

## **The Letter From James p1426**

27/5/12

### **Author**

- James was the BROTHER of Jesus (Mat 13:55; Mark 6:3).
- James was not a believer (John 7:3-5) until after the RESURRECTION (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor 15:7; Galatians 1:19).
- He became the HEAD of the Jerusalem church.
- He was an unusually GOOD man. 'James The Just.'
- He endorsed Paul's work amongst the Gentiles, but was himself focused on winning JEWS for Jesus.
- James was MARTYRED in approximately A.D. 62

### **James' Martyrdom according to the historian Josephus**

- The Jewish authorities ordered James, the head of the Jerusalem Church, to proclaim from one of the galleries of the temple that Jesus was NOT the Messiah. But instead, James cried out that Jesus was the Son of God and Judge of the world.
- His enraged enemies hurled him to the ground and stoned him until one man ended his sufferings with a club, while he was on his knees praying, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
- James had become very much like his brother Jesus

### **Date of Writing**

- Probably the OLDEST book of the New Testament, written perhaps as early as A.D. 45, before the first council of Jerusalem in A.D. 50.

### **Recipients**

- Jewish Christians SCATTERED among all the nations.

## **Purpose of Writing**

- To encourage Jewish Christians to continue growing in their faith and to demonstrate that growth by their BEHAVIOR.

## **Theme**

- Our behaviour gives evidence of GENUINE FAITH

## **Content**

- James addresses many subjects relating to PRACTICAL Christian living and how to behave.
- This book contains a remarkable PARALLEL to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.
- James emphasizes that good ACTIONS will naturally flow from those who are filled with the Spirit.
- He therefore questions whether someone can have a saving faith if the FRUITS of the Spirit cannot be seen, as Paul describes in Galatians 5:22-23.

## **Key Verse**

Faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works. James 2:17-18 p1427

## **Some Evidences Of Genuine Faith**

### **Has a great ATTITUDE to trials**

Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3

### **Displays WISDOM from above**

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

### **RELATES well to other people**

Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. James 1:19

### **OBEYS the Word of God**

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22

### **SPEAKS appropriately**

If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue, then his religion is useless and he deceives himself. James 1:26

### **Shows no PREJUDICE or DISCRIMINATION**

My brothers, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. James 2:1

### **Lives CLOSE TO God**

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts... James 4:8

### **Displays HUMILITY**

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you. James 4:10

### **Does not CRITICISE or JUDGE**

Don't criticize one another, brothers... Who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:11-12

### **Is PRAYERFUL**

The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful. James 5:16

### **Conclusion**

- The Book of James is the ultimate description of the relationship between FAITH and WORKS.
- No one is justified by WORKS but true faith always gives rise to WORKS. We are saved by grace through faith to do good WORKS. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

### **Practical Application**

- James is saying that if we just “talk the talk,” without “walking the walk,” then he QUESTIONS our faith.
- Or, if we are just getting to KNOW the Word without getting to DO the Word, he questions our faith.
- Or, if there is no FRUIT, is there any faith?
- Faith without fruit is no better than THE DEMONS have, who “believe and shudder” (James 2:19).
- GOOD WORKS are not the cause of salvation, but they are the result of it. So make sure that they are there. They will be if our faith is genuine.

## THE RETURN OF CHRIST - COMFORT

### Author

The apostle Paul, in the company of Silas and Timothy. 1:1

### Date of Writing

Approximately A.D. 51. Written from Corinth on Paul's second missionary journey.

### Background

- During Paul's second missionary journey, he established the first major church in Europe at Philippi.
- He then moved on to Thessalonica, where he established the second European church.
- His ministry there was cut short due to fierce persecution; maybe as short as three weeks.
- Paul, Silas and Timothy fled from Thessalonica to Berea.
- Paul's persecutors caught up with him in Berea, forcing Paul to flee to Athens by boat.
- Silas and Timothy remained in Berea initially until Paul called for them to join him in Athens.
- Paul was so concerned about the survival of the Thessalonian church in the light of their fierce persecution that he immediately sent Timothy back to check on them.
- Before Timothy returned, Paul and Silas moved on to Corinth, where Paul stayed for 18 months and teamed up with fellow tent makers Aquila and Priscilla.

### Occasion Of The Letter

Written in response to Timothy's arrival in Corinth with the encouraging report that the Thessalonian church was doing well.

*But now Timothy has come to us from you and brought us good news about your faith and love. 3:6*

### Purpose of Writing

- To express his joy and relief
- To encourage them to continue despite fierce opposition
- To clear up some questions about the Lord's return
- To instruct them how to live in the light of His return.

### Predominant Theme

**The Return of Christ.** Every chapter ends with a reference to the second coming of Christ.

**Chapter 1:** *You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead —Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. 1:9-10*

**Chapter 2:** *For who is our hope or joy or crown of boasting in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you?<sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy! 2:19-20*

**Chapter 3:** *May He make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. 3:13*

**Chapter 4:** *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.<sup>14</sup> Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.<sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep.<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. 4:13-18*

**Chapter 5:** *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. 5:23-24*

### Practical Application

- This letter gives us the confidence as Christians that dead or alive when Christ comes back we will be together with Him forever 4:13-18.

*The dead in Christ will rise first.<sup>17</sup> Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord. 4:16-17*

- It assures us as Christians that we won't receive God's wrath 5:8-9.

*God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 5:9*

- It instructs us how to live the Christian life daily as we wait for Christ's return (Chapters 4–5).

*God has not called us to impurity but to sanctification. 4:7*

*Stay away from every form of evil. 5:22*

### WARNING: BE READY

The only way that I can be sure that I'll be ready when Jesus comes is to be ready TODAY.

If I'm ready TODAY, then I'll be ready when the day comes, no matter what day it is.

To be ready TODAY is to be ready every day.

*This is why you also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44*

*Don't boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day might bring. Proverbs 27:1*

*You don't even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes. James 4:14*

## THE RETURN OF CHRIST – CONSEQUENCES & INDICATORS

### Author

The apostle Paul, in the company of Silas and Timothy. 1:1

### Date of Writing

- Approximately 51AD.
- Written from Corinth during Paul's 18 month stay there on his second missionary journey.
- Just a few weeks or months after Paul's first letter to them.

### Background

- Paul's concern for the spiritual stability of the Thessalonian church had led him to send Timothy to check up on them.
- Upon Timothy returning with his good report about their spiritual progress, Paul wrote 1st Thessalonians to express his joyful relief and to encourage them.
- The Thessalonians' persistence and patience amid strong adversity, drew Paul's frequent praise and gratitude.

*We ourselves boast about you among God's churches—about your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you endure. 1:4*

- Still there were clear concerns over the incorrect understanding related to Christ's return.

### Predominant Theme: The Return of Christ.

- As per first letter, only more so.
- 18 out of 47 verses deal with this subject. (38%)
- Paul refers to several OT passages in his discourse on the end times, especially Daniel chapters 7-8. 2:3-9.

### Purpose of Writing: Much the same as Paul's first letter

- To correct a further misconception about the Day of the Lord. 2:1-12

**First letter** was to address their concerns that those who died before Christ returned would miss out.

**Second letter** was to address the rumour that Christ had already returned and they had all missed out.

- To exhort them to be ready for the coming of the Lord by continuing to live right, work hard, and hang in there despite extreme persecution. 2:13-3:15

### Major Movements

#### Ch 1:1-4 Introduction – Authors, addresses, greetings and thanksgivings

<sup>3</sup> *We must always thank God for you, brothers. This is right, since your faith is flourishing and the love each one of you has for one another is increasing.* <sup>4</sup> *Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God's churches—about your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions you endure. 1:3-4*

## Ch 1:5-12 Consequences of the Coming of the Lord

**For the righteous,** *you will be counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also are suffering. 1:5... in that day when He comes to be glorified by His saints and to be admired by all those who have believed. 1:10*

**For the unrighteous,** *taking vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord's presence and from His glorious strength. 1:8-9*

## Ch 2:1-12 Indicators of the coming of the Lord

**The Antichrist must come first.** *Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. 2:3*

*And then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His mouth and will bring him to nothing with the brightness of His coming. 2:8*

## Ch 2:13-3:16 Exhortations in light of the Coming of The Lord

To sanctification	2:13-14
To steadfastness	2:15-17
To prayer	3:1-2
To faith	3:3-5
Against idleness	3:6-13
To discipline	3:14-15
To peace	3:16

## Ch 3:17-18 Concluding comments and benediction

## Practical Application

- Make the most of your life by glorifying God to the max while waiting for Christ's return.
- Warning! Don't be idle. Instead, be ready and be working while waiting for Christ's return.

*You also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44*

*That servant whose master finds him working when he comes will be rewarded. Matthew 24:46 p1368*

## Example Prayers

*We always pray for you that our God will consider you worthy of His calling, and will, by His power, fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith,<sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1:11-12*

*May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace,<sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word. 2:16-17*

*Brothers, pray for us that the Lord's message may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. 3:1*

*May the Lord direct your hearts to God's love and Christ's endurance. 3:5*

*May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you...<sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. 3:16-18*

## THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY - THE WAY OF LOVE

**Author:** The apostle Paul. 1:1

**Date of Writing:** Approximately 55AD, from Ephesus, towards the end of Paul's three year ministry there on his third missionary journey.

### Background

- Corinth was one of the most important and well known cities of its time.
- A large, busy, cosmopolitan city of 100-700,000 people.
- Strategically located, it was an important commercial centre, controlling trade between the east and the west.
- Corinth was infamous for its sexual immorality. Its chief Greek god was Aphrodite, goddess of love and sensuality
- 1000 temple prostitutes served in Aphrodite's temple.
- The city's reputation is reflected in the Greek word that came into being because of their behavior; 'korinthinazomai' – to commit fornication, practice prostitution.
- This letter addresses problems that arose from a church growing up in this environment.

### Purpose of Writing

- The apostle Paul founded the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey and stayed there 18 months.
- A few years later, during Paul's three year ministry at Ephesus as part of his third missionary journey, Paul received some disturbing reports about the Corinthian church, not the least being moral failures.
- Paul responded with a letter which has been lost. He refers to that letter in 5:9, *I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people.*

- There were also, in the church, divisive factions, pride, abuse of Spiritual gifts, to name a few.
- There was also rampant misunderstanding of key doctrines.
- Paul wrote this letter to address these issues and attempt to restore the church to its foundation—Jesus Christ.

### The Corinthian Church

*You do not lack any spiritual gift. 1:7*

### How did Paul start his letter to the Corinthians?

*I always thank my God for you because of God's grace given to you in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:4*

*Brothers, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. 3:1*

### The Most Excellent Way - The Way Of Love

**The whole letter moves towards and revolves around chapter 13 - The Love Chapter – The Most Excellent Way, as opposed to the way that the Corinthians were behaving.**

*And I will show you an even better way. (And now I will show you the most excellent way. NIV) 12:31*

<sup>1</sup> *If I speak human or angelic languages (Like you do Corinthians), but do not have love (Like you don't Corinthians), I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal (Like you are, Corinthians).*

<sup>2</sup> *If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains (Like you do, Corinthians) but do not have love (Like you don't), I am nothing.*

## What Is Love? From Chapter 13

**<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind (like you aren't).**

*It has been reported to me about you... that there is rivalry (quarrels) among you. 1:11*

*Now I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. 1:10*

**<sup>4</sup>Love does not envy (is not jealous) (like you are).**

*You are still fleshly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and living like unbelievers? 3:3*

**<sup>4</sup>Love is not boastful, is not conceited (like you are).**

*Now some are inflated with pride. 3:18*

**<sup>5</sup>Love does not act improperly (is not rude), is not selfish (like you are, even at the Lord's Supper).**

*When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's Supper. <sup>21</sup> For at the meal, each one eats his own supper ahead of others. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! 11:20-21*

**<sup>5</sup>Love is not provoked (not easily angered), and does not keep a record of wrongs (like you obviously do and you even use it in court).**

*To have legal disputes against one another is already a moral failure for you. Why not rather put up with injustice? Why not rather be cheated? 6:7*

**<sup>6</sup>Love finds no joy in unrighteousness (like you do) but rejoices in the truth (like you don't).**

*It is widely reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles—a man is living with his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> And you are inflated with pride, instead of filled with grief so that he who has committed this act might be removed from your congregation. 5:1-2*

**<sup>7</sup>Love bears all things (always protects) (like you don't).**

*Be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. 8:9*

**<sup>7</sup>Love believes all things (always trusts).**

**<sup>7</sup>Love hopes all things (always hopes).**

**<sup>7</sup>Love endures all things (always perseveres).**

**<sup>8</sup>Love never ends.**

**<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. (like you still do). When I became a man, I put aside childish things (like you haven't done but should have).**

**<sup>13</sup>Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

### Practical Application

- Many of the Corinthian problems are ours today also - divisions, immorality, the abuse of spiritual gifts.
- If we apply the 'most excellent way' of genuine Christ-like love to these situations, they can be resolved.

## 1 CORINTHIANS PART 2: SPIRITUAL GIFTS p1451 1/7/12

### REVISION OF PART 1: THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY – THE WAY OF LOVE

**Author:** The apostle Paul. 1:1

**Date of Writing:** Approximately 55AD, from Ephesus, during Paul's three year ministry there on his third missionary journey.

#### Background

- Corinth was infamous for its sexual immorality.
- Chief Greek god-Aphrodite, goddess of love and sensuality
- This letter addresses problems that arose from a church growing up in this environment.

#### The Corinthian Church

- Had every spiritual gift
- But failed to measure up in faith, hope and love
- Were babies in Christ
- Paul had to spell out for them the way to behave - the most excellent way
- The most excellent way is the way of love. Chapter 13
- The whole letter revolves around chapter 13 - The Love Chapter – The Most Excellent Way, as opposed to the way that the Corinthians were behaving.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE LETTER

##### Part A (Chapters 1-6): Paul Rebukes The Church For...

- Divisions, disharmony Chapter 1
- Immaturity Chapter 3
- Pride Chapter 4
- Approving of immorality Chapter 5
- Taking each other to court Chapter 6

##### Part B (Chapters 7-16): Paul Responds To Questions and Gives Instructions concerning...

- Marriage and Celibacy Chapter 7
- Food Sacrificed to Idols Chapters 8, 10
- Christian Freedom Chapter 9
- The Veiling of Women Chapter 11
- The Lord's Supper Chapter 11
- Spiritual Gifts Chapters 12-14
- The Resurrection Chapter 15

#### SPIRITUAL GIFTS – CHAPTERS 12-14

##### Who gives Spiritual Gifts?

*God activates each gift in each person. 12:6 (HS = God)*

##### What is a spiritual gift?

*A demonstration of the Spirit. 12:7*

*Is a demonstration of a special ability given by God.*

##### Why are they given?

*To produce what is beneficial (for the Body). 12:7  
(For the common good NIV)*

##### What gifts are there?

*To one is given a message of **wisdom**, to another, a message of **knowledge**,<sup>9</sup> to another, **faith**, to another, gifts of **healing**,<sup>10</sup> to another, the performing of **miracles**, to another, **prophecy**, to another, **distinguishing** between spirits, to another, different kinds of **languages**, to another, **interpretation** of languages. 12:8-10*

God has placed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, managing, various kinds of languages. 12:28

According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the standard of one's faith;<sup>7</sup> if service, in service; if teaching, in teaching;<sup>8</sup> if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness. Rom 12:6-8

And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. Eph 4:11

<u>Hospitality</u>	1 Peter 4:9-10
<u>Craftsmanship</u>	Exodus 31:3
<u>Intercession</u>	1 Timothy 2:1-2
<u>Creative Communication</u>	Psalms 150:3-5

### To whom are they given?

To each person. 12:7, 11

### On what basis are they given?

Distributing to each person as He wills. 12:11  
(Just as he determines. NIV)

### How does God determine anything?

- By what we deserve? No. By grace
- That's why they are called Grace Gifts
- Charis = Grace. Therefore we call them Charismatic Gifts

### What are we to do with them?

Use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

### Where are we to use them?

#### In the Body of Christ

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it (each one of you is a part of it). 12:27

#### In partnership with other members of the Body

So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!"<sup>22</sup>  
But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary. 12:21-22

### How are we to use them correctly?

In the most excellent way. 12:31  
In the way of love. 13:1-3

### What is to be our attitude towards spiritual gifts?

Pursue love and (eagerly) desire spiritual gifts. 14:1

Seek to excel in building up the church. (in those that build up the church). 14:12

### Difference between gifts of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit

- Gifts are abilities leading to activities.  
A demonstration of the Spirit's (activity). 12:7
- Fruit are qualities.  
A demonstration of the Spirit's (character). 12:7
- Fruit includes 9 qualities  
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Gal 5:22-23
- We all have at least one gift.
- We all must have all the fruit.

## 2 CORINTHIANS PART 1: SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

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**Author:** The apostle Paul, in the company of Timothy. 1:1

**Date of Writing:** Approximately 55-57 AD. Paul was about 50 years old.

### Paul's Relationship to the Corinthians

#### Paul paid three visits to Corinth.

1. **He founded the church on his second missionary journey** when he stayed for 18 months making tents with Aquila and Priscilla. *Acts 18 p1443*
2. **He made a brief painful visit from Ephesus**  
*In fact, I made up my mind about this: I would not come to you on another painful visit. 2 Corinthians 2:1 p1469*  
  
*I gave a warning when I was present the second time, and now I give a warning... If I come again, I will not be lenient. 2 Corinthians 13:2 p1480*
3. **He visited again on his third journey.** Acts 20 p1480  
  
*This is the third time I am coming to you. 2 Cor 13:1*

#### Paul wrote four letters to Corinth

1. **The first has been lost.** He refers to it in 1 Cor 5  
*I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. 1 Corinthians 5:9 p1455*

2. **The second was 1 Corinthians**, written from Ephesus towards the end of Paul's three year stay on his third missionary journey.
3. **The third was a severe letter** which followed his painful visit. This has also been lost. He refers to it in 2 Cor.  
*For I wrote to you with many tears out of an extremely troubled and anguished heart—not that you should be hurt, but that you should know the abundant love I have for you. 2 Corinthians 2:4 p1469*  
*For even if I grieved you with my letter, I do not regret it—even though I did regret it since I saw that the letter grieved you, yet only for a little while. <sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:8-9 p1473*
4. **The fourth was 2 Corinthians**, written from Northern Greece on Paul's Third Missionary Journey as Paul was making his way to them for the third time.

#### Purpose of Writing

1. **To commend the church for disciplining the sexual offender** as Paul had instructed in 1 Corinthians 5.  
  
*It is widely reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles... <sup>2</sup> And you are inflated with pride, instead of filled with grief so that he who has committed this act might be removed from your congregation. <sup>5</sup> turn that one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 5:1,2,5 p1454*
2. **To encourage them to forgive and receive him**  
  
*The punishment inflicted by the majority is sufficient for*

that person. <sup>7</sup> As a result, you should instead forgive and comfort him. Otherwise, this one may be overwhelmed by excessive grief. <sup>8</sup> Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 p1469

3. **To explain his change of plans** and subsequent delay in visiting them

**In 1 Corinthians he told them:**

*I will come to you after I pass through Macedonia—for I will be traveling through Macedonia—<sup>6</sup> and perhaps I will remain with you or even spend the winter...<sup>7</sup> I don't want to see you now just in passing, for I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord allows. <sup>8</sup> But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,<sup>9</sup> because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me. 1 Corinthians 16:5-9 p1467*

**In 2 Corinthians he reports:**

*I planned with this confidence to come to you first, so you could have a double benefit,<sup>16</sup> and to go on to Macedonia with your help, then come to you again from Macedonia and be given a start by you on my journey to Judea... 2 Corinthians 1:15-16 p1468. I call on God as a witness, on my life, that it was to spare you that I did not come to Corinth. 2 Corinthians 1:23 p1469. In fact, I made up my mind about this: I would not come to you on another painful visit. 2 Corinthians 2:1 p1469*

4. **To answer those who were questioning Paul's apostolic authority** (Chapters 10-12)

The Corinthian Church had been infiltrated by false teachers who were challenging both Paul's personal integrity and his authority as an apostle. Because of his change of plans, these people were saying that his word could not be trusted. They also accused him of putting into

his own pocket the offering that he was collecting for the poverty-stricken Jerusalem church.

5. **To encourage the church to share in this offering.** (8-9)

**Tone of the letter**

- This letter is in direct contrast to the tone of 1 Corinthians.
- In the first letter, Paul is the instructor, answering questions and setting matters right.
- In this second letter, he is the loving, fatherly apostle, pouring out his life so that his spiritual children might be perfected in the faith.
- No letter in the New Testament reveals the true character of the Christian ministry as does this one.
- This letter opens the heart of Paul and shows us his love and concern for the work of the Lord.
- It is intensely personal and filled with deep emotions.
- This letter is the most biographical and least doctrinal of Paul's letters, telling us more about Paul as a person and as a minister than any of the others.
- It shows how much Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of the Gospel, as he was called to do at the very beginning.

*I will show him how much he must suffer for My name!*  
Acts 9:16 p1421

**PAUL'S SUFFERINGS**

*Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 1:3-4*

*For we don't want you to be unaware, brothers, of our affliction that took place in Asia: we were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life. <sup>10</sup> He has delivered us from such a terrible death, and He will deliver us. We have put our hope in Him that He will deliver us again <sup>11</sup> while you join in helping us by your prayers. 1:8-11*

*We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. 4:8-9*

*<sup>4</sup> But as God's ministers, we commend ourselves in everything: by great endurance, by afflictions, by hardship, by difficulties, <sup>5</sup> by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times of hunger. 6:4-5*

*When we came into Macedonia, we had no rest. Instead, we were troubled in every way: conflicts on the outside, fears inside. 7:5*

*<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I'm talking like a madman—I'm a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, near death many times. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received 39 lashes from Jews. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods by the Romans. Once I was stoned by my enemies. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. <sup>26</sup> On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the open country, dangers on the sea, and dangers among false brothers; <sup>27</sup> labor and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and lacking clothing. <sup>28</sup> Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my care for all the churches. 11:23-28*

*Therefore, because of the extraordinary revelations, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so I would not exalt myself. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." 12:7-9*

## **PAUL'S SUFFERINGS RECORDED IN ACTS**

- They plotted to kill him in Damascus. Acts 9:24
- And in Jerusalem. Acts 9:29
- Drove him out of Antioch. Acts 13:50
- Attempted to stone him in Iconium. Acts 14:5
- Did stone him and leave him for dead in Lystra. Acts 14:19
- In Philippi they beat him with rods and put him in stocks. Acts 16:23-24
- In Thessalonica they tried to mob him. Acts 17:5
- They drove him out of Berea. Acts 17:13-14
- Plotted against him in Corinth. Acts 18:12
- In Ephesus they almost killed him. Acts 19:29
- In Corinth again, shortly after he had written this letter, they plotted his death. Acts 20:3
- In Jerusalem again they would have murdered him, except for the Roman soldiers. Acts 22
- Then he was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years.
- He was imprisoned in Rome for two more years.
- Plus the unrecorded beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks etc of 2 Corinthians 11:23-27
- Finally, he was executed in Rome. 2 Timothy 2:9

## **HOW DOES ALL THIS SUFFERING RELEATE TO US?**

### **James said to count it all joy when we suffer for Christ**

Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3 p1426

### **Peter said the same**

You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7 p1541

When you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.<sup>21</sup> For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:20-21 p1543

### **Paul said to Timothy**

All those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12 p1567

### **Jesus said the same**

You are blessed when they insult and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12 p1277

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. John 15:20 p1381

### **ATTITUDE TO SUFFERING**

### **The Apostles counted it a great privilege to suffer for Christ**

Then they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be dishonored on behalf of the Name. Acts 5:40 p1415

### **Paul in Prison**

What has happened to me has actually resulted in the advance of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is in the cause of Christ. Phil1:12-13

### **Paul warned not to go to Jerusalem**

Then Paul replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” Acts 21:13 p1507

### **Jesus calls us to be non-quitters**

The one sown on rocky ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> Yet he has no root in himself, but is short-lived. When pressure or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Matthew 13:20-21

Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

### **Our Great Motivation**

Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, so that you won't grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:3 p1558

## 2 CORINTHIANS PART 2: GENEROSITY

15/7/12

### RECAP

**Author:** The apostle Paul, in the company of Timothy. 1:1

**Date of Writing:** Approximately 55-57 AD. Paul was about 50 years old.

**Place of Writing:** Northern Greece on Paul's Third Missionary Journey as Paul was making his way to Corinth for the last time

**Paul paid three visits to Corinth.**

**Paul wrote four letters to Corinth.** Two have been lost.

### Purpose of Writing

- To explain his change of plans and delay in visiting them
- To commend the church for disciplining the sexual offender of 1 Corinthians 5
- To encourage them to forgive and receive him
- To encourage the church to share in an offering for the Jerusalem Church. (Chapters 8-9)
- To answer those questioning Paul's apostolic authority (Chapters 10-13)

### Tone of the letter

- Intensely personal and filled with deep emotions
- The most biographical and least doctrinal of Paul's letters
- Paul is the loving, fatherly apostle, pouring out his life
- This letter shows us Paul's heart
- It shows how much Paul was willing to suffer for Christ
- No letter in the New Testament reveals the true character of the Christian ministry as does this one.

### Brief Overview

- Part A: Paul explains his ministry Chapt's 1-7
- Part B: Paul encourages generosity Chapt's 8-9
- Part C: Paul defends his apostolic authority Chapt's 10-13

### Part B: Paul encourages generosity Chapt's 8-9

### What The Holy Spirit Wants To Say To Us About Giving

Trials or deep poverty need not stifle generosity.

*During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity. 8:2*

God honours us and makes it up to us when we have the courage to give even beyond our ability.

*I testify that, on their own, according to their ability and beyond their ability, 8:3*

Giving is a privilege.

*They begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, 8:4*

Giving is a blessing.

*Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*  
*Acts 20:35 p1506*

Generosity is not restricted to money. We can all be generous with whatever we have. We can all give ourselves to the work of the Lord.

*and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God's will. 8:5*

The primary principle of all Christian giving is to give ourselves first to the Lord. God wants us more than He wants our money.

*Now as you excel in everything—faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this grace. 8:7*

Grace and giving are inseparably linked. Giving is the natural response to grace.

And there's no way that we can out-give God.

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich. 8:9*

By His grace, we are rich spiritually. Any material possession we enjoy is by God's grace also.

*I am not saying this as a command. Rather, by means of the diligence of others, I am testing the genuineness of your love. 8:8*

You can't command generosity. God wants our giving to be the willing outflow from a loving heart.

That's the difference between the OT and the NT. In the OT tithing was commanded. In the NT generosity is taught and exemplified and applauded.

*It is not that there may be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality. 8:13*

It's all about equal sacrifice and equal effort in a healthy body.

## Motivations for Giving (Chapter 9)

*Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 9:6*

A major principle of giving: sow generously and we will reap generously.

*Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. 9:7*

Another major principle of giving: it has to be by free will.

*And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. 9:8*

Another principle of giving: if we want to be generous and are willing to trust Him by making the first move, He will give us the means to be generous.

*Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 9:10*

That's how God repays us... by making our things go further.

*You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. 9:11*

If we want to be generous, God will give us the means to be.

Moreover, all generous giving produces thanksgiving to God.

*For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God. 9:12*

## **GALATIANS: By Grace Alone, Free From The Law 22/7/12**

**Author:** The Apostle Paul. 1:1

**Date of Writing:** 55-56AD from Corinth on Paul's Third Missionary Journey.

**Purpose of Writing:** To correct a severe doctrinal crisis.

**What Was Their Problem?** Judaizers had come along teaching that faith in Christ, although necessary for salvation, was not enough. The Jewish laws had to be observed as well, in order for a person to be saved.

**Theme:** Christian Freedom. Freedom from any obligation to keep the law because we are justified by faith alone. This precious freedom was threatened and Paul was hostile.

**Key Verse:** Christ has liberated us into freedom. Therefore stand firm and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery. 5:1

### **Paul's Reaction To The Galatians For Falling For This Error**

*I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from Him who called you by the grace of Christ, and are turning to a different gospel. 1:6*

*Not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to change the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel other than what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! 1:7-8*

*You foolish Galatians! Who has hypnotized you. 3:1*

*Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh? 3:3*

*How can you turn back again to the weak and bankrupt elemental forces? Do you want to be enslaved to them all over again? 4:9*

*I am fearful for you, that perhaps my labour for you has been wasted. 4:11*

*What happened to this blessedness (joy) of yours? 4:15*

*You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth? 5:7*

### **Structure:** Six Chapters - Divided into 3 sections

Chapters 1-2 Personal Narrative

Chapters 3-4 Doctrinal Argument

Chapters 5-6 Practical Application

### **Chapters 1-2 Personal Narrative: My Gospel direct from God**

*I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not based on human thought. <sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation from Jesus Christ. 1:11-12*

*But when God, who from my birth set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me, so that I could preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. <sup>17</sup> I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus. 1:15-17*

*Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days. <sup>19</sup> But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 1:18-19*

Afterward, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. <sup>22</sup> I remained personally unknown to the Judean churches in Christ. 1:21

Then after 14 years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also... and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles. 2:1-2

Now from those recognized as important... they added nothing to me. <sup>7</sup> On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter was for the circumcised. 2:6-7

### **Doctrinal Statement: Galatians 2:15-21**

(Very similar to Romans 3:21-31)

No one is justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ... By the works of the law no human being will be justified. 2:16

If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing. 2:21

### **Chapters 3-4 Doctrinal Argument: Saved by faith alone**

Faith is mentioned 15 times in chapter 3. Here are some of them:

Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, <sup>7</sup> then understand that those who have faith are Abraham's sons. 3:6-7

Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith... 3:8

So those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith. 3:9

Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith. 3:11-12

We receive the promised Spirit through faith. 3:14

If a law had been given that was able to give life, then righteousness would certainly be by the law. 3:21

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 3:26

### **Chapters 5-6 Practical Application - Christ sets us free**

Christ has liberated us to be free. Stand firm then and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery. 5:1

For you were called to be free, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. 5:13

Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 5:16

Now the works of the flesh are obvious... 5:19

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. 5:22-23

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit. 5:24-25

**Conclusion:** Both circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; what matters instead is a new creation. 6:15

In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything; what matters is faith working through love. 5:6

## ROMANS: A NEW KIND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS 29/7/12

### Author

- Dictated by Paul. 1:1
- Written down by Tertius. 16:22.
- Most likely hand delivered by Phoebe, a member of the church at Cenchrea near Corinth. 16:1-2

### Date of Writing

- Approx 56-58 from Corinth on Paul's Third Journey.
- Just prior to Paul's trip to Jerusalem to deliver the offering that he had been collecting for the poor there.

### Purpose of Writing

- To introduce himself to the Roman Christians, since he had not yet visited them but hoped to do so soon.
- Because Paul himself was a Roman citizen, he had a unique passion for the believers in Rome.
- To outline his theology. This letter is the greatest and most complete statement of Paul's theology.
- To teach and encourage the believers.
- He had intended to set up a base in Rome for an outreach to Spain. 15:24.
- But his plans were interrupted when he was arrested in Jerusalem.
- He eventually got to Rome as a prisoner.
- He wrote more than half of his letters from his Roman prison.
- He was executed in Rome, along with Peter.

### Main Theme

Righteousness – a new kind of righteousness that is not earned by being right but which is credited freely to those who have faith.

### Structure: Four Sections

- Righteousness Needed, 1:18–3:20
- Righteousness Provided, 3:21–8:39
- Righteousness Vindicated, 9:1–11:36
- Righteousness Practiced, 12:1–15:13

### Brief Summary Of Content

- The Book of Romans tells us about God, who He is and what He has done.
- It tells us of Jesus Christ, what His death accomplished.
- It tells us about ourselves, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ.
- Paul points out that God does not demand that we get our lives straightened out before coming to Christ.
- Rather, while we were still sinners Christ died on a cross for our sins.

### Key Verses

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. 1:16*

*Both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin,<sup>10</sup> as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one.<sup>11</sup> There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 3:9-11*

*But now a righteousness from God apart from the law, has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify. 3:21*

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 3:23*

*God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! 5:8*

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. 6:23*

*You however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 8:9*

*We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. 8:28*

*I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. 8:37-39*

*If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 10:9-10*

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. 12:1*

*Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. 12:19*

*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 16:17*

## **Connections**

Paul uses several Old Testament people and events as illustrations of the glorious truths in the Book of Romans.

- He uses Abraham to show that righteousness is credited to those who believe, rather than being earned. 4:1-5
- He uses David to reiterate the same truth: *Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.* 4:8
- He uses Adam to explain the doctrine of inherited sin.
- He uses the Sarah and Isaac to show that we who believe are children of the promise of God's grace through Christ.
- In chs 9–11, Paul recounts the history of Israel and declares that God has not completely and finally rejected Israel (11:11-12), but has allowed them to “stumble” only until the full number of the Gentiles has come to salvation

## **Practical Application**

- The Book of Romans makes it clear that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
- Every “good” deed we have ever done is as a filthy rag before God.
- So dead in our trespasses and sins are we that only the grace and mercy of God can save us.
- God expressed that grace and mercy by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place.
- When we turn our lives over to Christ, we are no longer controlled by our sin nature, but controlled by the Spirit.
- If we sincerely confess that Jesus is Lord, and believe that He is raised from the dead, we are saved, born again.
- We need to live our lives offered to God as a living sacrifice to Him.
- Worship of the God who saved us should be our highest desire.
- Perhaps the best application of Romans would be to apply Romans 1:16 and not be ashamed of the gospel. Rather, let us all be faithful in proclaiming it!

## PAUL THE WITNESS FOR JESUS

2/9/12

### Paul The Testifying Witness Acts 20

And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, bound in my spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there,<sup>23</sup> except that in town after town the Holy Spirit testifies to me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me.<sup>24</sup> But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24 p1506

### Paul The Courageous Witness Acts 21

Then Paul replied, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:13 p1507

### Paul The Attacked Witness Acts 21

The Jews from Asia saw him in the temple complex, stirred up the whole crowd, and seized him,<sup>28</sup> shouting, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place..."

<sup>30</sup> The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul, dragged him out of the temple complex, and at once the gates were shut.<sup>31</sup> As they were trying to kill him, word went up to the commander of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in chaos.

<sup>32</sup> Taking along soldiers and centurions, he immediately ran down to them. Seeing the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.<sup>33</sup> Then the commander came up, took him into custody, and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He asked who he was and what he had

done.<sup>34</sup> Some in the mob were shouting one thing and some another.

Since he was not able to get reliable information because of the uproar, he ordered him to be taken into the barracks.<sup>35</sup> When Paul got to the steps, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the mob's violence,<sup>36</sup> for the mass of people followed, yelling, "Take him away!" Acts 21:27-36

### Paul The Exhausted Witness Acts 21

As he was about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the commander, "Am I allowed to say something to you?"

<sup>39</sup> Paul said, "I am a Jewish man from Tarsus of Cilicia, a citizen of an important city. Now I ask you, let me speak to the people."

<sup>40</sup> After he had given permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language: Acts 21:37-40 p1508

### Paul The Appointed Witness Acts 22

<sup>2</sup> He was addressing them in the Hebrew language.<sup>3</sup> I am a Jewish man, brought up at the feet of Gamaliel and educated according to the strict view of our patriarchal law.<sup>4</sup> Being zealous for God, just as all of you are today,<sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women in jail.

### Paul's Testimony

<sup>6</sup> "As I was traveling and near Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me.<sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'

<sup>8</sup> "I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?'

“He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, the One you are persecuting!’<sup>10</sup> “Then I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’  
“And the Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that is assigned for you to do.’<sup>15</sup> For you will be a witness for Him to all people.’ Acts 22:2-16

Then He said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles. Acts 22:21

### **Paul The Hated Witness Acts 22**

They listened to him up to this word. Then they raised their voices, shouting, “Wipe this person off the earth—it’s a disgrace for him to live!” Acts 22:22

### **Paul The Protected Witness Acts 22**

As they were yelling and flinging aside their robes and throwing dust into the air,<sup>24</sup> the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, directing that he be examined with the scourge, so he could discover the reason they were shouting against him like this.<sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing by, “Is it legal for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen and is uncondemned?”

<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard this, he went and reported to the commander, saying, “What are you going to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.”<sup>29</sup> Therefore, those who were about to examine him withdrew from him at once. The commander too was alarmed when he realized Paul was a Roman citizen and he had bound him. Acts 22: 23-29

### **Paul The Shrewd Witness Acts 22-23**

#### **Paul before the Sanhedrin**

<sup>30</sup> The next day, since he wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews, he released him and instructed the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to convene. Then he brought Paul down and placed him before them. Acts 22:30

<sup>6</sup> When Paul realized that one part of them were Sadducees and the other part were Pharisees, he cried out in the Sanhedrin, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! I am being judged because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead!”<sup>7</sup> When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.<sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say there is no resurrection, and no angel or spirit, but the Pharisees affirm them all.

<sup>9</sup> The shouting grew loud, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party got up and argued vehemently: “We find nothing evil in this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” Acts 23:6-9

### **Paul The Rescued Witness Acts 23**

When the dispute became violent, the commander feared that Paul might be torn apart by them and ordered the troops to go down, rescue him from them, and bring him into the barracks. Acts 23:10

### **Paul The Encouraged Witness Acts 23**

The following night, the Lord stood by him and said, “Have courage! For as you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.” Acts 23:11

### **Paul The Hunted Witness Acts 23**

#### **The Plot against Paul**

<sup>12</sup> When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under a curse: neither to eat nor to drink until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than 40 who had formed this plot. <sup>14</sup> These men went to the chief priests and elders and said, “We have bound ourselves under a solemn curse that we won’t eat anything until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> So now you, along with the Sanhedrin, make a request to the commander that he bring him down to you as if you were going to investigate his case more thoroughly. However, before he gets near, we are ready to kill him.” Acts 23:12-15

### **Paul The Protected Witness (Again) Acts 23**

<sup>16</sup> But the son of Paul’s sister, hearing about their ambush, came and entered the barracks and reported it to Paul. <sup>17</sup> Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander, because he has something to report to him.”

<sup>19</sup> Then the commander took him by the hand, led him aside, and inquired privately, “What is it you have to report to me?”

<sup>20</sup> “The Jews,” he said, “have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the Sanhedrin tomorrow, as though they are going to hold a somewhat more careful inquiry about him. <sup>21</sup> Don’t let them persuade you, because there are more than 40 of them arranging to ambush him, men who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or drink until they kill him. Now they are ready, waiting for a commitment from you.”

<sup>22</sup> So the commander dismissed the young man and instructed him, “Don’t tell anyone that you have informed me about this.” Acts 23:16-22

### **Paul The Escorted Witness Acts 23**

#### **To Caesarea by Night**

He summoned two of his centurions and said, “Get 200 soldiers ready with 70 cavalry and 200 spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. <sup>24</sup> Also provide mounts so they can put Paul on them and bring him safely to Felix the governor.” Acts 23:23-24

After he read it..., <sup>35</sup> he said, “I will give you a hearing whenever your accusers get here too.” And he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod’s palace. Acts 23:34-35

### **Paul The Accused Witness Acts 24**

After five days Ananias the high priest came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus. These men presented their case against Paul to the governor... <sup>5</sup> We have found this man to be a plague, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the Roman world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes! Acts 24:1-5

### **Paul The Witness On Trial Acts 24**

#### **Paul’s Defense before Felix**

<sup>10</sup> When the governor motioned to him to speak, Paul replied... <sup>12</sup> They didn’t find me disputing with anyone or causing a disturbance among the crowd, either in the temple complex or in the synagogues or anywhere in the city. <sup>13</sup> Neither can they provide evidence to you of what they now bring against me. <sup>14</sup> But I confess this to you: I worship my fathers’ God according to the Way, which they call a sect, believing all the things that are written in the Law and in the Prophets. <sup>15</sup> And I have a hope in God, which these men themselves also accept, that there is going to be a resurrection, both of the righteous and the

unrighteous. <sup>16</sup> I always do my best to have a clear conscience toward God and men. Acts 24:10-16

### **Paul The Detained Witness Acts 24**

#### **The Verdict Postponed**

Since Felix was accurately informed about the Way, he adjourned the hearing, saying, “When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case.” <sup>23</sup> He ordered that the centurion keep Paul under guard, though he could have some freedom, and that he should not prevent any of his friends from serving him. Acts 24:22-23

### **Paul The Compelling Witness Acts 24**

After some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and replied, “Leave for now, but when I find time I’ll call for you.” Acts 24:24-25

### **Paul The ‘Naïve’ Witness Acts 24**

At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul. For this reason he sent for him quite often and conversed with him. Acts 24:26

### **Paul The Nullified Witness? Acts 24**

After two years had passed, Felix received a successor, Porcius Festus, and because he wished to do a favor for the Jews, Felix left Paul in prison. Acts 24:27

### **Paul The Witness On Trial Again Acts 25**

### **Appeal to Caesar Acts 25**

Three days after Festus arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. <sup>2</sup> Then the chief priests and the leaders of the Jews presented their case against Paul to him; and they appealed, <sup>3</sup> asking him to do them a favor against Paul, that he might summon him to Jerusalem. They were preparing an ambush along the road to kill him. <sup>4</sup> However, Festus answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to go there shortly. <sup>5</sup> “Therefore,” he said, “let the men of authority among you go down with me and accuse him, if there is any wrong in this man.”

<sup>6</sup> When he had spent not more than eight or 10 days among them, he went down to Caesarea. The next day, seated at the judge’s bench, he commanded Paul to be brought in. <sup>7</sup> When he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him and brought many serious charges that they were not able to prove, <sup>8</sup> while Paul made the defense that, “Neither against the Jewish law, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I sinned at all.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Festus, wanting to do a favor for the Jews, replied to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem, there to be tried before me on these charges?”

<sup>10</sup> But Paul said: “I am standing at Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as even you can see very well. <sup>11</sup> If then I am doing wrong, or have done anything deserving of death, I do not refuse to die, but if there is nothing to what these men accuse me of, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

<sup>12</sup> After Festus conferred with his council, he replied, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you will go!”

## **Paul The Testifying Witness Acts 25**

### **King Agrippa and Bernice Visit Festus Acts 25**

<sup>13</sup> After some days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and paid a courtesy call on Festus. <sup>14</sup> Since they stayed there many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king...<sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear the man myself."  
"Tomorrow you will hear him," he replied.

### **Paul before Agrippa Acts 25**

<sup>23</sup> So the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the auditorium with the commanders and prominent men of the city. When Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in.

### **Paul's Defense before Agrippa Acts 26**

Agrippa said to Paul, "It is permitted for you to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense: <sup>2</sup> "I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that today I am going to make a defense before you about everything I am accused of by the Jews, <sup>3</sup> especially since you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. (Paul gives account of his conversion and commission)

## **Paul The Appealing Witness Acts 26**

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe."

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?"

<sup>29</sup> "I wish before God," replied Paul, "that whether easily or with difficulty, not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am—except for these chains."

<sup>30</sup> So the king, the governor, Bernice, and those sitting with them got up, <sup>31</sup> and when they had left they talked with each other and said, "This man is doing nothing that deserves death or chains."

<sup>32</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar." Acts 26

## **Paul The Mobile Witness Acts 27**

### **Sailing for Rome Acts 27**

When it was decided that we were to sail to Italy, they handed over Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius... <sup>2</sup> So when we had boarded a ship, we put to sea.

<sup>7</sup> Sailing slowly for many days, we came with difficulty as far as Cnidus. <sup>8</sup> With yet more difficulty we sailed along the coast and came to a place called Fair Havens.

### **Paul's Advice Ignored**

<sup>9</sup> By now much time had passed, and the voyage was already dangerous. Paul gave his advice <sup>10</sup> and told them, "Men, I can see that this voyage is headed toward damage and heavy loss, not only of the cargo and the ship but also of our lives." <sup>11</sup> But the centurion paid attention to the captain and the owner of the ship rather than to what Paul said. Acts 27

## **Paul The Endangered Witness Acts 27**

### **Storm-Tossed Ship**

<sup>14</sup> But not long afterward, a fierce wind called the "northeaster" rushed down from the island...

<sup>18</sup> Because we were being severely battered by the storm, they began to jettison the cargo the next day. <sup>19</sup> On the third day, they threw the ship's gear overboard with their own hands.

<sup>20</sup> For many days neither sun nor stars appeared, and the severe storm kept raging. Finally all hope that we would be saved was disappearing.

### **Paul The Witness With A Word From God Acts 27**

<sup>21</sup> Since many were going without food, Paul stood up among them and said, "You men should have followed my advice not to sail from Crete and sustain this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup> Now I urge you to take courage, because there will be no loss of any of your lives, but only of the ship. <sup>23</sup> For this night an angel of the God I belong to and serve stood by me, <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And, look! God has graciously given you all those who are sailing with you.' <sup>25</sup> Therefore, take courage, men, because I believe God that it will be just the way it was told to me. <sup>26</sup> However, we must run aground on a certain island." Acts 27

### **Paul The Commanding Witness Acts 27**

<sup>27</sup> When the fourteenth night came, we were drifting in the Adriatic Sea, and in the middle of the night the sailors thought they were approaching land. <sup>29</sup> Then, fearing we might run aground in some rocky place, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight to come.

<sup>33</sup> When it was about daylight, Paul urged them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been waiting and going without food, having eaten nothing. <sup>34</sup> Therefore I urge you to take some food. For this has to do with your survival, since none of you will lose a hair from your head." <sup>35</sup> After he said these things and had

taken some bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all of them, and when he broke it, he began to eat. <sup>36</sup> They all became encouraged and took food themselves. <sup>37</sup> In all there were 276 of us on the ship. <sup>38</sup> When they had eaten enough, they began to lighten the ship by throwing the grain overboard into the sea. Acts 27

### **Paul The Shipwrecked Witness Acts 27**

<sup>39</sup> When daylight came, they did not recognize the land but sighted a bay with a beach. They planned to run the ship ashore if they could. <sup>41</sup> But they struck a sandbar and ran the ship aground. The bow jammed fast and remained immovable, while the stern began to break up by the pounding of the waves. Acts 27

### **Paul The Safe Witness Acts 27**

<sup>42</sup> The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners so that no one could swim away and escape. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion kept them from carrying out their plan because he wanted to save Paul, so he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup> The rest were to follow, some on planks and some on debris from the ship. In this way, everyone safely reached the shore. Acts 27

### **Paul The Protected Witness (Again) Acts 28**

#### **Malta's Hospitality**

Once ashore, we then learned that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup> The local people showed us extraordinary kindness, for they lit a fire and took us all in, since it was raining and cold. <sup>3</sup> As Paul gathered a bundle of brushwood and put it on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself to his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the local people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man is probably a murderer, and though he

has escaped the sea, Justice does not allow him to live!”<sup>5</sup> However, he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. <sup>6</sup>They expected that he would swell up or suddenly drop dead. But after they waited a long time and saw nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god. Acts 28

### **Paul The Ministering Witness Acts 28**

#### **Ministry in Malta**

<sup>7</sup> Now in the area around that place was an estate belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us hospitably for three days. <sup>8</sup> Publius’s father was in bed suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went to him, and praying and laying his hands on him, he healed him. <sup>9</sup> After this, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. <sup>10</sup> So they heaped many honors on us, and when we sailed, they gave us what we needed.

### **Paul The Witness In Rome Acts 28**

<sup>11</sup> After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered at the island... <sup>14</sup> And so we came to Rome.

<sup>15</sup> Now the believers from there had heard the news about us and had come to meet us... When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. <sup>16</sup> When we entered Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier who guarded him. Acts 28

### **Paul The Tireless Witness Acts 28**

<sup>23</sup> After arranging a day with him, many came to him at his lodging. From dawn to dusk he expounded and witnessed about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them

concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> Some were persuaded by what he said, but others did not believe. Acts 28

### **Paul The Continuing Witness Acts 28**

<sup>30</sup> Then he stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, <sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with full boldness and without hindrance.

### **Paul The Martyred Witness p1568**

Paul Was The Witness

Paul Was The Martyr

An Interesting Fact: Witness = Martyr

## PAUL'S LETTER TO PHILEMON

9/9/12

**Author and Date:** Paul, from Rome, approximately 60 AD.

**Purpose:** To request Philemon, a slave owner, in whose home the Colossian Church meets, to forgive and pardon a slave named Onesimus, who had robbed him and escaped but had since been led to the Lord under Paul in Rome.

### Greeting

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother: To Philemon our dear friend and coworker,<sup>2</sup> to Apphia our sister (*Probably Philemon's wife*), to Archippus our fellow soldier (*Either pastor of the Colosse church or an evangelist who often stayed in the home. Or maybe Philemon's son*), and to the church that meets in your home (*The Colossian Church*).<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Philemon's Love and Faith

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, (*You are special to me Philemon. You are on my prayer list. I always pray faithfully for you. That's how dear you are to me*)

<sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and faith (*Don't forget, in dealing with this matter, Philemon, that you are a person of faith, a Christian, and therefore a person of love*)

toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints. (*You have a reputation of love for ALL the saints. I'm going to tell you about a brand new saint in a moment – another one for you to love - your runaway slave, Onesimus*)

<sup>6</sup> I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ.<sup>7</sup> For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother. *You are an encourager, a refresher of hearts of the saints.. certainly not a master over them.*

## An Appeal for Onesimus

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, although I have great boldness in Christ to command you to do what is right,<sup>9</sup> I appeal to you, instead, on the basis of love.

*As an apostle of Christ, I have the authority to order you but I would much rather appeal to you on the basis of love.*

I, Paul, as an elderly man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus,<sup>10</sup> appeal to you... *A reminder of Paul's credentials. The one who appeals to you, Philemon, is an old battle-scarred warrior of the faith, now even a prisoner of Jesus Christ, suffering for him. These are big credentials. You wouldn't refuse a request from one such as that, would you?*

for my son, Onesimus. I fathered him while I was in chains.

*My son?!? Good grief! This runaway slave about whom I am hopping mad, has been adopted by my great friend, the Apostle Paul. He now calls him his son.*

*Now Philemon, because of our friendship, you wouldn't refuse your close friend's son anything would you?!*

<sup>11</sup> Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me.

*Play on words here. Onesimus means useful. 'Useful' had become 'Useless', because he had run away. But now that he is coming back, he is useful to both of us. That's if you don't kill him, like most heathen slave masters would do.*

<sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you as a part of myself. (him who is my very heart NIV)

*I'm sending my own heart back to you, Philemon. That's what I think of Onesimus. What is he to you?*

<sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me, so that in my imprisonment for the gospel he might serve me in your place.<sup>14</sup> But I didn't want to

do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be out of obligation, but of your own free will.

*Philemon, you have mentioned so often how you'd really LOVE to do something to help me, Christ's prisoner. This could have been your great opportunity. Onesimus could have taken your place and been your representative here to help me in your absence. But of course, I would not be so presumptuous as to do anything like that without your consent. Your help would not mean anything to me if it were not spontaneous. So here he is.*

<sup>15</sup> For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a brief time,

*Separated?! That's a nice word for an escapee. Every now and then a prisoner from Long Bay gets separated from his warden by climbing the wall. The reason he was separated was that he escaped.*

*But Paul is looking from God's perspective. He looks at this as a 'separation' planned by God for a glorious purpose.*

so that you might get him back permanently, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother. He is especially so to me, but even more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

*Good grief! I've got to regard this slave as a brother now. I paid good money for him. He robbed me and escaped. That deserves death. But Paul is virtually saying, "Of course, it is not my place to ask you to free Onesimus, but wouldn't it be lovely if God worked in such a way as to take a slave from you for a little while and give you back a brother."*

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me a partner, accept him as you would me.

*As you would me?! Paul and Onesimus are not in the same class. According to God they are.*

<sup>18</sup> And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

*If he has done you any wrong!!! He's robbed me and run away! He's got no way of repaying you, says Paul, but charge it to my account. Paul has not yet reminded Philemon of what Philemon is acutely aware... he owes Paul heaps. Let this be just one little repayment to come off the account.*

<sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it *Like a signature. That's how important this request is.*

—not to mention to you *here he mentions it...* that you owe me even your own self.

*You really owe me your life, you know. Now I'm asking you for Onesimus' life.*

<sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, may I have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

*How? By graciously granting my request.*

<sup>21</sup> Since I am confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

*I know you well, Philemon. You are a second-miler. I know that one suggestion from me and you'll do much more than I ask.*

<sup>22</sup> But meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

*A little further incentive to grant Paul's request. I'm coming soon and you know that I'll be asking some questions if I see your new brother in Christ still slaving away there as a slave.*

## Final Greetings

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, and so do <sup>24</sup> Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

**Author & Date:** Paul in 58-62AD from prison in Rome

### **Purpose of Writing**

- As with many letters, Colossians was written to refute the message of false teachers who were endangering the existence of the church.
- Their heresy was a mixture of Greek philosophy and Jewish legalism.
- The issue of Jewish legalism with all the early churches was of great concern to Paul.
- So radical was the concept of salvation by grace apart from works that those steeped in Old Testament law found it very difficult to grasp.
- Consequently, there was a continual movement among the legalists to add certain requirements from the law to this new faith.
- Primary among them was the requirement of circumcision which was still practiced among some of the Jewish converts.
- Paul countered this error in Colossians 2:11-15 in which he declares that circumcision of the flesh was no longer necessary because Christ had come.
- His was a circumcision of the heart, not the flesh, making the ceremonial rites of the Old Testament law no longer necessary (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4, 9:26; Acts 7:51; Romans 2:29).

### **Main Theme: The Supremacy And Sufficiency Of Christ**

- This heresy presented a defective view of Christ (denying His real and true humanity and not accepting His full deity).
- Paul does a remarkable job in explaining that Jesus really is fully God – supreme and sufficient.

### **Structure**

- Chapters 1-2 Doctrinal– The Supremacy Of Christ
- Chapters 3-4 Practical application - The sufficiency of Christ, in meeting our needs in every area of life – personal, home, family, work, church

### **The Supremacy Of Christ – Chapter 1**

- He is the image of the invisible God. v15
- He is the firstborn (heir) over all creation. v15
- Everything was created by Him. v16
- All things have been created through Him and for Him.16
- He is before all things. v17
- By Him all things hold together. v17
- He is also the head of the body, the church. v18
- He is the beginning. v18
- He is the firstborn from the dead. v18
- So that He might come to have first place in everything18
- God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him.19
- And through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross. v20

### **Christ's Supremacy Displayed – Chapter 3**

#### **A. In Personal Purity (v1-11)**

**Seek** what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. v1

**Set your minds** on what is above, not on what is on the earth. v2

**Put to death** what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. v5

**Put away** all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. v8

**Put off** the old self with its practices. v9

**Put on** the new self. v11

### **B. In Christian Fellowship (v12-17)**

**Put on** heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. v12-13

Above all, **put on** love—the perfect bond of unity. v14

And **let the peace** of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. v15

**Be thankful.** v15

**Let the message** about the Messiah dwell richly among you. v16

**Do everything** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. v17

### **C. In The Home (v18-21)**

**Wives**, be submissive to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. v18

**Husbands**, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them. v19

**Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. v20

**Fathers**, do not exasperate your children, so they won't become discouraged. v21

### **D. In Daily Work (v22-4:1)**

**Slaves**, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. v22

**Work Ethic:** Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. v23-24

**Masters**, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you too have a Master in heaven. v1

### **E. In Christian Witness – Chapter 4 (v2-6)**

**Devote** yourselves to prayer. v2

**Stay alert** in it with thanksgiving. v2

**Act wisely** toward outsiders, making the most of the time. v5

**Your speech** should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person. v6

### **F. In Christian Service (7-18)**

These are **my coworkers** for the kingdom of God. v11

Epaphras is **always contending** for you in his prayers. v12

For I testify about him that he **works hard** for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. v13

**Author & Date:** Paul in 60-61AD from prison in Rome

### The City Of Ephesus

- One of the great cities of Asia Minor. A Roman capital
- Centre of the worship of Diana. Temple of Diana was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
- A wealthy commercial centre
- Good harbor invited world trade
- An excellent centre for the gospel to spread out to all Asia
- No wonder Paul stayed three years on his third journey
- Ephesus is one of the 7 churches written to in Revelation

### Paul's Ministry In Ephesus

- Preached and held discussions every day for three years
- Made big inroads into occult practices. Many repented
- Magic books worth 50,000 pieces of silver were burnt
- Had huge impact of sale of silver idols of Diana
- This led to Demetrius The Silversmith causing a riot that filled the 25,000 seat stadium and called for Paul's blood

### Purpose of Writing

- To encourage and equip a maturing church.
- To promote harmony and unity in the church, the Body of Christ.
- Christ only has one Body. Jew and Gentile alike become members of that one Body.
- Harmony and unity in Christ, result from maturity in Christ.

### Structure

Part 1: Doctrinal – The Believer's Position In Christ – Chapt's 1-3

Part 2: Practical – The Believer's Practice in Christ – Chapt's 4-6

## Part 1: Our Position In Christ – Chapters 1-3

**Blessed:** God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. 1:3

**Chosen:** For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world. 1:4

**Loved:** In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us... 1:5

**Adopted:** to be adopted through Jesus Christ. 1:5

**Favoured:** according to His favor and will. 1:5

**Graced:** to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved. 1:6

**Redeemed:** We have redemption in Him through His blood. 1:7

**Forgiven:** the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. 1:7

**Lavished with grace:** that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 1:8

**Enlightened:** He made known to us the mystery of His will. 1:9

**United:** He planned in Him... to bring everything together in the Messiah. 1:9-10

**Enriched:** We have also received an inheritance in Him. 1:11

**Saved:** the gospel of your salvation. 1:13

**Sealed:** and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. 1:13

**Guaranteed:** He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession. 1:14

**Resurrected:** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! 2:4-5

**Elevated:** Together with Christ Jesus He also raised us up and seated us in the heavens, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace through His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 2:6-7

**Saved by Grace:** For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—<sup>9</sup> not from works, so that no one can boast. 2:8-9

**Created For A Purpose:** For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them. 2:10

**Close:** But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. 2:13

**United:** For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. <sup>16</sup> He did this so that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross and put the hostility to death by it. 2:14-16

**At Peace:** When the Messiah came, He proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 2:17

**Have access:** For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 2:18

**Citizens:** So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints. 2:19

**Family:** and members of God's household. 2:19

**Have confidence:** We have boldness, access, and confidence through faith in Him. 3:12

## Part 2: Our Practice In Christ – Chapters 4-6

### Our Walk In Christ

**Walk Worthy:** Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received. 4:1

**Walk With Humility and Gentleness:** with all humility and gentleness. 4:2

**Walk With Patience and Acceptance:** with patience, accepting one another in love. 4:2

**Walk In Unity:** diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit. 4:3-4

**Walk With Gifts:** Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the Messiah's gift. <sup>8</sup> For... He gave gifts to people. 4:7-8

<sup>11</sup> And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. 4:11-13

**Walk with Loving Speech:** But speaking the truth in love. 4:16

**Walk Towards Maturity:** Let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. 4:15

**Walk Energetically:** From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part. 4:16

**Walk in Purity:** You should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thoughts. 4:17

**Walk in Newness:** You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; <sup>24</sup> you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth. 4:22-24

**Walk Truthfully:** Since you put away lying, Speak the truth, each one to his neighbour. 4:25

**Walk Calmly.** Be angry and do not sin. 4:26

**Walk With Forgiveness:** Don't let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and don't give the Devil an opportunity. 4:26-27

**Walk Honestly:** The thief must no longer steal. 4:28

**Walk With Pure Speech:** No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. 4:29

**Walk To please God's Spirit:** And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. <sup>31</sup> All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice. 4:30-31

**Walk With Kindness:** And be kind and compassionate to one another. 4:32

**Walk With forgiveness:** forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. 4:32

**Walk Like Jesus Would Walk:** Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children. 5:1

**Walk in Love:** And walk in love, as the Messiah also loved us and gave Himself for us. 5:2

**Walk in Purity:** Sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you. 5:3

**Walk With Gratitude:** Coarse and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks. 5:4

**Walk In The Light:** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. 5:8

**Walk in Goodness:** The fruit of the light results in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. 5:9

**Walk To Please The Lord:** discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. 5:10

**Walk Away From Sin:** Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them. 5:11

**Walk Wisely:** Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise. 5:15

**Walk Actively:** making the most of the time. 5:16

**Walk in God's Will:** understand what the Lord's will is. 5:17

**Walk Soberly:** Don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions. 5:18

**Walk In The Spirit:** but be filled by the Spirit. 5:18

**Walk In Submission:** submitting to one another in the fear of Christ. 5:21

**Walk with a Good Work Ethic:** Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but as slaves of Christ, do God's will from your heart. 6:6

**Walk with a Good attitude:** Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to men. 6:7

**Walk Protected:** Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. 6:10-11

**Walk Prayerfully:** Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. 6:18

## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS p1530 30/9/12

**Author:** Paul from his Roman prison in approx 61AD.

### The City Of Philippi

- Named after Philip, the father of Alexander The Great.
- Located in a region with exceptionally fertile soil and mineral riches.
- Alexander extracted great wealth from its gold mines.
- One of the 'toll gates' on the main trade routes between Asia and Europe.
- A Roman colony, an outpost of the Roman empire.
- Inhabited by retired centurions and soldiers.
- Very few Jews lived in Philippi. There was no synagogue

### The Church In Philippi

- This was Paul's first European church.
- Established on Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. Acts 16:12.
- Lydia and the Philippian jailer and his family were among the first converts.
- Now, a few years later, the church was well established with 'elders and deacons.' 1:1
- Had a strong missionary emphasis.
- Consistently supported Paul's ministry financially.

(a) *'Even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times.'* 4:16

(b) *'In the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia,*

*no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone.'* 4:15

(c) In Corinth, they supported him. *'During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity.'* 2 Corinthians 8:2

- Paul enjoyed a closer friendship with the Philippians than with any other church. *'My dearly loved brothers, my joy and crown.'* 4:1

### Purpose Of Writing

- Not to correct doctrinal error or bad conduct
- This was one of the purest churches in the NT
- This is a thank you letter for yet another gift of money from the church at Philippi. 4:10-18
- This is a tender letter to a group of Christians who were especially close to the heart of Paul. 2 Corinthians 8:1-6

### Key Verses

- *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* 1:21
- *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.* 3:7
- *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* 4:4
- *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends*

*all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 4:6-7*

- *I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 4:13*
- *My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 4:19*
- *Philippians reaches its pinnacle at 2:5-11 with the glorious and profound declaration regarding the humiliation and exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ‘So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.’ 2:10*

### **Main Theme**

- Joy. The words “joy” and “rejoice” appear 19 times. Eg Phil 1:4, 18, 25, 26; Phil 2:2, 28; Phil 3:1, Phil 4:1, 4, 10
- Joy despite circumstances. Paul was Nero’s prisoner, yet filled with joy.
- Backtrack: Paul was prisoner in Philippi, yet filled with joy, ‘*praying and singing hymns to God.*’ Acts 16:25

### **Joy is an attitude**

- It’s my ‘choice to rejoice.’
- I must develop an ‘attitude of gratitude.’
- In each chapter, Paul describes the kind of attitude we must have if we are to enjoy Christ’s peace and joy.

### **ATTITUDE**

**Jesus said that we are blessed (happy) when we are persecuted for His sake.**

*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. Matthew 5:10-12*

**James said to count it all joy when we go through trials.**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.<sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-5*

**Peter said the same.**

*Rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials<sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

**Paul shows us how to do it.**

- He had a good attitude in prison in Philippi initially.
- He still had a good attitude in prison in Rome at the end.
- And from what Paul wrote to the Philippians, we can pick up something of Paul’s attitude to many things.
- We see Paul’s philosophy of life – always display an attitude of gratitude, no matter what the circumstances.

## **PAUL'S ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THE LETTER**

### **Attitude to imprisonment**

*Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advance of the gospel,<sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is in the cause of Christ.<sup>14</sup> Most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the message fearlessly. 1:12-14 p1530*

### **Attitude to people with wrong motives (see next)**

*Others proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely. 1:17*

### **Attitude to people wanting to harm him**

*... seeking to cause me anxiety in my imprisonment. 1:17*

*What does it matter? Just that in every way, whether out of false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice. 1:18*

### **Attitude to life**

*My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body. 1:20*

*For me, to live is Christ. 1:21*

*Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. 1:27*

### **Attitude to death**

*That Christ will be highly honored in my body whether by life or by death. 1:20*

*Dying is gain. 1:21*

### **Attitude to ministry**

*Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me. 1:22*

### **Attitude to his enemies**

*Not being frightened in any way by your opponents. 1:28*

### **Attitude to suffering**

*For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him. 1:29*

*My goal is to know Christ and... share in the fellowship of his sufferings. 3:10*

### **Attitude to others**

*In humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 2:3*

*Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 2:4*

*All seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 2:21*

*Let your graciousness be known to everyone. 4:5*

### **Attitude to daily living**

*Do everything without grumbling and arguing. 2:14*

*Rejoice in the Lord. 3:1*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!  
4:4*

*But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching  
forward to what is ahead. 3:13*

*I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly  
call in Christ Jesus. 3:14*

### **Attitude to his relationship with Christ**

*I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the  
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. 3:8*

*My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection  
and the fellowship of His sufferings. 3:10*

### **Attitude to God's Word**

*In any case, we should live up to whatever truth we have  
attained. 3:16*

*In other words, he is a doer of the Word, as James exhorts  
us to be.*

### **Attitude to this world**

*But our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also  
eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 3:20*

### **Attitude to crises**

*Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through  
prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which  
surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds  
in Christ Jesus. 4:6-7*

### **Attitude to his thoughts**

*Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence  
and if there is any praise—dwell on these things. 4:8*

### **Attitude to life in general**

*I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I  
am. <sup>12</sup> I know both how to have a little, and I know how to  
have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the  
secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry,  
whether in abundance or in need. 4:11-12*

### **Attitude to challenges**

*I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens  
me. 4:13*

### **Attitude to personal needs**

*And my God will supply all your needs according to His  
riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 4:19*

### **Attitude to all things – Christlike**

*Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus. 2:5*

*He emptied Himself... He humbled Himself. 2:7-8*

## 1 TIMOTHY

7/10/12

**Author:** Paul about 62-66AD after his temporary release from prison in Rome.

### Timothy

- Was most likely led to the Lord by Paul as a teenager on Paul's first missionary journey.
- Paul and Silas revisited Lystra on their second journey. Young Timothy joined the ministry team and travelled with them.
- Timothy became Paul's closest ministry companion
- Timothy travelled with him and was imprisoned alongside him
- Timothy was assistant to Paul in his three years at Ephesus
- He was given responsibility for pastoring the Ephesian Church after Paul moved on

### Purpose of Writing

- I have written so that you will know how people ought to act in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 3:15
- This letter amounts to an instruction book on leading, administrating, and pastoring the local church.
- Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him in his responsibility for overseeing the work of the Ephesian church and possibly the other churches in the province of Asia. 1:3
- This letter lays the foundation for ordaining elders. 3:1-7
- And provides guidance for ordaining people into offices of the church. 3:8-13

## WHAT PAUL SAYS ABOUT TIMOTHY'S CHARACTER

### Timothy was...

#### Outstanding

I have no one else like-minded. Philippians 2:20 p1531

#### A Person Of Compassion

...who will genuinely care about your interests; <sup>21</sup> all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:20-21

#### A Person of Consistency

You know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. Philippians 2:22

#### Highly Regarded by the Church

The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of him. Acts 16:2

## WHAT PAUL SAYS TO TIMOTHY ABOUT CHARACTER

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my true son in the faith. 1:2

<sup>5</sup> Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. 1:5

<sup>18</sup> Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction... so that...you may strongly engage in battle, <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience. 1:18-19

I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 2:1-2

<sup>8</sup> I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. 2:8

Continue in faith, love, and holiness, with good judgment. 2:15

<sup>2</sup> An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an able teacher,<sup>3</sup> not addicted to wine, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy—<sup>4</sup> one who manages his own household competently, having his children under control with all dignity.<sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?)<sup>6</sup> He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the Devil.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the Devil's trap. 3:2-7

<sup>8</sup> Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money,<sup>9</sup> holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.<sup>10</sup> And they must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons.<sup>11</sup> Wives, too, must be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.<sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. 3:8-12

<sup>6</sup> If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished by the words of the faith and the good teaching that you have followed. 4:6

Train yourself in godliness,<sup>8</sup> for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 4:7-8

You should be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 4:12

<sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you. 4:14

<sup>15</sup> Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. 4:15

<sup>16</sup> Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things. 4:16

Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,<sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and with all propriety, the younger women as sisters. 5:1-2

Keep yourself pure. 5:22

Godliness with contentment is a great gain.<sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 6-7

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, run from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. 6:11

<sup>17</sup> Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy.

<sup>18</sup> Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share,<sup>19</sup> storing up for themselves a good reserve for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real. 6:17-19

## TITUS

21/10/12

## Christians must be of good character, evidenced by good works

**Author:** Paul, possibly from Philippi in approximately 66 AD on his journey after his first Roman imprisonment.

### Purpose of Writing

- To encourage and instruct his apprentice pastor, Titus, whom he had left in charge of the churches on Crete.

*The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. Titus 1:5*

- To advise Titus regarding the qualifications to look for in leaders for the church.
- To instruct Titus to exhort Christians to show their faith through their good works.

**Theme:** Good works

### The Cretans were renowned for their bad character and bad works

*One of their very own prophets said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.<sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. So, rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith. 1:12*

*They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and disqualified for any good work. 1:16*

*Encourage the young men to be self-controlled<sup>7</sup> in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching.<sup>8</sup> Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us. 2:6-8*

*Slaves are to be submissive to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back<sup>10</sup> or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything. 2:9-10*

*For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people,<sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age. 2:11-12*

*He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, eager to do good works. 2:14*

*Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,<sup>2</sup> to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. 3:1-2*

*I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone. 3:8*

*And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need, so that they will not be unfruitful. 3:14*

**PAUL'S FOURTH MISSIONARY JOURNEY, INCLUDING SPAIN – AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON IN ROME**  
(See map in NIV Study Bible p1836)

**INTRODUCTION**

- This journey is not mapped out for us in Acts as are Paul's other journeys.
- However, we can trace Paul's steps through things that he mentions in his other letters, especially the Pastoral Letters.
- We also have the testimony of non Christian historians of the time, that Paul went to Spain.

**THE THREE PASTORAL LETTERS**

- Written to the younger pastors, Timothy and Titus, giving them instructions concerning the pastoral care of churches.
- Timothy was pastor at Ephesus. Titus was pastor at Crete.
- These were the last three letters that Paul wrote.
- Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus from somewhere in Greece on his Fourth Missionary Journey – Possibly Philippi.
- He wrote 2 Timothy when he was back in prison in Rome awaiting execution

**ROME Released after two years in prison 62AD**

The following men were with Paul in Rome at one time or another: Timothy, Tychicus, Luke, Demas, Epaphras, Aristarchus, John-Mark

**SPAIN 62-64AD**

Paul, for many years, had planned to go to Spain and to pass through Rome on the way.

*But now I no longer have any work to do in these provinces, and I have strongly desired for many years to*

*come to you whenever I travel to Spain. For I hope to see you when I pass through, and to be assisted by you for my journey there, once I have first enjoyed your company for a while. Romans 15:24*

*So when I have finished this and safely delivered the funds to them, I will visit you on the way to Spain. Romans 15:28*

He got to Rome, albeit as a prisoner. However, after being released from prison, there's every reason to believe that Paul, being already half way to Spain, seized the opportunity to continue on to Spain as soon as he was able.

Early historical documents support this notion. Even looking at it logically, Paul was not likely to go back to where he said that he had finished his work and had nothing left to do. It was his nature always to be *Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead. Philippians 3:13*

*If I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me. Philippians 1:22*

**CRETE 64-65AD**

After visiting Spain, Paul was with Titus in Crete. He left him there to pastor the church.

*The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. Titus 1:5*

**MILETUS 65AD**

Paul was also in Miletus. We know that because he said in his very last letter that he had left Trophimus sick there.

*I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. 2 Timothy 4:20*

## COLOSSE 66AD

Being so close to Colosse, we would not expect Paul to bypass it, especially when he had so longed to go there and had already asked Philemon to prepare a guest room for him.

*Prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you. Philemon 1:22*

## EPHESUS 66AD

Paul passed through Ephesus on his way north. He left Timothy in Ephesus to pastor the church while he went on to Macedonia, ie Philippi.

*As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach different doctrine. 1 Timothy 1:3*

## TROAS

He had to board a boat at Troas in order to sail to Philippi. We know he was in Troas because he left his coat and some scrolls there.

*When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, as well as the scrolls, especially the parchments. 2 Timothy 4:13*

## PHILIPPI 66AD

From his Roman prison, Paul had sent Timothy to Philippi and clearly indicated his intentions to come himself, as soon as possible.

*I hope to send him (Timothy) as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> I am convinced in the Lord that I myself will also come quickly. Philippians 2:23-24*

Paul obviously did get to Philippi because he later said to Timothy:

*When I went to Macedonia (Philippi), I urged you to remain in Ephesus... 1 Timothy 1:3*

## NICOPOLIS 66-67AD

After this, we know that Paul planned to spend the winter in Nicopolis, where he asked Titus to join him.

*Make every effort to come to me in Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Titus 3:12*

Nicopolis was the place where Paul was most likely re-arrested and taken to Rome again as a prisoner.

## ROME 67AD

Paul arrived in Rome again in captivity, as before. This time, his 'crime' was not a matter of dispute with the Jews. Rather, it was because of Nero's intense persecution of the Christians.

*Make every effort to come to me soon. 2 Timothy 4:9  
Make every effort to come before winter. 2 Timothy 4:21*

## MARTYRED 67-68AD

<sup>6</sup> *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close.*

<sup>7</sup> *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

<sup>8</sup> *There is reserved for me in the future the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8*

## PETER'S FIRST LETTER

28/10/12

**Author:** Peter between 60 and 65AD

Peter was a fisherman from Galilee. *Mark 1:16*

He was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew

*The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). John 1:41*

He was married. *Mark 1:30*

Jesus healed his mother-in-law. *Matthew 8:14*

Peter took his wife on his missionary journeys

*Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 1 Corinthians 9:5*

Peter was a member of Christ's inner circle of Peter, James, John.  
*Mark 5:37, 9:2, 14:33*

Peter had a big mouth and he was always ready to put his foot in it.

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

<sup>22</sup>*Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"*

<sup>23</sup>*Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matt 16:21-23*

Peter asked some very good questions

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Matthew 18:21*

Peter gave some very good answers

*From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup>"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.*

<sup>68</sup>*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

<sup>69</sup>*We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:66-69*

*Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16*

Peter knew the pain of failure

*Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>35</sup>But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." Matthew 26:33, 35*

Peter knew the joy of reinstatement

*He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:5*

*Jesus said, "Feed my lambs... Take care of my sheep... Feed my sheep." John 21:15-17*

*Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd. Acts 2:14*

It was Peter who realized the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira and took action. Acts 5

Peter was the first disciple to recognize that the gospel is for all people, not just Jews only.

*<sup>15</sup>The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” <sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup>but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. Acts 10:15, 34, 35*

Peter was very close to Mark; so much so that Mark’s Gospel is thought to be nothing more than the preaching material of Peter.

*She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 1 Peter 5:13*

## **Purpose of Writing**

To encourage believers who had been dispersed throughout the ancient world due to persecution and who were currently suffering great trials.

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7 p1541*

If anyone understood persecution, it was Peter. He was beaten, threatened, punished and jailed for preaching the Word of God.

Peter also knew about grace. He knew about blowing it and being reinstated by Jesus; being given a huge responsibility even after an incident of unreliability. ‘You can count on me, Jesus. I’ll never let you down, even if all these other disciples do.’ But he did... no more than a few brief hours afterwards.

**Grace in 1 Peter: Mentioned ten times (See over page)**

*... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ. May **grace** and peace be multiplied to you. 1:2*

*Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the **grace** that would come to you searched and carefully investigated. 1:10*

*[A Call to Holy Living ] Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be serious and set your hope completely on the **grace** to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13*

*For it brings favour (**grace**) if, mindful of God’s will, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. 1 Peter 2:19*

*For what credit is there if you sin and are punished, and you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor (**grace**) with God. 1 Peter 2:20*

*Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with an understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as coheirs of the **grace** of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7*

*Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied **grace** of God. 1 Peter 4:10*

*In the same way, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives **grace** to the humble. 5:5*

*Now the God of all **grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little. 1 Peter 5:10*

*I have written you this brief letter through Silvanus (I know him to be a faithful brother) to encourage you and to testify that this is the true **grace** of God. Take your stand in it! 1 Peter 5:12*

## LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

4/11/12

### Author

- Originally thought to be Paul, but not any more.
- KJV gives the title 'The Epistle Of Paul To The Hebrews.'
- Writing style and some emphases are out of character.
- Eg Paul always identifies himself and greets his readers.
- Two top contenders for authorship - Barnabas and Apollos.
- Regardless of the human hand that held the pen, the Holy Spirit is the divine author, as of all Scripture. (2 Tim 3:16)

### Date of Writing

- Two pieces of internal evidence help us set the date.
- Firstly, Timothy was alive at the time of writing. 13:23
- Secondly, much is said about sacrifice, yet there is no mention of the end of the Old Testament sacrificial system that occurred with Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD.
- Rather, the writer consistently uses the present tense when talking about the temple, indicating it was still standing.
- So, it had to be written before 70AD. Around 65 AD.

### Purpose of Writing

- Dr Walter Martin said tongue in cheek, 'The Book of Hebrews was written by a Hebrew to other Hebrews telling the Hebrews to stop acting like Hebrews.'
- In the early church, the majority of believers were Jewish.
- Under mounting persecution, many believers were slipping back into the rites and rituals of Judaism.
- This letter emphasizes strongly how much better Christ is than anything they ever had in Judaism and the law.
- This letter could be called 'The Book Of better Things.'
- This letter, then, is an exhortation for those persecuted believers to continue in the grace of Jesus Christ.
- The main message is summarized in 6:1: *Leaving the elementary message about Christ, let us go on to maturity.*

### Theme

- The superiority of Christ in His person and work.
- The rites of Judaism were but shadows of things to come.
- Christ is the real thing

## The Superiority of Christ

### (1) The Superiority of The Person of Christ

#### Jesus better than the prophets 1:1-3

*Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways.<sup>2</sup> In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. God... made the universe through Him.<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature... 1:1-3*

#### Jesus better than angels 1:4-2:18

*<sup>4</sup> He became higher in rank than the angels...<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say, You are My Son...<sup>8</sup> Your throne, God, is forever and ever...<sup>10</sup> And: In the beginning, Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands...<sup>13</sup> Now to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool? 1:4-13*

#### Jesus better than Moses 3:1-19

*<sup>3</sup> For Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder has more honour than the house.<sup>5</sup> Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household...<sup>6</sup> But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And we are that household if we hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope. 3:3-6*

## **Jesus better than Aaron 4:14-8:5**

*The Messiah was declared by God a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. 5:10.*

*Melchizedek, King of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings,<sup>3</sup> without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, remains a priest forever. 7:1-3*

*The One these things are spoken about belonged to a different tribe. No one from it has served at the altar.<sup>14</sup> Now it is evident that our Lord came from Judah, and Moses said nothing about that tribe concerning priests.<sup>15</sup> And this becomes clearer if another priest like Melchizedek appears,<sup>16</sup> who did not become a priest based on a legal command concerning physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life.<sup>17</sup> For it has been testified: You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. 7:13-17*

## **(2) The Superiority of The Work of Christ**

### **Better covenant 8:6-10:18**

*<sup>6</sup> But Jesus has now obtained a superior ministry, and to that degree He is the mediator of a better covenant... 8:6*

### **Better promises 8:6-13**

*...which has been legally enacted on better promises. 8:6*

### **Better sanctuary 9:1-14**

*Now the first covenant also had regulations for ministry and an earthly sanctuary. 9:1*

*Christ is high priest... in the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (not of this creation) 9:11*

*The Messiah did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that He might now appear in the presence of God for us. 9:24*

### **Better sacrifice 9:15-28**

*<sup>12</sup> He entered the most holy place once for all, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood. 9:12*

*He has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 9:26*

### **Better results 10:1-18**

*<sup>11</sup> Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins.<sup>12</sup> But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God...<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified. 10:11-14*

## **(3) The Superiority of Faith**

### **Better response to these better things 10:19-39**

*<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by a new and living way He has opened for us through the curtain (that is, His flesh),<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great high priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...<sup>23</sup> Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 10:19-23*

## PETER'S SECOND LETTER

11/11/12

**Author:** Peter 1:1

### Date of Writing

- 65-67AD from Rome while Peter was awaiting martyrdom

*I consider it right, as long as I am in this bodily tent, to wake you up with a reminder,<sup>14</sup> knowing that I will soon lay aside my tent, as our Lord Jesus Christ has also shown me. 1:13-14*

- Peter was martyred in Rome during the reign of Nero

### Recipients

- Peter wrote both his letters to the same people.

*Dear friends, this is now the second letter I have written to you. 3:1*

- These were people scattered throughout Asia Minor (Turkey), who were suffering severe persecution because of their faith.

*To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces. 1 Peter 1:1*

### Purpose of Writing

- Peter states his own purpose

*In both letters, I want to develop a genuine understanding with a reminder,<sup>2</sup> so that you can remember the words previously spoken by the holy prophets and the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles. 3:1-2*

- In his first letter, Peter encourages Christians to persevere in the face of persecution from the world outside.

*You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials<sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold... may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

- In his second letter, Peter warns them against opposition from within the church through false teachers.

*There will be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies...<sup>2</sup> Many will follow their unrestrained ways, and the way of truth will be blasphemed because of them.<sup>3</sup> They will exploit you in their greed with deceptive words. 2:1-3*

- Peter encourages growth in the knowledge of God through the Scriptures as the greatest antidote to error.

*Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stability.<sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 3:17-18*

- This knowledge is not intellectual perception but an experience with Christ that results in moral transformation.

*His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. 1:3*

- This knowledge calls us to share in the divine nature

*He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature. 1:4*

## Some Qualities Of The Divine Nature

### Peter's Ladder of Virtues

*Make every effort to supplement your faith with... 1:5*

- Faith
- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Endurance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Affection
- Love

*If these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1:8*

*The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. 1:9*

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will always remind you about these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you have. <sup>15</sup>And I will also make every effort that you may be able to recall these things at any time after my departure. 1:12, 15*

## PAUL'S LAST LETTER - 2 TIMOTHY

18/11/12

### Author

- Paul, in approximately 67 AD from Rome during his second imprisonment as he awaited his execution

### Purpose of Writing

- Imprisoned in Rome yet again, the apostle Paul felt lonely and abandoned.
- Paul recognized that his earthly life was most likely coming to an end soon.
- This letter is essentially Paul's "last words."
- Paul looked past his own circumstances to express concern for the churches and specifically for Timothy.
- Paul wanted to use his last words to encourage Timothy, and all other believers, to persevere and not give up.
- Paul also wanted to warn Timothy of the dangers of false teachers. 3:1-13
- Paul gives further pastoral guidance in this pastoral letter.
- Personal reason: To issue an affectionate appeal to Timothy to come to Rome. *Make every effort to come to me soon.* 4:9
- Paul closes with an intense plea for believers to stand firm in the faith and to finish the race strongly. 4:1-8

### Paul's Sad Situation

In his first imprisonment at the end of Acts, Paul was in a house where people could easily visit him and he was waiting to be released.

In his second imprisonment, Paul was in a dungeon where it was hard for people to visit him and he was waiting to be executed.

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close.* 4:6

### Paul was abandoned.

*This you know: All those in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.* 1:15

*Demas has deserted me, because he loved this present world.* 4:10

*Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works.<sup>15</sup> Watch out for him yourself.* 4:14-15

*At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them.* 4:16

### Paul was lonely

*Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.<sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.<sup>12</sup> I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus.* 4:10-11

## Paul was supported by the Lord

*But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the proclamation might be fully made through me and all the Gentiles might hear. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen. 4:17-18*

## Paul's encouragement to persevere in the face of all odds

*You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2:1-2*

*Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2:3*

*For this (Gospel) I suffer to the point of being bound like a criminal, but God's message is not bound. 2:9*

*If we endure, we will also reign with Him. 2:12*

*In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 3:12*

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. 3:14*

*Proclaim the message; persist in it whether convenient or not; rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience and teaching. 4:2*

*But as for you, keep a clear head about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 4:5*

## Paul's Victory Cry

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> There is reserved for me in the future the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing. 4:7-8*

## Practical Application

- We too must fight the good fight and finish the race.
- It is easy to get side-tracked in the Christian life.
- We have to keep our eyes on the prize—being rewarded in heaven by Jesus Christ 4:8.
- We must strive to avoid both false doctrine and ungodly practices.
- This can only be accomplished by being grounded in our knowledge of God's Word and firm in our refusal to accept anything that is unbiblical.

## LETTER FROM JUDE

18/11/12

**Author:** Jude *a brother of James* 1:1

Who was James?

- Head of the Jerusalem Church
- Writer of the letter from James
- The brother of Jesus

Therefore Jude was also a brother of Jesus.

Jude most likely does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus out of humility and reverence for Christ

James, in his letter, also refrains from identifying himself as the brother of Jesus, no doubt for similar reasons.

Paul identifies him though: *I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. Galatians 1:19*

Matthew tells us that Jesus had brothers named James and Jude. *Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother called Mary, and His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Matthew 13:55*

Jesus' brothers had progressed a long way: From *Not even His brothers believed in Him, John 7:5*, to two of them writing part of the Bible.

*All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers. Acts 1:14*

*Don't we have the right to be accompanied by a Christian wife like the other apostles, the Lord's brothers, and Cephas? 1 Corinthians 9:5*

## Date of Writing

- The letter from Jude is closely related to 2 Peter.
- If Jude was written first and Peter used content from it, then it was written about 67AD.
- If Peter was written first and Jude used content from it, then it could have been as late as 80AD.

## Purpose of Writing

- Jude wanted to write about salvation
- Instead, he finds it necessary to write to warn about false teachers  
*Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write and exhort you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all. v3*
- These heretics were teaching that being saved by grace gave them license to sin since their sins would no longer be held against them  
*For some men... have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into promiscuity. v4*
- Jude gives numerous examples from history of God's judgment on such people

## Old Testament References

This one page letter has an incredible number of examples from the Old Testament, including:

- the Exodus v5
- Satan's rebellion v6
- Sodom and Gomorrah v7
- Moses' death v9
- Cain v11
- Balaam v11
- Korah v11
- Enoch v14-15
- Adam v14

## **Description of False Teachers**

*These are the ones who are like dangerous reefs at your love feasts. They feast with you, nurturing only themselves without fear. They are waterless clouds carried along by winds; trees in late autumn—fruitless, twice dead, pulled out by the roots; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shameful deeds; wandering stars for whom the blackness of darkness is reserved forever! v12-13*

*These people are discontented grumblers, walking according to their desires; their mouths utter arrogant words, flattering people for their own advantage. v16*

*These people create divisions and are unbelievers, not having the Spirit. v19*

## **Antidote to Falling Prey to False Teachers**

*Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. v20*

## **Best Known Verse**

*To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. v24-25*

## **Practical Application**

- Be on guard against false teachers. They will come.
- Know the gospel well so as to easily identify heresy.

## JOHN'S FIRST LETTER

25/11/12

## Purpose of Writing – Five Stated Purposes

### Author

- John, son of Zebedee, brother of James.
- Fisherman from Galilee, in partnership with James, Peter and Andrew.
- First cousin of Jesus. His mother was Salome, sister of Mary.
- Jesus gave John the task of looking after his mother Mary after Jesus' death.
- John took Mary to Ephesus where he spent most of his later years.
- One of Jesus' inner circle of Peter, James and John.
- Called himself 'the disciple whom Jesus loved.'  
*One of His disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. John 13:23*
- Last disciple to die. His brother James was the first.  
*King Herod cruelly attacked some who belonged to the church,<sup>2</sup> and he killed James, John's brother, with the sword. Acts 12:1-2*
- Wrote John's Gospel, Revelation, and three letters.

### Recipients

- No one specifically named.
- A circular letter sent presumably from Ephesus to Christians in a number of places in the Province of Asia (Turkey).

### Date of Writing

- Very late. Most likely written between 85-95 AD.

### 1. That we might have fellowship.

*What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may have fellowship along with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1:3*

**Fellowship** is the key theme of the first two chapters—fellowship with God first and then with others.

### 2. That we might have joy

*We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 1:4*

**Joy** is the result of close fellowship with Christ. The blessing of joy is seen throughout the entire letter.

### 3. That we might not sin

*I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous One.<sup>2</sup> He Himself is the propitiation for our sins. 2:1-2*

### 4. That we might overcome error

*I have written these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 2:26*

**False teachers** were popping up everywhere in the church. We have seen that Paul, Peter and Jude also had to address the issue of false teachers.

### 5. That we might have assurance

*I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 5:13*

In his gospel, John tells us **how** to be saved. In his letter, he tells us **how to be sure** that we are saved.

## This may be entitled The Letter Of Certainties

- The word ‘**know**’ appears over thirty times.

### Seven Important Things To Know

1. **That a righteous life indicates genuine salvation.**

*If you know that He is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been born of Him. 2:29*

2. **That we shall be like Christ at His coming**

*Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is. 3:2*

3. **That Christ came to take away our sins**

*You know that He was revealed so that He might take away sins, and there is no sin in Him. 3:5*

4. **That brotherly love indicates that we have passed from death to life**

*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. 3:14*

5. **That He lives in us by the witness of the Spirit**

*The one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him. And the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He has given us. 3:24*

6. **That we have eternal life**

*I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 5:13*

7. **That our prayers are answered**

*And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for. 5:15*

### Seven Tests Of Genuine Christian Living

- *If we say, “We have fellowship with Him,” yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. 1:6*
- *If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1:8*
- *If we say, “We don’t have any sin,” we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1:10*
- *The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” yet doesn’t keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 2:4*
- *The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked. 2:6*
- *The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 2:9*
- *If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen. 4:20*

### Central Theme

- God is life, light and righteous love. His character calls for holy living and brotherly love by believers.

## JOHN'S SECOND LETTER

2/12/12

### Author

The apostle John between 85-95 AD, most likely from Ephesus.

### Recipients

- Addressed to "the chosen lady and her children."
- This could either have been a lady of important standing in the church or a code for a local church congregation.
- In those days when Christians were being persecuted such coded greetings were often used.

### Purpose of Writing

- This is an urgent plea from John to walk in love by obeying the commandment to love one another.
- It's a strong warning to be on the lookout for deceivers who were going about saying that Christ had not actually risen in the flesh, and to have nothing to do with them.

### Structure

#### Greeting v1-3

*The Elder: To the elect lady and her children: I love all of you in the truth. v1*

#### Practical Aspect: Walk In Love v4-6

##### a. God commands it

*So now I urge you, dear lady—not as if I were writing you a new command, but one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. v5*

##### b. We must do it

*And this is love: that we walk according to His commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: you must walk in love. v6*

#### Doctrinal Aspect: Watch against error v7-11

##### a. Warning against wrong teaching v7-9

*Many deceivers have gone out into the world; they do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch yourselves so you don't lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward. v7-8*

##### b. Warning against wrong hospitality v10-11

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home, and don't say, "Welcome," to him; <sup>11</sup> for the one who says, "Welcome," to him shares in his evil works. v10-11*

#### Farewell v12-13

*Though I have many things to write to you, I don't want to do so with paper and ink. Instead, I hope to be with you and talk face to face so that our joy may be complete. v12*

#### Practical Application

- Walk in love – walk in truth  
Note: To walk in the truth is to walk in love, and vice versa  
*I was very glad to find some of your children walking in the truth, in keeping with a command we have received from the Father. v4*
- Test all doctrine against the truth of God's Word

## JOHN'S THIRD LETTER

2/12/12

### Author

The apostle John between 85-95 AD, most likely from Ephesus.

### Recipient

Gaius, John's friend and co-worker, a lay leader in a church.

### Purpose of Writing

1. To commend and encourage Gaius in his ministry of hospitality to the itinerant messengers who were going from place to place to preach the Gospel of Christ.
2. To condemn the behavior of Diotrephes, a dictatorial leader who had taken over one of the churches in the province of Asia, and whose behavior was directly opposed to all that the apostle and his Gospel stood for.
3. To commend the example of Demetrius who was reported as having a good testimony from all.

### Structure

#### Greeting v1-4

*The Elder: To my dear friend Gaius: I love you in the truth. v1*

#### An example to imitate – Gaius v5-8

*<sup>5</sup> Dear friend, you are showing faithfulness by whatever you do for the brothers, especially when they are strangers. <sup>6</sup> They have testified to your love in front of the church... <sup>8</sup> We ought to support such men so that we can be coworkers with the truth.*

#### An example to avoid – Diotrephes v9-10

*<sup>9</sup> I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have first place among them, does not receive us. <sup>10</sup> This is why, if I come, I will remind him of the works he is doing, slandering us with malicious words. And he is not satisfied with that! He not only refuses to welcome the brothers himself, but he even stops those who want to do so and expels them from the church.*

#### An exhortation to follow v11

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.*

#### Another example to follow – Demetrius v12

*<sup>12</sup> Demetrius has a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. And we also testify for him, and you know that our testimony is true.*

#### Farewell v13-14

*<sup>13</sup> I have many things to write you, but I don't want to write to you with pen and ink. <sup>14</sup> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.*

#### Practical Application

- Walk in love – walk in truth
- Show love through hospitality

#### Favourite verse v4

*I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

## LETTERS TO THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

### THE FORMAT

**To the angel of the church in \_\_\_\_\_ write**

**These are the words of him who...**

**I know your deeds**

**I hold this against you**

**Repent**

**Warning**

**But you have this in your favour**

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches**

**To him who overcomes, I will...**

### 1. EPHESUS – FIRST LOVE Revelation 2:1-7

**To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:**

**These are the words of him who** holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

**I know your deeds,** your hard work and your perseverance.

**I know**

that you cannot tolerate wicked men,

that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

**Yet I hold this against you:** You have forsaken your first love.

**Remember** the height from which you have fallen!

**Repent** and do the things you did at first.

**(Warning):** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

**But you have this in your favor:** You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

**To him who overcomes, I will** give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

### 2. SMYRNA – A SUFFERING CHURCH. BE FAITHFUL EVEN UNTO DEATH Revelation 2:8-11

**To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:**

**These are the words of him who** is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

**I know your deeds,** your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich!

**(You have this in your favour): I know**

the slander of those who... are a synagogue of Satan.

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.

You will suffer persecution.

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**(I hold this against you): Nil**

**(Repent): Nil**

**(Warning): Nil**

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

**He who overcomes** will not be hurt at all by the second death.

**3. PERGAMUM – A COMPROMISING CHURCH -  
ERADICATE FALSE TEACHING Revelation 2:12-17**

**To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:**

**These are the words of him who** has the sharp, double-edged sword.

**I know your deeds,** where you live--where Satan has his throne.

**(You have this in your favour):** Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me...

**Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:**

You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

**Repent** therefore!

**(Warning):** Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

**To him who overcomes,** I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

**4. THYATIRA – DON'T TOLERATE SEXUAL  
IMMORALITY Revelation 2:18-29**

**To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:**

**These are the words of** the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

**I know your deeds,**  
your love and faith,  
your service and perseverance,  
and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

**Nevertheless, I have this against you:**

You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality...

**(Repent):** I have given her time to **repent** of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

**(Warning):** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they **repent** of her ways.

I will strike her children dead.

Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching... hold on to what you have until I come.

**(You have this in your favour): Nil**

**To him who overcomes** and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations... Just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## **5. SARDIS – WAKE UP! WATCH! BE ALERT Rev 3:1-6**

**To the angel of the church in Sardis write:**

**These are the words of** him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

**I know your deeds;**

**(I hold this against you):**

you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.  
Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die,  
for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

**Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and **repent**.

**(Warning):** But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

**(But you have this in your favour):** Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

**He who overcomes** will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## **6. PHILADELPHIA – HOLD ON Revelation 3:7-13**

**To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:**

**These are the words of** him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

**I know your deeds.** See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

**(You have this in your favour): I know**

that you have little strength,  
yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name...  
Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

**(I hold this against you): Nil**

**(Repent): Nil**

**(Warning): Nil**

**Him who overcomes** I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## 7. LAODICEA – HEAT UP Revelation 3:14-22

**To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:**

**These are the words of** the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

**I know your deeds. (I hold this against you):** that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

**(Warning):** So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked...

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.

**(Repent):** So be earnest, and **repent**.

**(Gracious Invitation):** Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

**(You have this in your favour):** Nil

**To him who overcomes,** I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

## 8. MAROUBRA – MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY

**To the angel of the church in Maroubra write:**

**These are the words of him**

Who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again,

Who knows all about you

Who loves you with an everlasting love

Who has great plans for you

**I know your deeds,**

- your hard work
- and your perseverance.
- You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name,
- and have not grown weary. **Ephesus #1**

**I know**

- your love and faith,
- your service and perseverance,
- and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

**Thyatira #4**

**I know**

- that you have little strength,
- yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

**Philadelphia #6**

**Pergamum #3**

- You remain true to my name.
- You did not renounce your faith in me, even in *hard times*.

**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

**To him who overcomes, I will give great rewards and huge blessings for all eternity.**

### **WHAT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR**

**I know your deeds;** you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **Sardis #5**

**I know your deeds,** that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.  
**Laodicea #7**

**I hold this against you: Ephesus #1.** You have forsaken your first love.

### **HOW MUCH BETTER TO HEAR...**

You are now doing more than you did at first. **Thyatira #4**

### **THE REMEDY IF HE DOES HAVE TO REBUKE US**

**Remember** the height from which you have fallen! **Ephesus #1**

**Remember**, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and **repent**. **Sardis #5**

**Repent** and do the things you did at first. (*Before you lost your first love*) **Ephesus #1**

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die. **Sardis #5**

### **SOMETHING THAT EXCITES ME TO HEAR**

I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.  
**Philadelphian #6**