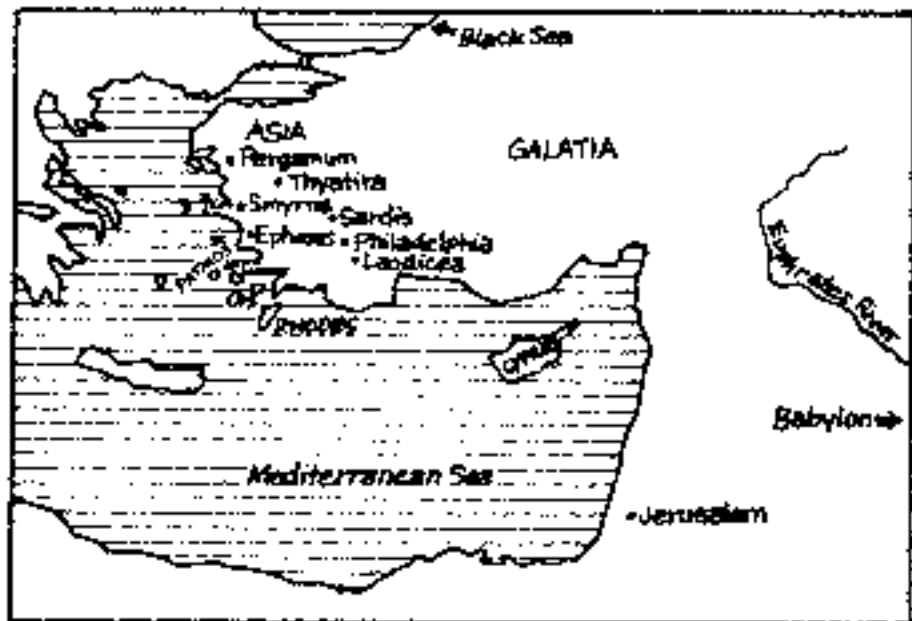
This book is unique among the New Testament books. It is a book of prophecy. John names himself as the author and writes from the Isle of Patmos. Apparently he was exiled there because of his belief in Christ. From Patmos he addresses seven churches of Asia Minor. One of these, Ephesus, had earlier been addressed by Paul. Most of the others we hear of for the first time, suggesting that the gospel had indeed been spread throughout all of Asia during Paul's stay in Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

Although we can not be absolutely sure about the time when Revelation was written, the evidence suggests sometime around 90 A.D.. This was at the end of the first century. The religious climate had changed for Christians during the 30 years after Paul's arrest. Although there was probably still persecution at the hands of the Jews, the primary persecution now seemed to come from the Roman emperors themselves and those loyal to them. Many of the Roman emperors were corrupt. Even so, many had begun to worship the emperors as gods. Christians who were faithful to God would refuse this worship, even though in most cases all it required was burning some incense in honor of the emperor. As a result, they were singled out for persecution and some were put to death.

We will not attempt to study the entire book of Revelation. We will focus on John's letters to the individual churches in the first three chapters, then turn our attention to the picture of heaven he presents in chapters 21-22. In chapters 4-20, John describes the conflict between Christians and the Roman empire. He uses a great deal of symbolism, but the main message he conveys is to encourage saints to remain faithful despite what they must suffer.

B The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

Look in chapters 2-3 of Revelation and note the different churches John addresses. How does the order in which he addresses them fit their location? How would this letter be delivered? Where is Patmos?



C. Introduction. Read Revelation Chapter 1.

1. Upon whom does John pronounce a blessing? How soon did John say these things would happen? 1-3
2. Describe the appearance of Jesus when John turned to see Him. 12-20 What do these characteristics suggest about Him? What did He tell John to do?

D. The Churches in Ephesus and Smyrna. Read Revelation Chapter 2:1-11.

1. What good qualities did the church in Ephesus have? 1-7 What changes did they make? What did Jesus promise to those that overcame? Do you think this was a good church?
2. What good qualities did the church in Smyrna have? 8-11 What changes did they make? What did Jesus promise to those that overcame? Do you think this was a good church?



Thought Question

Jesus instructed John to write to each of the churches. Why was He so concerned with each church? Do you think Jesus is just as interested in what each church is doing today? How should this make us feel?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: _____

- Day 1: Do Section A,B. Read Revelation 2:12-3:22.
- Day 2: Do Thought Questions.

Lesson 12
Revelation -
Letter to the Churches
Revelation 2:12-3:22

A The Churches in Pergamos and Thyatira. Read Revelation 2:12-29

1. What did John commend in the church at Pergamos? 2:12-17
 - What two doctrines were being taught? What did each involve?
 - What was this church counseled to do?
 - What would be given to him who overcomes?

2. What was true of the works of the church at Thyatira? 2:18-29
 - Who was Jezebel? What was she encouraging others to do? What would happen to her?
 - What were those to do who had not embraced her teaching?
 - What would be given to those that would overcome?

B The Churches at Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Read Revelation 3:1-22

1. What name did the church at Sardis have? 3:1-6 Was this accurate? What does this mean
 - What had their works failed to do?
 - What would happen if they failed to watch?
 - Had the entire church in Sardis been affected? How do you know?
 - What would be given to those that would overcome?

2. For what was the church at Philadelphia commended? 3:7-13

- What would be done to the synagogue of Satan?
- Who would be kept from the hour of trial?
- What would be given to the one who would overcome?

3. Was the church at Laodicea good or bad? 3:14-22

- How did Christ react to their condition? Is this surprising?
- Why did they feel secure? What did Jesus counsel them to buy? What does this mean?
- Why was Jesus going to rebuke and chasten them?
- What would be given to the one who would overcome?



Thought Questions

1. Based on the messages addressed to the different churches, does it seem like God judges a church for their behavior? If so, does He judge each individual in the church separately or the group as a whole? Why do you think He does? What does this tell us about our part in a church?

2. Jesus reacts strongly to the Laodiceans who are lukewarm. It seems like lukewarm is better than being cold, but Jesus says He would prefer them to be hot or cold. Why is this? Are we ever lukewarm about things? Why do we feel this way? How can we prevent this?

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: _____

- Day 1: Do Section A,B. Read Philippians 1-2.
- Day 2: Do Section C. Read Philippians 3-4.
- Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Lesson 13
Revelation - Heaven
Revelation 21,22

A. The Closing Vision in Revelation.

How do you picture heaven? It is hard to have a clear idea of it because we know so little about it. John concludes his book with the vision that God permits him to have, the new heaven and the new earth. While there is some question as to the exact meaning, most believe John is describing heaven itself. His vision is wonderful to contemplate, but it may be symbolic so that we can get some idea of how wonderful it will be. Even if most of the pictures described are symbolic, there are details given that should cause us all to look forward to this place in which the faithful will spend eternity.

B. The New Jerusalem. Read Revelation 21.

1. When John first sees the throne of God in chapter 4, there is a sea between him and God's throne. Here in verse 1, there is no longer a sea. What does this suggest?
2. Who will be there? What will He do?
3. What does the loud voice from heaven announce? What is the significance of the tabernacle? Where had it existed previously? (Ex.40:34) How was Jesus connected with the tabernacle? (See John 1:14. The word "dwelt" literally means "tabernacled.") What had God wanted to do with the tabernacle? How had this finally come true?
4. What would be given to those who were thirsty? What would happen to those who were not faithful? vs.8
5. Describe the appearance of the great city, the holy Jerusalem? 9-21
6. Why was there no temple? Who will be in the city? Is the gate closed? Despite this, who will not be there?

C. Continuation of the Vision. Read Revelation 22.

1. Describe the river flowing through the city.
2. What tree is in the city? Where was it before? Why is it here? What does this mean?
3. What will be on the foreheads of the faithful?
4. How did John respond to the things he saw and heard? What did the angel tell him?
5. How soon would the words of this prophecy take place?
6. Who has a right to the tree of life? How long had it been since this right was given? Who is outside, separated from it? Who is invited to take part in it?
7. What warning is given concerning the words of this book? Is this new? Has this kind of thing been spoken before?



Thought Question

It is hard to understand this vision, trying to picture the things John describes. What makes it difficult? Should this make it any less real to us? What motivation should we have for wanting to be in heaven? Give some reasons why you want to be in heaven.