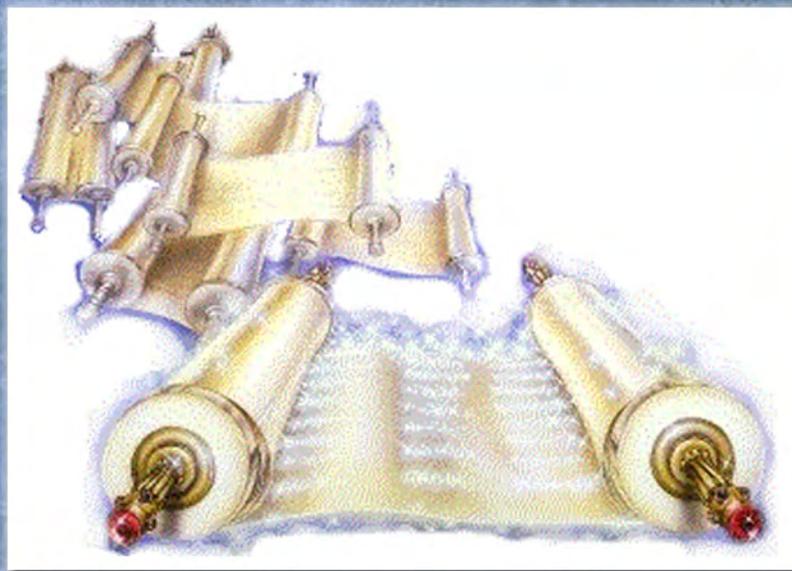


Touring the New Testament

1 Timothy - Jude



General Epistles

by Jack & Grace Tuls

Touring the New Testament - 1 Timothy to Jude (General Epistles)

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PREFACE TO THE GENERAL EPISTLES

This group of letters has been named the General Epistles because they were not written to a specific church but to individuals and some were written by authors other than Paul. They are messages from one heart to another showing loving concern about details.

I and II Timothy however, were written by Paul during the last year or so of his life. They reflect his loving heart toward a son who had much responsibility in the church. Paul wanted to make sure the churches they planted were well organized and reflected godliness among the members. In his very last letter he writes: *suffer hardship, Jesus abolished death, and the Lord...will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom.*

In Titus and Philemon, one can sense Paul's deep concern for individuals besides the whole church. In the book of Philemon, Paul gives us a great example of willingness to forgive and lay his life down for a runaway slave. Philemon verse 18: *"charge that to my account."*

In addition, John, the apostle conveyed his tenderness in his three letters: I, II, and III John to specific individuals. His greatest concern was that love was to be the motivation in everything and realize the source is from Jesus Christ. He was deeply concerned about truth.

Hebrews, the brilliant letter which was probably written by Paul, shows his deep feeling for those with whom he walked before his conversion. It is full of examples of the value of Jesus' death which ushered in a new freedom and a new, better covenant.

The book of James, written by Jesus' half brother carries the crucial message that faith without works is dead. He encourages all to rejoice in tests and trials.

As one reads these books, even Peter's writing about suffering and persecution, one becomes very much aware of how the early Christians triumphed when under extreme trials. Many grew in faith, were scattered, and proved to have outstanding testimonies of the grace of God.

Credits

Honor and praise belong first of all to the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace which is always available to us. My dear husband Jack is a meticulous editor and scholar and the one who added **Christ Seen** and **Significance in the Bible** at the end of each book. Also **Jensen's Survey of the New Testament** by Irving L. Jensen, Moody Press, Chicago, was invaluable. **The Open Bible, Study Edition**, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN contains prefaces to each individual book as also the **Spirit Filled Life Bible, Personal Study Edition**, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN. All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard edition. A good friend, Kate McLean, also helped with writing I, II, III John and Jude.

1 TIMOTHY

Author: Paul, the former zealous Pharisee, who persecuted the church but who was confronted by the Lord in a vision on his way to Damascus, is the author of the book. After hearing God's voice, his whole life changed. This letter was written to a young man whom Paul met in the city of Derbe on his first missionary journey. The man Timothy was the son of a Gentile father and Jewish mother. Paul recognized that Timothy was raised by a godly mother, Eunice and a grandmother, Lois who had a "sincere faith". Paul knew that Timothy was well spoken of by the brethren, and wanting him to travel with him, had him circumcised so as not to offend the Jews. Timothy then became Paul's aide on the journeys, helping in the ministry of the Word. Timothy spent much time with Paul in Ephesus, so he became well acquainted with the people there (Acts 19:1- 22). He became Paul's representative to young groups of Christians doing the follow-up work in the cities where Paul had visited. He also was Paul's companion in prison. Timothy heard Paul teach in Ephesus (Acts 19:22). Paul called Timothy his "beloved and faithful child in the Lord" (I Cor. 4:17). Timothy was most likely half Paul's age and was his companion for probably 20 years until Paul's final imprisonment.

Setting: Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:16-31), but imprisoned again after four years of freedom. Paul wrote this letter to Timothy probably from Macedonia and his second letter to Timothy from Rome. This second letter was most likely the last letter he ever wrote because he did not expect to be released from prison, but to be martyred.

Theme: Instructions for a godly church

Survey overview:

- I. Paul's charge (ch. 1)
- II. Public worship and role of women in worship (ch. 2)
- III. Qualifications of bishops and deacons (ch. 3)
- IV. False and true teachers and charge to Timothy (ch. 4)
- V. Treatment of widows and elders (ch. 5)
- VI. Various exhortations (ch. 6)

Significant Scriptures:

1:5 *But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart...good conscience...*

1:15 *Christ came...to save sinners among whom I am chief*

2:1-2 *First of all prayers... for all those who are in authority...*

2:12 *"But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority (authentain) over a man, but to remain quiet."* There has been much misunderstanding concerning this verse. The misconception of this verse hinges on the mistranslation of the Greek word: *authentain*. Since this word is found nowhere else in the Bible, research was made into other literature written at the time of Paul's letter. The meaning of the verb *authentain* during 200 or 300 AD meant "to be the author or the originator of something." The false cult at that time taught that man sprang from the goddess' side, and therefore women had authority over men because of prior origination, which doctrine Paul said must not be taught.

2:12 *"But I do not allow a woman to teach (that doctrine) nor to usurp authority over a man, but to remain silent (about this issue)." Let's reconsider Paul's charge to be: "I am not allowing a woman to teach or proclaim herself as the originator of man."*

2:13 *For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*

Also the word translated "silence" can mean "with harmony, peace, conformity or agreement." Consider another meaning: 'in agreement with Scripture and sound teaching in the church.' See Scriptures such as Gal. 3:28 *...there is neither male nor female, all are one.* I Cor. 14:26 *each one has a psalm, teaching, revelation, tongue...* I Cor. 14:31 *for you all can prophesy, one by one...* For additional information, see "The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible," by Dr. Spiro Zodhiates, p.1600.

My personal interpretation: I, Grace, am under my husband's authority. He is the principal speaker but he encourages me to speak also. We can both speak at different churches. We are in agreement on all Scriptural principals of purity, humility and the fear and terror of the Lord. Jesus is coming soon, there are many lost who need to hear the word of the Lord, and we need to make disciples of all nations.

2:15 New creation women have been saved from the curse of pain during childbirth. They are no longer under that curse (Gen 3:16) if both husband and wife continue in faith and love and holiness with sobriety.

3:1-7 Paul here lists the qualifications of bishops.

3: 8-13 Paul gives the qualifications for deacons.

3:14-16 Proper conduct in the house of God is given.

4:1-5 False doctrines are listed.

4:14-16 Timothy is charged to engage in the spiritual gift of healing as given earlier.

5:3-16 Instruction for caring for widows

5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his own... he has denied the faith.*

5:17-20 *Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of 2 or 3...*

6:6 *Godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.* In

Greek this word "contentment" is "*autarkeia*," meaning "self-sufficiency." This is not in the negative sense as in "not wanting anything more," but meaning that since we are "in Christ," we already have all of His grace available to meet every situation which comes our way. We have His wisdom, strength and help which we found at the throne of grace, Heb 4:16. We can still ask for more help daily for His love to abound through us and more finances to share with the lost. Plus, it is His Holy Spirit working in us that conforms us to the image of God's dear Son. We are not to be like the Laodicean church who said they had need of nothing. Rev. 3:17-18 God said that they *were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire... white garments... to cloth yourselves and eye salve to anoint your eyes that you may see.* God help us. Godliness is a means of great gain as we ask help from Him.

6:10 *The love of money is the root of all evil.*

6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith.*

6:17 *Fix their hope... on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*

Christ Seen:

There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (2:5). He came into the world to save sinners (1:15), and gave himself a ransom for all (2:6). There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Significance in the Bible:

The book of 1 Timothy gives the most specific qualifications for the office of elder in the Bible, although the book of Titus repeats some of these. Only in 1 Timothy can one find the specific qualifications for the office of deacon. Paul was concerned with setting the correct order in the government of the early churches, and Timothy was his main disciple. Timothy later became the bishop of Ephesus.

End of the book of 1 Timothy

2 TIMOTHY

Author: This is Paul's second letter to his beloved spiritual son, Timothy.

Setting: Paul had taken Timothy with him on his second missionary journey to Troas, Berea, Thessalonica and Corinth at which time Timothy ministered to him as his companion. Later Timothy became Paul's representative in Ephesus, Macedonia and Corinth. Timothy was with Paul during his first imprisonment but later was sent to Ephesus to supervise the work there and set things in order at the church. When this letter was written Paul was in prison for the last time and he requested that Timothy spend some time with him. In 2 Tim 4:9 Paul says: *"Make every effort to come to me soon."*

The Christians in the Empire were sorely tested especially by the wicked emperor in Rome. Many people from the catacombs were fed to the lions, and it was recorded that Nero, the emperor, set the city on fire (64 AD), and blamed the Christians. Because of this, many fled the city and thus the gospel spread over Europe. Paul's enemies were emboldened to successfully accuse him and secure his last imprisonment. Paul knew his end was near, but yet wrote this letter of encouragement to his beloved son around 67 AD, hoping Timothy could visit him before the winter, 2 Tim. 4:21. Timothy was most likely in Ephesus at this time.

Theme: Endure and hold to the truth.

Survey:

- I. Power of the Gospel (ch. 1)**
- II. Perseverance Required (ch. 2)**
- III. Apostacy (ch. 3)**
- IV. Endurance to the End (ch. 4)**

Significant Scriptures:

- 1:2-4 Clear conscience, remembered in prayer, longing to see Timothy.
- 1:7 *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. (KJV)*
- 1:9 *A holy calling... from all eternity.*
- 1:10 *Jesus abolished death... and brought life and immortality to light...*
- 2:3 *Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.*
- 2:6 The hard working farmer (suffers also).
- 2:11-13 *For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself.*
- 2:24 *The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be patient...*
- 3:1-2 *In the last days men will be lovers of self, money...*
- 3:12 *All... will be persecuted.*
- 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching...*
- 4:2 *Preach the word every season, reproving, rebuking, and exhorting with patience.*
- 4:8 *In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness...for those who love His appearing.*
- 4:18 *The Lord... will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom.*

Christ seen:

In the book of 2 Timothy, our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (1:10). The death mentioned here is the separation from God forever in hell. What we normally call death, the Bible calls “falling asleep” (for Christians), and we are never separated from God when we step from our mortal body into our spiritual body in heaven. Instead, we are more “awake” in heaven than in our current body.

Significance in the Bible:

This book is the only Biblical book that gives a valid picture of the culture in the last days before the return of Jesus. Chapter 3:1-9 shows how the reader may identify whether or not we are in those “last days.” In the last days, people will be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (3:7). This is because of their ungodly life styles which they want to maintain.

End of the book of 2 Timothy

TITUS

Author: Paul wrote this to Titus, another of his most trusted travelling companions besides Timothy. Titus was probably a Gentile from Antioch brought to Christ by Paul. Titus accompanied Paul to Jerusalem but was not circumcised in spite of what the dogmatic Jewish believers promoted. Paul did not relent to the pressure of circumcision because the new believer is justified by faith and not works. (Gal 2:3-5, 15). Paul called Titus "my true child in common faith" (Titus 1:4).

Setting: After Timothy was left in Ephesus, Paul journeyed on with Titus to the island of Crete. They evangelized several towns. However, Paul felt the need to leave, and having confidence in Titus, Paul commissioned him to set in order what remained. This letter was written to give Titus specific instructions on how to accomplish this task by appointing elders in every city. Both he and Paul had found considerable opposition to new teaching which opposed the tradition of the Jews. Paul's authority was questioned and the new converts were teaching things for financial gain. Titus was given instructions to complete the process of organization, to ordain elders, teach sound doctrine and avoid empty disputes. Titus was requested to leave Crete and join Paul at Nicopolis after his replacement by Artemas or Tychicus (Titus 3:12).

Theme: Godly living and good deeds

Survey overview:

I. Qualified elders and false teachers (ch. 1)

II. Sound doctrine (ch. 2)

III. Godly living (ch. 3)

Significant Scriptures:

1:7-9 *The overseer (elder) must be above reproach as God's steward....holding fast the faithful word...able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*

1:10-13 *There are many rebellious men...especially those of the circumcision...reprove them severely...*

1:15 *To the pure, all things are pure... but to those who are defiled...nothing is pure.*

1:16 *They profess to know God but by their deeds they deny Him...and are worthless for any good deed.*

2:10 *Adorn (decorate, garnish, put in proper order) the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.*

2:11-14 *For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all men...looking for the blessed hope... a peculiar people, zealous for good deeds.*

3:3-4 *For we also were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived...but when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for all mankind appeared,...* (Paul looks back momentarily to what he did years ago.)

3:5 *He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

3:8 *Engage in good deeds* ("good deeds" is mentioned 6 times in this book). Good in Hebrew "kalos" means beautiful, valuable, honest, worthy, and virtuous.

Christ seen:

Jesus is the purifier of His people. Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds (2:13-14).

Significance in the Bible:

Paul teaches Titus to emphasize good works and to teach the people of Crete how to let their faith adorn the gospel of Christ by their good works. Good works must be encouraged where there is a lack of them, and many people talk doctrine, but have no good works to back up their talk. Jesus wants His people to be zealous (eager) to do these works out of love for Him.

End of the book of Titus

PHILEMON

Author: Paul wrote this letter to a beloved friend, Philemon who hosted a church in his house. Philemon was dearly loved by Paul and respected greatly for his love and his testimony of Jesus to all the saints.

Setting: This letter to Philemon was written while Paul was in prison the first time probably around 61 AD. Onesimus, one of Philemon's slaves, had apparently fled to Rome after possibly damaging or stealing his master's property. Paul seemed to be under house arrest and could receive visitors. The Spirit must have guided Onesimus to Paul who embraced him, led him to a relationship with Jesus and forgave him. Under Roman law, a slave who ran away could be severely punished or condemned to death. Paul, evidently remembering Jewish law as given in Deut. 23:15-16, gave help to Onesimus *"You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you. He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place where he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him, you shall not oppress him."* Besides, Christ Jesus came to set the prisoners free. Paul had written in Gal. 2:28, that there was neither slave nor free in the Kingdom of God, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Therefore, Paul appeals to his dear friend to receive Onesimus now as a brother in Christ as he would receive Paul himself. Paul does not accuse Onesimus of running away wrongfully, but offers to repay anything that may have been taken, to Paul's account.

Theme: forgiveness, full acceptance in the body of Christ.

Survey overview:

- I. Prayer of thanksgiving for Philemon's faith (vs. 1-7)**
- II. Petition of Paul for Onesimus (vs. 8-16)**
- III. Promise to Philemon (vs. 17-25)**

Significant Scriptures, (verses)

3 *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

6 *I pray that the fellowship of your faith become effective through the knowledge of every good thing that is in you for Christ's sake.*

7 *I have much comfort in your joy and love because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.*

10 *I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,*

11-12 *...now is useful both to you and to me. And I have sent him back to you... sending my very heart.*

14 *...not... by compulsion*

16 *no longer a slave... a beloved brother.*

18 *If he has wronged you... charge that to my account.* Paul here modeled our Savior who offered to pay a debt He did not owe. We too, are like Onesimus. Isa 53:6 *"All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."* His grace was demonstrated on Calvary.

21 *Having confidence in your obedience... I know that you will do more than what I say.*

22 *Prepare me a lodging; for I hope through your prayers, I shall be given to you.*

Christ seen:

Paul's speaking to his friend and slave-owner, Philemon, on behalf of the slave Onesimus, is a model for what Jesus has done for us to our heavenly Father. Paul led Onesimus to a relationship with Jesus, and tells Philemon that he would pay anything owed to him by Onesimus.

Significance in the Bible:

The book of Philemon was written to apply Christian doctrine in such a way that its life-changing principles would make an impact on the social customs of that time. It was customary to severely punish runaway slaves, but Paul urged Philemon to act on his faith and to forgive Onesimus who was returning to serve him, now as a brother in Christ. A second chance and a new relationship between the slave and his owner was requested.

End of the book of Philemon

HEBREWS

Author: We do not know exactly who wrote this amazing book. Through the ages many different scholars have suggested authors such as Apollos, Barnabas or Philip. From the very beginning, the Eastern church attributed the letter to Paul but the Western church did not accept this until the fourth century. Dr. Spiros Zodhiates notes in his Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible preface to Hebrews, that "this book of Hebrews is a superb, literary Greek masterpiece, which is well organized, logical, and comprehensive. Whoever the author was, he wanted to reassure Jewish believers that their faith in Jesus as Messiah was secure and reasonable."

Setting: This book was penned at a difficult time for the Christians. In Rome, the wicked emperor Nero took diabolical pleasure persecuting and killing Christians. Judaism was legally approved in the Roman empire before Nero, but when the Jews converted to Christianity, they were greatly persecuted. It took great faith for the new converts to embrace this new understanding that the traditional sacrifices using the blood of bulls and goats, was only a shadow of the real sacrifice accomplished once and for all by the blood of Jesus. The whole Jewish mind set had to be changed along with their economy. Were they willing to lay aside all traditions and embrace the possibility of extinction or moving to another country? It seems many accepted the challenge at first but as persecution increased many fell away. There are many strong warnings indicating that those Hebrew Christians were in a backslidden condition. It would be easier for them to return to Judaism. Therefore the author of Hebrews explains the supremacy of Jesus Christ and goes into great detail the Jewish history from King Melchizedek to the full effectiveness of the sacrifice and resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus.

In 70 AD, Jerusalem was invaded and the temple destroyed by the Roman general Titus. Evidently this book of Hebrews was written only years before the invasion, probably 64 to 68 AD. Was the Lord preparing His people for a new mind-set, a temple not made with hands? The recipients of this book probably lived in Rome and they had come to faith through the testimony of eyewitnesses of Christ (2:3)

Many Christians need to know now the work of Christ as our intercessor (7:25), deliverer (2:15), our leader into spiritual rest (4:1) and as our helper at the throne of grace (4:16). It is with confidence but also with fear and trembling that we approach this throne. In the book of Hebrews, we read of the new covenant, glory available and better, more effective atonement. One can only stand in awe and deep gratitude for the words of new revelation in this book of Hebrews.

Theme: The supremacy of Jesus Christ, key word: better, used 13 times.

Survey:

I. Superiority of Christ over the prophets, angels and Moses (ch 1:1-4:13)

First warning: Danger of neglect (ch 2: 1-4)

Second warning: Danger of unbelief (ch 3:7-4:13)

II. Superiority of Christ's work, the priesthood, sacrifice, covenant (ch 4:14-10-18)

Third warning: Danger of not maturing (ch 5:11-6:20)

III. Superiority of the Christian's walk of faith. (ch 10:19-13:25)

Fourth warning: Danger of shrinking back (ch 10:26-39)

Fifth warning: Danger of refusing God (ch 12:25-29)

Dear teacher/reader: this epistle is so full of noteworthy Scriptures that it is hard to choose which ones to recommend. Please read the book as a whole so you understand the context and let the Holy Spirit show you what He wants to emphasize. These Scriptures noted below are only a taste of the grandeur of our magnificent God.

I. Superiority of Christ over the prophets, angels and Moses (ch 1:1-4:13)

A. Over Prophets

1:1-2 *God ...spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...*

1:3 *He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.*

1:9 *Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness, therefore God, Thy God hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions.*

B. Over Angels

1:4 *Having become much better than the angels...*

1:14 (angels) *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

First warning: Danger of neglect (ch 2:1-4)

2:3 *How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*

2:4 *It was accompanied by signs, wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

2:14-15 *that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

2:18 *For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.*

C. Over Moses

3:5-6 *Moses was faithful in all his house...but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are if we hold fast our confidence...*

Second warning: Danger of unbelief (ch 3:7-4:13)

In the wilderness their Jewish fathers tested and tried the patience of Father God, so He said in His wrath that they would not enter His rest. But God said in 4:1-3 "while a promise remains," don't come short of it. The good news has come, let it profit you being united with faith. God rested on the seventh day from all His works, so you too should rest from your works. (Following all the rituals imposed on you by the Judaisers). Follow God's example, Who rested on the seventh day. He wants His people to enjoy the same rest and satisfaction in the finished work of Christ that He Himself enjoys. Use the word of God to enter your rest.

4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit...judge the... intentions of the heart...*

II. Superiority of Christ's work, the priesthood, sacrifice and covenant (ch 4:14-10-18)

A. Significant Scriptures:

4:14 *Let us hold fast our confession*
 4:16 *Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*

B. Christ is superior to Aaron and Melchizedek (Priesthood)

Aaron was called by God to be a high priest who had to offer sacrifices not only for the people but also for himself since he had weaknesses. Aaron did not take the honor to himself but was called by God for that job, so also Christ did not glorify Himself, but was called by God after the order of Melchizedek.

5:7 (Christ) *In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers... with loud crying and tears... and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.*

Third warning: Danger of not maturing (ch 5:11-6:20)

The author rebukes them for wanting only milk but not solid food of the Word.

6:1 *Leaving the elementary teaching about Christ... press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works... faith toward God... instruction about washing... laying on of hands... resurrection of the dead... and eternal judgment.*

6:5 (those who) *have tasted the good word of God...and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them... since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*

6:9 *But beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you...*

6:10 *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have...*

6:11-12 *Show diligence... not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

The author then describes Melchizedek, the king of righteousness, king of Salem, without beginning or end... a priest perpetually. (Was He the pre-incarnate God in the flesh?) Abraham gave a tenth of the choicest spoils, just as the priests now do. Melchizedek received the tenth from Abraham and blessed him, so also the Levites receive the tithe and pay the tithe through Abraham. Melchizedek therefore, was greater.

7:11 *If perfection was through the Levitical priesthood... what further need was there for another priest to arise?*

Melchizedek was not from the tribe of Levi. The law was imperfect and the rules for selecting a priest were changed as we see that there needed to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek. One who was perfect and had no beginning or end, just like Jesus.

7:17 *For it was witnessed of Him: "Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

7:19 *The former commandment was weak for the law made nothing perfect, on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope through which we draw near to God.*

C. New Covenant

7:22 *Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant... He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.*

7:25 *He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

8:6 *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry... as He is also a mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.*

8:8-12 *Days are coming... when I will effect a new covenant... not like the covenant which I made with their fathers... for this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel... I will put My laws on their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts, and I will be their God... for all shall know Me... I will be merciful to their iniquities and I will remember their sins no more.*

D. Comparison of the old and new covenants (ch 9-10)

9:1-10 The author described the arrangement of the Old Testament tabernacle, and the sacrifice made by the priest once a year. Then he writes of the new covenant's sacrifice by Jesus Christ entering the holy place once and for all.

9:12 *He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

9:15 *He is the mediator of a new covenant.*

9:22 *And according to the Law...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*

9:24 *For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.*

9:27...*as it is appointed for men to die once...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation...to those who eagerly await Him.*

10:1 The author again compares the Old Testament ritual using the blood of bulls and goats when it was declared that it could *not make perfect those who draw near...*

10:5-9 *Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me...then He said: Behold I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.*

10:10 *By this will we have been sanctified...*

10:12-14 *but He having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting for that time forward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

The author then repeats the New covenant promises and adds:

10:17-18 *And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. Now where there is forgiveness...there is no longer any offering for sin.*

III. Superiority of the Christian's walk of faith (ch 10:19-13:25)

A. Significant Scriptures:

10:22 *Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...*

10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering...*

10:24 *Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.*

10:25 *Not forsaking our own assembling together... but encouraging one another...*

Fourth warning: Danger of shrinking back: (ch 10:26-39)

10:26-27 *For if we go on sinning willfully... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire (as in II Thess1:7) Jesus shall be revealed from heaven...dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The author then describes the punishment for those who disobeyed the law of Moses: they died with no mercy. Then he describes the more severe punishment on the one:

10:29 *who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant... and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

10:31 *It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Then the author reminded them of the great sufferings they experienced in the past: being made public spectacles, reproaches, tribulations, accepting joyfully the seizure of their property and they endured!

10:35-36 *Therefore, do not throw away your confidence which has a great reward, for you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what is promised.*

10:38 *But My righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

B. Faith and the heroes of faith (ch. 11)

11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen..*

11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that which is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

11:4 *By faith **Abel** offered to God a better sacrifice...and through death, he still speaks*

11:5 *By faith **Enoch** was taken up so that he should not see death...was pleasing...*

11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

11:7 *By faith **Noah**, being warned by God...prepared an ark for the salvation of his household.*

11:8-10 *By faith **Abraham**...obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance, and he went out not knowing where he was going...by faith he lived as an alien... looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

11:11-13 *By faith even **Sarah** herself received the ability to conceive...since she considered Him faithful who had promised... All these died in faith...having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

11:16 *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

11:17-19 *By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested offered up **Isaac**... He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which also he received him back as a type.*

11:20 *By faith **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.*

11:21 *By faith **Jacob**, as he was dying blessed each of the sons of Joseph...*

11:22 *By faith **Joseph**, when he was dying made mention of the exodus... and gave orders concerning his bones.*

11:24 *By faith **Moses** when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure the ill treatment with the people of God, than to*

enjoy the passing pleasure of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the riches of Egypt for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt..., for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

11:28-29 *By faith he kept the Passover....by faith he passed through the Red Sea...*

11:30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down...(Joshua)*

11:31 *By faith **Rahab** the harlot did not perish... after she welcomed the spies.*

11:32-35 *Time will fail me if I tell of **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets.** Who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions...Women received back their dead by resurrection; others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others experienced mocking... chains, imprisonment...stoned, sawn in two... afflicted, ill treated...*

11:39 *And all these having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect. (Did they see a new generation arising that would complete their suffering?)*

C. Example of Christ's endurance (ch 12)

12:1 *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...*

12:2-3 *Fixing our eyes of Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross despising (ignoring) the shame...*

12:5-11 *The author writes about the necessity of a loving father to discipline his children. We are encouraged to accept correction, humble ourselves and change because we are disciplined for our good so that we can share our father's holiness. Peace will follow.*

12:12-15 *All are encouraged to strengthen feeble hands and knees and make straight paths for your feet. Also see that no root of bitterness springs up causing trouble and by it many be defiled.*

12:21-24 *The author relates how the Israelites feared the holy God and even Moses was full of fear and trembling. But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, and to God... and to the spirits of righteousness men made perfect and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant which speaks better than the blood of Abel. (Is this true for us?)*

Fifth Warning: Danger of refusing God: (ch 12:25-29)

The author warns that those in the past who refused Him when His voice shook the earth did not escape punishment, so also He promised that once more He would shake not only the earth but the heavens also. He is going to shake all things which can be shaken, 12:27 *in order that those things which cannot be shaken can remain.*

12:28 *Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude... with reverence and awe.*

12:29 *for our God is a consuming fire.*

D. Exhortation to walk in love (ch 13 to end)

13:1-4 *love the brethren...show hospitality...remember the prisoners... and those who are ill treated... let marriage be held in honor...fornicators and adulterers God will judge...be free from the love of money... be content with what you have...*

13:5 *He himself has said, "I will never desert (leave) you, nor will I ever forsake you.*

13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, yes, and forever.*

13:12-14 *Jesus...suffered outside the gate...let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach... for we are seeking a city which is to come.*

13:15 *Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God...*

13:17 *Obey your leaders, and submit to them for they keep watch over your souls...let them do this with joy...*

13:20-21 *Now the God of peace... through the blood of the eternal covenant... equip you in every good thing to do His will...working in us... through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.*

Christ seen:

He is our eternal High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (6:20). He offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice for us, thus making a new covenant with us, in which He doesn't remember our sins any more (8:12).

Significance in the Bible:

The book of Hebrews is a doctrinal development of the atoning work of Christ in relation to the New Covenant. It also mentions the present ministry of Christ on behalf of the believer. The relation of doctrine to practice is emphasized in the negative warnings and the positive exhortations (see "let us").

*

JAMES

Author: Four men in the New Testament were named James. The man one most likely thinks about is James the brother of John. However *Herod the king...had James put to death by the sword* (Acts 12:1-2) in 44 AD. Scholars believe that the author of this book was the half brother of Jesus, being Mary and Joseph's son. Jesus' father was the Lord. James grew up with Jesus but did not accept the claims of Christ until the Lord appeared to him separately (I Cor. 15:7) after He appeared to Cephas and all the apostles. James was later in the upper room at Pentecost. This same James was a central figure in the Jerusalem Council (49 AD) where they had the discussion about whether the Gentile Christians should be circumcised and keep the law of Moses. This book was most likely the first one written after the death of Jesus. According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, James was martyred in 62 AD.

Setting: This book is addressed to Hebrew Christians living outside of Israel. The new believers were confronted by temptations of bitterness, materialism, impatience, disunity and apathy. James also addresses issues of the heart, tongue, tests and trials. It is like the Proverbs of the New Testament because it is filled with practical advice for everyday living. The desire of James was to encourage the new Christians to use faith in all areas of life.

Theme: Faith must be accompanied by works.

Survey Overview:

- I. The Test of Faith (ch 1:1-18)
- II. Characteristics of Faith (ch 1:19-5:6)
- III. The Triumph of Faith (ch 5:7-20)

Significant Scriptures:

1:2-4 Consider it all joy...when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance...that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing.

1:5-6 if any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God who gives to all generously...let him ask in faith, nothing doubting (Greek: diakrino, meaning: stagger, waver, hesitate).

1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials...he will receive the crown of life.

1:13-15 God does not tempt...every man is tempted...by his own lust...it brings forth death.

1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift...comes down from the Father of lights...

1:19-20 Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

1:21-22 Receive the word implanted... prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

1:26 We are to bridle the tongue or our religion is worthless.

1:27 True religion is to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

2:10 Whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

2:13 Judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

2:14-16 Faith gives food and clothing to those who need it.

2:17-18...so faith, if it has no works, is dead...I will show you my faith by my works.

2:19 You believe that God is one...demons also believe and shudder.

2:26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

3:1-2 Let not many of you become teachers...knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment, for we all stumble in many ways.

3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue...is that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

3:14-15 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition... do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom...is earthly, natural, demonic.

3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

4:3-4 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures... a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

4:6 God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.

4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

4:11 Do not speak against one another, brethren....

5:7-11 The coming of the Lord is near, be patient, strengthen your hearts. Don't complain, endure as Job did. *The Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.*

Healing prayer:

5:14-16 Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick...and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Confess your sins to one another... the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Christ seen:

James portrays Christ as the coming Lord (5:7), and as the healer of our bodies and the one who forgives our sins (5:14-15). He also shows himself to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:1).

Significance in the Bible:

James is the most practical book in the New Testament. It clearly points out that faith is an action, not just a belief. It was written early in the history of the Church when most believers were converted Jews. It is quite formal and full of commands for one's daily life, yet there is warmth shown in the use of the word **brethren**.

1 PETER

Author: Peter, called Simon Barjona by Jesus in Matt. 16:17 is also called Cephas. Peter was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida, a city on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee. Peter's brother Andrew encouraged him to come listen to Jesus. Peter was married and took his wife travelling with him I Cor. 9:5. It is not know if he had children. Peter was in the inner circle of the disciples along with James and John. This "inner circle" was privileged to witness the transfiguration and the healing of Jairus' daughter. During the trials of Jesus, Peter denied his knowledge of Jesus for which he humbly repented.

Peter was the most "colorful" character of the disciples because of his transformation after the resurrection. Before Jesus' death he was impetuous, outspoken, and aggressive which changed to courage and boldness in preaching about the power of transformation by faith and belief in Jesus as the Son of God. He was the principal spokesman after the resurrection, as we read in Acts, chapters I-7. Other significant events in his life were people being healed by his shadow, (Acts 5:15), his vision of the sheet and commission to preach to every nation. (Acts 10:9-35), and his prison experiences. He was put in prison twice, once with John and released, and later imprisoned alone, but rescued miraculously by prayer from the church and an angel (Acts 12:4-19).

Setting: Peter wrote this book in Rome around 64-65 AD to those of the faith, Jews and Gentiles, who were dispersed in northern and southeastern Asia Minor, where Paul had not gone, and to central and western Asia Minor where Paul had established churches. Even though Peter was the apostle to the "circumcised" (Gal. 2:9), this book is addressed to all those who reside as "aliens" scattered in Asia Minor (1 Peter. 1:1). Believers were being reviled and abused for their lifestyle and subversive talk about another kingdom. The Roman emperor Nero, who orchestrated the martyrdom of many Christians, was still in power. According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down in Rome in 67 AD, prior to Nero's death in 68 AD. This was a very difficult time for the new believers.

Theme: Suffering and holy living

Survey Overview

- I. Salvation and Sanctification of the Believer (ch 1:1-2:12)
- II. Submission of the Believer (ch 2:13-3:12)
- III. Suffering and End Times (ch 3:13-5:14)

Significant Scriptures:

- I. Salvation and Sanctification of the Believer
 - 1:1-2 Aliens...who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...
 - 1:3-5 Believers have a living hope and imperishable inheritance, and are protected by the power of God through faith.
 - 1:6-8 trials are the proof of your faith being more precious than gold...tested by fire...results in praise and glory and honor... you greatly rejoice... full of glory
 - 1:18-19 Redeemed...with precious blood, as of a lamb... the blood of Christ.

2:5-6 You also as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house...Behold I lay in Zion, a choice stone...he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.

2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

II. Submission of the Believer

2:13 *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution...as the one in authority.* (Consider the Hebrew midwives at the time of Moses' birth. (Ex. 1:17) As the angel released Peter from prison he instructed Peter to keep speaking about God (Acts 5:20, 29). What about distribution of The Word of God in lands where it is forbidden?

2:18 servants, be submissive to your masters...if when you suffer unjustly...patiently endure it, this finds favor with God...

2:21 ...since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, for by his wounds (stripes) you were healed. Notice He suffered in body, soul and spirit, and see the word “were” – past tense. Our healing was accomplished 2,000 years ago.

3:1-6 Peter spoke about the proper attitude of the wife toward her husband and how she dresses herself, saying that a disobedient husband can be won to Christ by the attitude of a respectful wife without preaching to him. Peter says the woman must have a quiet spirit. "Quiet" in the Greek means undisturbed, peaceable, and not silent. Godly women can express their views in a spirit of humility just as the husband does.

3:7-8 Husbands are to live with their wives with understanding, granting her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life so that your prayers may not be hindered.

III. Suffering and End Times

3:18-22 For Christ...made alive in the spirit...in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient. When the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah...in which a few, that is, eight persons were brought safely through the water. This was an open display of Jesus' victorious power.

4:1-6 Peter gives the people more encouragements to follow Christ's example in suffering, to continue to give up the previous lifestyle and to become immune to insults for His sake.

4:12-13 Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you...for your testing...but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing...

4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

5:1-4 Peter speaks to the shepherds of the church to care for the members voluntarily, not for money, but proving themselves to be *examples to the flock*...

5:6-7 Humble yourselves...under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...casting all your anxiety upon Him, for He cares for you.

5:8-9 Be of sober spirit...Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, but resist him, firm in your faith.

5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace...will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you...

Christ seen:

This epistle presents Christ as the believer's example and hope in times of suffering in a spiritually hostile world (2:21). He is the believer's living hope and inheritance (1:3-4). He is the Chief Shepherd and Guardian of the believer's soul (2:25).

Significance in the Bible:

The book of 1 Peter is similar to the book of Job in the Old Testament because of its theme of undeserved suffering and steadfast submission to the will of God when the soul is crying out for a reason. Peter shows that undeserved suffering has a redemptive purpose (4:1-2).

*

2 PETER

Author: This is the second of Peter's letters to the Church, written while he was in Rome around 66 AD. This letter shows his deep concern for the false teachers who were active in the Church. Peter knew that his death was imminent (1:14). He was executed in 67 AD.

Setting: Many false teachers were speaking deceptive words to the fellow believers. Peter characterizes them as ones who deny the Lord and exhibit a sensuous lifestyle. He carried a great burden for the fellow believers and gives a description of the true believer who has the nature of God and grows in His qualities with His power. He reminds them of the magnificent, precious promises which are ours by which all can escape the corruption in the world and participate in the divine nature.

Theme: Beware of false teachers and expect the Day of the Lord.

Survey Overview:

- I. Christian Character (ch 1)
- II. False Teachers (ch 2)
- III. The Day of the Lord (ch 3)

Significant Scriptures:

I. Christian Character

1:3-5 Peter describes the amazing power available to us through the true knowledge of God, His precious promises, and the moral excellence which is required and available by His grace. He notes that we can have His divine nature residing in us! He says that diligence is required so one can manifest godly characteristics.

1:16-18 Peter writes how he was personally a witness of the majesty of Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration and heard God's voice.

1:21 Peter says that prophecy is never given by the human will but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

II. False Teachers

2:1 False prophets/teachers secretly introduce destructive heresies... denying the Master...bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2:9 ...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation...

2:10,14,18 These false prophets, Peter says, indulge their flesh, despise authority, have eyes full of adultery, greed and are slaves of corruption.

2:20 He writes how those who have first had the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and are again entangled in the world, *and are overcome, the last state of them has become worse for them than the first.*

III. The Day of the Lord

3:3-4 Mockers will come... saying... ever since the fathers fell asleep all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.

3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promises... but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.

3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth....burned up.

3:11-13 ...be in holy conduct... looking for and hastening the coming of the day of the Lord...heavens destroyed by burning...melt with intense heat. This refers to the time after the Millennium. Looking for new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells.

3:18 Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

Christ seen:

Peter points to the Lord as the source of all knowledge and power and that we have His nature abiding in us as we use His promises. Peter remembers seeing Jesus' transfiguration (1:16-17) and looks forward to His coming again in glory.

Significance in the Bible:

The book of 2 Peter emphasizes that the experiential knowledge of God and of Jesus is the effective response to error coming into the Church. The knowledge of God and of His promises makes us a partaker of His nature. Also, the revelation that the present heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire (3:10-13) is one of the most astonishing in the Bible.

*

1 JOHN

Author: John, “the apostle of love”, expounded again on the love of God in this epistle written some time after his Gospel. He writes in his old age as a father of the faith to the “children,” the affectionate term recurring throughout the letter.

Setting: The letter was probably written from Ephesus in the AD 90s, about two decades after the siege and destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, and after John’s exile on the Isle of Patmos where he received the “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” His writing confirms believers in various stages of maturity (children, young men, fathers) in the truth and keeping of God’s Word and fellowship in the love of God. He also addressed anti-Christ teachers and false prophets; refuting doctrines of Docetism and Gnosticism which claimed that Jesus came only as a spirit, but not in the flesh. John exhorted believers to continue abiding in fellowship with, and faith in Jesus, thereby overcoming the world and the wicked one.

Theme: Abide in truth, light & love; fellowship with God

Survey overview:

- I. Fellowship with God and one another (ch. 1)**
- II. Abide in Him (ch. 2)**
- III. Children of God and devil manifest (ch. 3)**
- IV. Test the spirits (4:1-6)**
- V. God is love and love made perfect (4:7-21)**
- VI. Overcoming the world and wicked one (ch. 5)**

Significant Scriptures:

1:3 ...*That you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ...*

1:5 *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

1:7-9 *But if we walk in the light... we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2:3 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments...*

2:6 *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

2:9-10 *He who... hates his brother, is in darkness... He who loves His brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*

2:15-17 *Do not love the world... the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away...*

2:22 *Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is anti-Christ who denies the Father and the Son.*

2:27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and... teaches you concerning all things... just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

3:2 ...*When He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

3:5 *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin*

3:8 *He that practices sin is of the devil...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy (undo) the works of the devil*

3:9 *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

3:16-18 *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren...let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

3:22 *Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments.*

3:23 *And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another...*

4:1... *Test the spirits, whether they are of God...*

4:4 *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (cf. John 16:33)*

4:8 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

4:9 *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*

4:12 *No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

4:17-18 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...*

5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.*

5:6 *And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.*

5:10 *He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself...*

5:11 *God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son...*

5:14-15...*If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us...and we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

5:18-19 *Whoever is born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him...the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

Christ seen:

The current ministry of Jesus is seen here. His blood continually cleanses us from sin when we are walking in the light, and he is a constant advocate before the Father for us (1:5-2:2).

Significance in the Bible:

It is as if John were writing to his own family with a spirit of tender love, declaring the truth of the Christian faith, and denouncing error. It is to keep his “family” of believers following the correct path in doctrine and life. It is one of his last writings, and describes how to remain in the faith and love of Jesus Christ throughout life.

2 JOHN

Author: John “the Beloved” disciple. John did not write his name in the epistle, nor refer to himself as an apostle, but tenderly as “the elder.” John was probably between 90-100 years of age at its writing, having outlived the other apostles. Some scholars believe that the letter was written to a specific “lady,” while others have concluded that the title refers to a church and “her children” as the Christians thereof.

Setting: John’s epistles are supposed to have been written after his encounter with the risen LORD Jesus and the apocalyptic vision (Revelation) John experienced while exiled on the Isle of Patmos. After Domitian’s death (the Roman Emperor who had him banished), John returned from exile to Ephesus, later embarking on missionary journeys and visiting surrounding churches. These letters were likely written in the author’s old age (circa A.D. 90-95) in or near the region of Ephesus. As John ministered in Asia Minor, this letter may have been sent to a lady/church in that locality. Given John’s unique insight into the coming judgments and age to come, it is interesting to note that his perspective produces an emphasis on the truth.

Theme: Walk in truth and love.

Survey overview:

- I. Greeting and blessing (vs. 1-3)
- II. Charge to walk in truth/love (vs. 4-6)
- III. Guarding against deceivers/anti-Christ people (vs. 7-11)

Significant Scriptures: (verses)

2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever

6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments...

7 For many deceivers... do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-Christ.

8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (As in Revelation 2:25-26, “But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end...,” and 3:11-12, “Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes...” His reward is to the overcomer, to the one who endures to the end.)

10-11 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

12 “Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.” Different forms of communication are profitable, but there is a greater communion available in being able to gather together in His name face to face in Christian fellowship (Ephesians 2:21-22, Hebrews 10:25), as we read His living epistles in one another. Iron sharpens iron, and we reveal more of His treasure (Malachi 3:16-17). One day our joy will be made full as we come to know just as we are known (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Christ seen:

One must “*abide in the doctrine of Christ*” to have a saving relationship with God. The doctrine of the person and work of Jesus affects every aspect of theology.

Significance in the Bible:

The book of 2 John is concerned with having no fellowship with the enemies of the truth. If the view is taken that the letter was written to a lady, this is the only biblical book which is addressed to a woman.

*

3 JOHN

Author: John “the Beloved” disciple, is identified here, as in 2 John, as “the elder.” John wrote this letter to Gaius, a believer likely in a church in Asia Minor. Gaius was a common name at the time, and while there are other “Gaiuses” mentioned in the New Testament; it is not supposed that this is the same man.

Setting: These letters were likely written in the author’s old age (A.D. 90-95) in or near the region of Ephesus, and sent within the Roman province of Asia.

Theme: Walk in truth, co-labor in the Gospel

Survey overview:

I. Greeting and prayer (vs. 1-2)

II. Walking in the truth (vs. 3-4)

III. Co-laboring in the Gospel (vs. 5-8)

IV. Judgment of those who do not receive brethren (vs. 9-11)

V. Good deeds testify of walking in truth (vs. 12)

Significant Scriptures: (verses)

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Hear the heart of Father God.

6 ...Who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well. We are to minister to one another in love, and labor together for the Gospel. Part of our call is that we help prepare one another for Christ. May we all “send one another forward on our journey in a manner worthy of God.”

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. Jesus said that when we receive those He sent; we receive Him, and Him who sent Him (the Father). (cf. Matthew 10:40).

9-11 ... Diotrephes...does not receive us...with malicious words... he who does evil has not seen God. John rebukes the evil of Diotrephes in seeking preeminence for himself, not receiving the brethren, and forbidding others who wish to receive them.

12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself...

13-14 As in 2 John, he repeats the desire not to write more with pen and ink, but to see and speak face to face, and extends peace and greetings from and to their friends.

Christ seen:

Although the name of Jesus the Christ is not mentioned in 3 John, the word “truth” appears 6 times. Jesus said in John 14:6, *I am the way, the truth, and the life...* Walking in the truth means walking in the character of Jesus.

Significance in the Bible:

In this book John goes further than in 2 John where he gives a general warning not to associate with enemies of the gospel, but he identifies by name one enemy of the gospel, Diotrephes, and on the other hand, refers by name to a friend of the gospel, Demetrius. This was a help to the early church, pointing out whom to avoid and whom to warmly welcome.

*

JUDE

Author: The author is believed to be Jude, the half-brother of Jesus. Jude, along with Jesus' other brothers according to the flesh, did not believe on Him earlier in His ministry. However, after Jesus' death and resurrection, Jude was with those who waited in the Upper Room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Because of the numerous references to Old Testament Scriptures, it is supposed to have been written to fellow Jewish Christians.

Setting: Jude may have been among the dispersed after the Jerusalem revolts, and subsequently living somewhere outside Palestine. Scholars estimate the time of writing anywhere between the 50s to 140 A.D.; but perhaps due to similarities with 2 Peter, more probably between 67-80 A.D.

Theme: Contend earnestly for the faith

Survey overview:

- I. Introduction/address/blessing (vs. 1-2)**
- II. Exhortation to contend for faith (vs. 3-4)**
- III. Biblical apostasies (vs. 5-11)**
- IV. Description and fate of apostates (vs. 12-19)**
- V. Exhortation to, and fate of the faithful (vs. 20-25)**

Significant Scriptures: (verses)

3 ...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed... ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. The true grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly and righteously (Titus 2:11-14).

5-7 ... the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain... as Sodom and Gomorrah... are set forth as an example... He compares those who do not believe to angels who lost their proper domain and Sodom and Gomorrah – both angels and humans destined for the vengeance of eternal fire. Beloved, what a serious matter our faith is! Believing God is our life. It is not enough to come out of Egypt and perish in the wilderness of unbelief; we must possess the Promised Land. What He has promised He is able to perform.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves... late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead...

16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts... Complaining is deadly. Let our hearts be free from grumbling and complaining, "that we may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault... among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). When hearts are not thankful, it causes increased darkening and giving over to more uncleanness and debased minds (Rom. 1:21-31). But thankful hearts are hearts of light (Ps. 50:23).

19 *These are sensual (soulish or worldly) persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.*

20-21 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

22-23 *And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

24 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,...*

Christ seen: He is the One who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (vs. 24).

Significance in the Bible: Jude urged the believer to contend for the faith that he originally received, because many Christians had departed from the purity of their first faith, and were leading corrupted lives. He urged continued vigilance to keep pure the doctrine and life-style of the true believer.

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