

Answer Key for Students

The New Covenant in Christ: A Survey of the New Testament

Course NT1

Mount Zion Bible Institute

Lesson 1 Historical Background

Chapter 1 - In the Fullness of Time

1. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures, translated in about 250 BC. [Seventy scholars did it, therefore abbreviated to *LXX* when written (Greek: septuagint means '70').]
2. 1) A world in which he had disseminated Greek language, culture, and philosophy. 2) A fragmented empire [that brought civil war and regional contention].
3. A Jewish family was able to lead a successful revolt against the Syrian Ptolemies, restore Temple worship, establish peace, and consolidate power into their own political dynasty.
4. 1) Jesus was born in the reign of Augustus Caesar (27 BC-AD 14) according to Luke 2:1. 2) His accomplishments included ending civil war after the assassination of Julius Caesar, bringing many needed reforms, saving resources, encouraging morality, and fortifying the defense of the empire's frontiers.
5. It allowed Rome to accomplish an outward expansion, bringing Roman authority, government, culture, and peace.
6. 1) The Greek 'trade' language became common throughout the Roman Empire, later enabling clear and rapid communication of the gospel. 2) The peace of Rome allowed the gospel to be proclaimed freely. And, people could travel all over the Mediterranean world freely.
7. REFLECTION Note: There are no given answers for *Reflection* or *Making It Personal* questions. These are designed to encourage your own thought and personal application to your heart and life.

Chapter 2 - The Conception of Christianity

8.
 - a. Torah - Literally, *law*. A title for the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
 - b. Targum - A collection of the translations of Hebrew Old Testament books into the Aramaic language.
 - c. Talmud - A Hebrew civil and canonical interpretation of the Scriptures.
 - d. Synagogue - [Greek, *a gathering, assembly*.] was first established in the homes of the exiles of Babylon as Jewish centers for meeting, study, and social life. Ten males in a community were needed for a synagogue to be established.
 - e. Pharisees - wanted to keep the Law perfectly.
 - f. Sadducees - the liberals of their day. They were worldly-minded priests who observed the letter of the Law, but denied essential truths such as the resurrection and future retribution.
 - g. Scribes - Their primary job was to copy the Holy Scriptures. They became teachers of the Law because of their long hours of experience in copying the Law.
 - h. Zealots - Radical Jews who would kill Romans at random, hoping to gain freedom through rebellion.
9. 1) The Gospels, 2) Acts (as history), 3) the Pauline Epistles, 4) the General Epistles, and 5) The Revelation (as prophecy).

Lesson 2 The Synoptic Gospels and Matthew

Chapter 3 - The Synoptic Gospels: Behold the Lamb!

1. The four column chart (from page 30):
 - a. Who was Jesus portrayed as
 - b. To which audience (world) was the book written
 - c. What characteristic of Jesus is emphasized

- d. What is a focus of the content in the book: *what Jesus* _____
- e. What types of events or teachings are mentioned most

Answer:

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
a. <i>The Messiah</i>	<i>A servant</i>	<i>The Perfect Man</i>	<i>The Son of God</i>
b. <i>To the Jewish world</i>	<i>To the Roman world</i>	<i>To the Greek world</i>	<i>To all the world</i>
c. <i>His Authority</i>	<i>His ministry to people</i>	<i>His integrity</i>	<i>His Deity</i>
d. <i>What Jesus <u>said</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>did</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>thought</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>was</u></i>
e. <i>Sermons and messages</i>	<i>Miracles</i>	<i>Parables</i>	<i>Personal interviews</i>

2. Cana, Capernaum (Matt. 8:5), Nain, [Gergesenes (Matt. 8:28)], Nazareth (Matt. 9:1), [Bethsaida (Matt. 11:1)]. Cities in brackets are not mentioned in the text. [Jesus also visited Jerusalem.]

Chapter 4 - Matthew: Presenting Christ as the King of the Jews

3. Matthew wanted the Jewish people to see that Christ was in fact their promised Messiah, the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies.
4. Matthew (lit. gift of God) was a tax collector who was called to be a disciple of Christ. According to legend, he was killed with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, AD 60.
5. Jesus was baptized in order to fulfill the righteousness of the Law (Matt. 3:15), which required priests to be ceremonially cleansed prior to assuming their duties (Ex. 29:4-7; Lev. 8:6-36).
6. 1) That the righteous requirements of the Law could never be fulfilled in external obedience only, but applied equally to the thoughts and intents of the heart. And, 2) that God demands internal as well as external obedience. [As such, all men are hopelessly guilty of breaking the Law, and are in desperate need of a Savior outside of themselves.]
7. The Church is built upon Christ as the cornerstone. The true foundation is Christ Himself (1 Pet. 2:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11).
8. **1) Ecclesiastical Trials** - Preliminary hearing before Annas (John 18:12-14, 19-23); Hearing before Caiaphas and select members of the Sanhedrin (Matt 26:57); Before the whole assembled body of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 27:1-2); **2) Civil Trials** - Before Pilate (Matt. 27:11-26); Before Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12); Return to Pilate (Luke 23:11-25); **3) Theocratic Trial** - At Calvary – God exercised His righteous punishment upon sin.

Lesson 3 Mark and Luke

Chapter 5 - Mark: Presenting Christ as the Servant of All

1. John Mark wanted to reach the Roman world with the good news of redemption [from the penalty of sin through Christ's perfect sacrifice].
2. Mark records twenty-eight miracles of the Master to impress his Roman readers that Jesus Christ was powerful, the Son of the Living God. His power exceeded even what the Romans conceived as their own mighty power!
3. John Mark came from a wealthy family which enjoyed having its own house and servants. At a young age, he came to faith in Christ and befriended Peter, Paul, and Barnabas. Through his own personal failure he caused an argument to erupt between Paul and Barnabas but was later reconciled to the Apostle to the Gentiles. In the providence of the Lord he was chosen to write a narrative of the life of Christ.
4. a. Sometime during the First Missionary Journey, John Mark had deserted the company. Whatever the reason, it was not good enough for Paul not to become angry with the young man and not want to take him along on a Second Missionary Journey.
b. Twelve years later Paul was reconciled with John Mark and the past had been forgiven (cp. Col. 4:10 with Philemon 1:24).
5. a. Yes, the long list of factual events is abundant proof of the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. [The rest is a personal answer.]

- b. Personal answer.

Chapter 6 - Luke: Presenting Christ as the Perfect Man

7. Luke wants to reach the Greek mind. The Greeks upheld reason, high achievement, and perfection. Thus Luke emphasizes Jesus' parables, masterful teaching, and His super-human intellect.
8. 1) Luke was a close friend of Paul (Phil. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11), 2) he was a man of culture and education, and 3) he was a well respected physician (Col. 4:14).
9. As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to appeal his legal case personally before the court of the Emperor in Rome itself.
10. Angels 1) announced His birth (Luke 1:26-37), 2) protected His life during the days of His infancy (Matt. 2:13,20), 3) under-girded Him following His temptation by the Devil (Matt. 4:11), 4) encouraged Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43), and 5) rolled the stone away to let the world in to see the resurrected Lord (Matt. 28:2, 5-7; John 20:11-14).

Lesson 4 John: Presenting Christ as the Son of God

1. John presents Christ as the Son of God in His Deity, to convince all the world that Jesus was who He claimed to be: God Himself! As such, there could be no middle ground to accept Christ as a good teacher: He was either a liar to be rejected, or God Incarnate - to be worshipped and served in all humility!
2. In the Temple in Jerusalem, and in the surrounding vicinity.
3. This is a direct confirmation of His Deity, as Jesus repeated the very words of Jehovah God from Exodus 3:14. This expression in Exodus became the most sacred Jewish name for God: YHWH, or Yahweh (transliterated to Jehovah) – the Self-existent One – the Great I AM. The Jews understood the meaning of His words and sought to kill Him for blasphemy – claiming to be God.
4. 1) The Gospel of John, 2) First John, 3) Second John, 4) Third John, 5) The Revelation of Jesus Christ.
5. In order to explain why men sin, the Gnostics believed that all matter was evil. The spiritual had to be free from everything material. They came to believe that freedom from material sin lay in knowledge of spiritual things, which was only available to the intellectuals. Their major error was in denying the deity of Christ (since He came in the flesh and had a body).
6. Jesus is God, He created all things, He is life itself, He gave light to men's darkness, but He was rejected by men in darkness, yet He gave life to become sons of God to those who receive Him and are born of God (not their own acts), He became flesh in order to declare God to us.
7. 1) He has faced realistically the problem of his own personal sin; 2) he has seriously considered the one divine remedy for sin; 3) he has wholeheartedly complied with God's terms for obtaining forgiveness for sin (to "receive" Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord); 4) he manifests in his life that his claims to repentance and faith are real; i.e., he leads a holy life.

Lesson 5 Acts: Witness to the World

1. "The Acts of the Holy Spirit."
2. Peter is very emotional with a penchant for talking. He and his brother Andrew were partners in a fishing business in Galilee (Mark 1:16); he was married (Mark 1:29-31; 1 Cor. 9:5) and had a residence in Capernaum (Mark 1:21,29). Peter had been a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Peter was a leader among men. The worst moment in Peter's life came when he denied the Lord of glory (Mark 14:66-72). However, he was restored to fellowship and given a place of leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:17-19; John 21:15-19; Mark 16:7) in Jerusalem. His wise counsel and leadership allowed him to serve as a unifying force between those who ministered to the Jews and those who ministered to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11)
3. Born of Jewish parents (who were also Roman citizens) from the tribe of Benjamin, Paul was reared in the city of Tarsus, in Cilicia. A capable student filled with religious zeal, Paul became "a Hebrew of the Hebrews" (Phil. 3:5). As an adult, Paul persecuted those Christians of "The Way" until he was converted to Christ himself, c AD 34. Soon after his salvation, Paul began to preach Christ intensely. God taught Paul that if belief in Christ was the true object of saving faith, then even the Gentiles could believe. Paul preached to the Gentiles for over thirty years, despite much hardship and sorrow.

Lesson 6 Romans through 2 Corinthians

Chapter 9 - Romans: Faith Alone

1. He hoped to visit them after traveling to Jerusalem, and therefore wanted to prepare them. Thus he sets out the most complete and well-developed presentation of the great fundamental Christian doctrines [the nature of sin, Christ's redemption, our justification, identification with Christ in His death and new life, the victorious Christian life via the Holy Spirit, assurance of salvation, and principles for holy living].
2. By putting his whole trust (belief) in the finished work of Christ at Calvary (where Christ's shed blood was the acceptable sacrifice to pay for all his sin), depending not in even one small bit on his own works to earn God's favor, accepting God's gift as an act of His free grace.
3. No!! We are dead to sin via new birth into Christ's life. How then can we still live in sin?!
4. a. To submit to all authorities, without exception in the *Romans* instructions. We know from Acts 5:29 that there is one exception: when men command us to directly violate God's commands in Scripture. [If we are to claim Acts 5:29, the key is that our motivations must be Spirit-filled and not selfish in any way.]
b. Personal answer [hopefully to include: God Himself, government authority (and prison officials if incarcerated), church authority, employers, and family (if not a head of own household)].
c. Personal answer.

Chapter 10 - 1 Corinthians: The Cross for the Church

7. Originally a Phoenician settlement, the Greeks came to dominate the city and the region. In 146 BC Corinth was destroyed by the legions of Rome. One hundred years later, in 46 BC, the Romans rebuilt the city in pure white marble under the imperial order of Julius Caesar.
8. The Corinthian believers, after straying far away from holiness, had received Paul's 'lost letter' and made some changes. But the people still had major problems in their church, and they had asked Paul a number of questions as well. So Paul writes them 1) to admonish them to correct real problems, and 2) to answer their questions about church practices.
9. Paul admonished them for their problems: 1) favoring one man over another(1:10-16), 2) relying on human wisdom (1:17-2:31), 3) carnality – allowing themselves to be motivated and enjoy the old lusts of the fleshly nature (3:1-22), 4) incest (5:1-13), 5) going to court (6:1-8), 6) promiscuous sexual indulgence (6:9-20),
In addition, Paul tried to answer some of their questions about church practices: 7) marriage (7:10-40), 8) “gray areas” – in this case eating meats sacrificed to idol (8:1-9 cp. 10:14-33), 9) giving (9:1-14), 10) the danger of falling away (9:15-27), 11) abuses at the Lord's Table (11:20-34), 12) misuse of spiritual gifts (12:1-31), and 13) misunderstood doctrine regarding the resurrection of our Lord(15:1-58).
10. Because without His bodily resurrection, then all that Scripture promises regarding our own resurrection after physical death into glorified bodies – this must also be false. Then Christians of all people are to be pitied, living lives separated from the world based on a false hope. The historic bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is all important to the believer.

Chapter 11 - 2 Corinthians: Ministry in the Church

13. With news that the Corinthians had repented of their errors, and had returned to a respect for Paul, he writes to encourage them and inform them of his (and their future) sufferings, giving an account of his ministry, appealing to his converts to keep themselves pure, and answering his critics (labeling them as 'false prophets').
14. Men plotted to kill him, He was to be stoned in Iconium and Lystra, In Philippi he was beaten with rods and put in stocks, In Thessalonica a mob tried to destroy him, He was driven out of Berea, In Ephesus he was almost killed, In Jerusalem, a mob would have killed Paul had not the Roman soldiers intervened, He was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years and in Rome for two more years, Unrecorded sufferings: beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks, personal deprivation, Finally, Paul was taken to Rome to be executed.
15. One was written on the heart, the other on stone. One was of the Spirit, the other was of the letter. One was unto life, the other unto death. One was unveiled, the other was veiled (or hidden). One was unto righteousness, the other was unto condemnation. One remains while the other passes.

Lesson 7 Galatians and Ephesians

Chapter 12 - Galatians: Life in Liberty

1. In the third century BC, a group of people who had originally migrated westward into Macedonia and Greece from north of the Black Sea settled in the north central part of Asia Minor. The Greeks called these new settlers *Galatai*, from which the name *Galatians* is derived. By 25 BC this section of Asia Minor and all its inhabitants had been taken over by the Romans under the rule of Augustus Caesar.
2. Initially, the Galatians had been received into the Church apart from the rite of circumcision, and without any obligation to keep the Jewish ceremonial law. Baptism had been administered. But then Jewish Christians in the Church at Antioch (who had come to faith but who were also legalistic) challenged the practice of accepting Gentiles into the Church without insisting that they observe the Jewish law (Acts 15:1). The situation became serious as the whole issue was debated and individuals took sides.
3. The Law was only a caretaker until Christ came. The Law had no life to give. Only Christ can give life and that more abundantly. Christ gives life by grace through faith, alone (cp. Eph. 2:8-9). No man has ever been justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. The works of the flesh are selfish sins: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, jealousy, wrath, strife, division, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, reveling. The works of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

Chapter 13 - Ephesians: Union with Christ

6. Paul wanted to encourage the Ephesians (and possibly other churches) that they must continually uphold the magnificence of Christ and the true doctrines of the Christian faith, and attend to their application, in order to avoid drifting into error. He first writes an unhindered meditation on the magnificence of our riches in Christ, regarding union with Christ personally, and then focuses on unity in the Christian Church through practical application.
7. God has abundantly blessed His children with every spiritual blessing (just as we will have in heaven itself), to this end He has chosen us, redeemed us, and adopted us into His family, all by grace.
8. God has saved souls in order that they “should be to the praise of His glory” (1:12).
9. Husbands and wives must love and respect one another (with agape love, 5:22-23). By doing this they will model the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church (5:25,32). Parents and children are to live in harmony as well (6:1-4).
10. Loins girded – Truth, Breastplate – Righteousness, Sandals – Peace, Shield – Faith, Helmet – Salvation, Sword – The Word

Lesson 8 Philipians and Colossians

Chapter 14 - Philipians: Joy in Unity

1. The city of Philippi was established on a main Roman road, connecting it to the important trade routes of the East. It was named after Philip II (the father of Alexander the Great), when he became king of Macedonia by force in 359 BC. In 42 BC, the historic battle of Philippi took place between Romans Brutus and Cassius, who allied themselves against Antony and Octavian, avengers of the death of Julius Caesar. In 31 BC Octavian defeated his former ally, Antony, in a historic naval battle. As a Roman colony, Philippi enjoyed all the special privileges of Roman citizens everywhere.
2. During his Second Missionary Journey (AD 50-54), Paul, accompanied by Silas and Timothy, had a vision in the night (Acts 16:9) to preach the gospel in Macedonia (Acts 16). In obedience, Paul traveled to Philippi. Along the river bank was a place of prayer, where a woman named Lydia and others gathered. As Paul preached the gospel, the Lord opened the heart of Lydia. She opened her home to others so that a new church could be established.
3. Those who came to faith under Paul’s ministry in Philippi appreciated his labors of love. To show their appreciation, they sent Paul needed money: twice while in Thessalonica (Phil. 4:16), and again when he was at Corinth (2 Cor. 11:9).
4. Joy! Paul will exhort the believers to “rejoice in the Lord!” The theme is joy because “joy” is used often, and it is returned to as a topic in several places.

5. a. Jesus voluntarily humbled Himself as a servant, setting us the great example. He was obedient to the will of the Father even unto death at the cross. Because of this, God has highly exalted Him, that at the name of Jesus every knee everywhere shall bow to honor Him as Lord.
- b. Personal answer.

Chapter 15 - Colossians: Complete in Christ

7. The motive for the writing of the letter to the Colossians was concern about Jewish teachers trying to mingle the works of the Law with the grace of the gospel (2:11, 16). The Judaizers had found fertile soil in Colossae. With the demand to observe the ceremonial law, stress was being laid on the importance of observing special days, such as the Sabbath, the new moon, and the feast day. Rules and regulations had been imposed on drinks and food. Once more the all-sufficiency of Christ for salvation was being undermined with a subtle appeal to the flesh: to earn God's favor (already granted based entirely on the merit of Christ) through good works.
8. God's glory is displayed via Christ being found in the hearts of Christians.
9. He is declared to be: 1) The Image of the invisible God, 2) The First-born of all creation, 3) All things are created through Him, 4) He is before all things, 5) In Him all things consist (i.e., hold together), 6) Head of the body, the Church, 7) The Beginning, 8) The First-born from the dead, 9) In Him all fullness dwells, 10) Through Him all things are reconciled, 11) Christ in you is the hope of glory, 12) In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, 13) In Him dwells all the fullness of Godhead bodily, 14) In Him you are complete (lit. brought to perfection), 15) The head of all principality and power.

Lesson 9 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 16 - 1 Thessalonians: The Second Coming

1. After visiting Thessalonica for less than four weeks during the Third Missionary Journey, Paul was concerned for the church's welfare, and sent Timothy to them. Timothy reported that they were witnessing boldly and growing in number, but facing both persecution from without, and misconception from within. Paul responds with this letter to address two main issues: 1) personal attacks against Paul, and 2) misconceptions about the second coming, that if a Christian died before the second coming, he would not participate in God's kingdom. His response is both to encourage and to instruct them, including telling the truth about himself.
2. 1) Jesus is coming again, 2) no one knows when nor will anyone ever know when, 3) the believer is not to speculate on the matter, but is to be watchful and ready, the Lord will come suddenly, 4) believers who have died will rise first, 5) believers who are alive will be given a glorified bodies.
3. "The dead in Christ shall rise first" – 1 Thes. 4:16.
4. While Christians wait for the Blessed Hope of the Second Coming of Christ, they are to maintain good works and restrain themselves from all forms of immorality (4:1-8).

Chapter 17 - 2 Thessalonians: Judgment to Come

7. When Paul sent his first epistle to the Thessalonians from the city of Corinth, he thought he had answered their questions concerning the Second Coming of Christ. However, new concerns had arisen for two main reasons. First, Paul's teachings in the first letter had been misunderstood. Second, an erroneous teaching had been seriously considered (2 Thess. 2:2).
8. It was being suggested that the Lord had *already* come again, because their severe sufferings were understood as the judgmental wrath of God!
9. Paul points out that the Second Coming of Christ could not have occurred because there had not been a falling away from the faith, nor the revelation of the son of perdition (2:3). Furthermore, when the Lord does come, He will righteously judge those who have dared to hurt His people (1:7-10).
10. If a man will not engage in honest labor, he should not eat (3:10). Paul himself set the example of not being idle nor taking advantage of the goodness of God's people (3:8).

Lesson 10 The Pastoral Epistles

Chapter 18 - 1 Timothy: Protect the Gospel

- 1) Timothy was a native of Lystra, in the province of Galatia. 2) He was the son of Eunice and the grandson of Lois - who were devout Christians. 3) His father was a Greek. 4) From a child, Timothy had been exposed to those teachings which lead to salvation. 5) He was allowed to become a traveling companion with Paul in the ministry during the Apostle's Second and Third Missionary Journeys.
- [Between two possible imprisonments in Rome, Paul likely made a trip to visit churches in Asia Minor and possibly Spain. If there was only one Roman imprisonment, then the letter was written from Rome.] Paul left Timothy in Ephesus, and wrote this letter with practical instructions: how to behave as a pastor in order to put this church into vital condition, so that it could withstand the troubles ahead.
- The true origin of much false teaching is nothing less than *demonism* (1 Tim. 4:1).
- Individuals who would have integrity are: 1) to flee from the love of money; 2) to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness; 3) and to lay hold on eternal life.

Chapter 19 - 2 Timothy: Preach the Gospel

- Shortly after communicating with Timothy, Paul was brought to trial and executed. It is probably the last letter he ever wrote.
- This is probably the same Alexander of Ephesus whom Paul had delivered unto Satan (1 Tim. 1:20). Now, Alexander had a chance to retaliate and so he did Paul "much evil" by testifying against him.

Chapter 20 - Titus: Teach the Gospel

- In addition to bringing organizational stability to the church in Crete, Titus was to silence those of "the circumcision party" (or the Judaizers, 1:10-16).
- An Elder must 1) be blameless, 2) not self-willed, 3) not soon angry, 4) not given to wine, 5) no striker, 6) not a lover of money, 7) a lover of hospitality, 8) a lover of good men, 9) sober, 10) just, 11) holy, 12) temperate [self-controlled], 13) one who has held fast the faithful word as he has been taught, and 14) able to exhort [convince] the gainsayers [opposition].
- The Judaizers (1:10-16) argued for circumcision as a sign of spirituality, and then went on to teach "Jewish fables"(1:14).

Chapter 21 - Philemon: Grace in Practice

- Apphia was probably the wife of Philemon.
 - Achippus may have been the son of Philemon, and perhaps a pastor of the assembly.
 - Philemon was a leader in the church at Colossae, and a wealthy man.
 - Onesimus was a slave of Philemon, who stole money from his master and ran away to Rome.
 - "beloved fellow worker" - Philemon
 - "profitable" - Onesimus, the converted runaway slave
- Paul, while imprisoned in Rome, receives Onesimus as a new convert. Onesimus is a runaway slave, who was therefore subject to whatever cruel punishment the owner might choose, often tortuous death. The master is Philemon, a leader in the Colossae church whom Paul knows and loves from Ephesus. Paul sends this letter (probably at the same time as the Colossian letter) with Onesimus as he returns in repentance to Philemon. Paul encourages Philemon to apply the Ephesian letter's principles of union with Christ, and unity (and forgiveness) among the brethren. The manner of Paul's presentation is an example of spiritual leadership, tact, and diplomacy.

Lesson 11 Hebrews and James

Chapter 22 - Hebrews: Drawing Near

- Many Jews who professed faith in Christ, continued to participate in the Temple worship. When Nero began persecuting Christians, it became clear that Judaism would continue as a protected religion, but that Christians would be expelled from all Jewish rites (including the Temple), and persecuted as well. These professing Christians were therefore forced to make a choice: to return to Judaism, or to continue to follow

- Christ. The writer explains and exhorts them to continue on with Christ to make their faith sure, because He is superior to the Old Testament practices in every way.
2. a. This priesthood stands from before time and is everlasting, in contrast to the Levitical priesthood established under the Mosaic Law, which fades away.
 - b. The Old Covenant of Works was in reality a Covenant of Death, because men could not fulfill their good works to receive God's blessing. The New Covenant is written upon a heart of flesh by the finger of God. It includes God's putting His laws into our minds and hearts, whereby all His children may know Him, and He will remember our sins no more because of Christ's finished work on the cross.
 3. 1) Christ is superior to angels in that He is the Son of God. 2) Christ is superior to the prophets for He is the One of whom the prophets spoke. 3) Christ is superior to the High Priest for He has an eternal ministration in heaven. 4) Christ is superior to the Leaders of Israel for they all died and were limited in wisdom, power and ability. 5) In all these areas He is without precedent.
 4. Personal answer, hopefully to include some of the following: Faith is the basis of 1) our hope and 2) spiritual reality. It is by faith that we can come to God through the sacrificial blood of Christ (like Cain). We please God by acting in faith, knowing that He is our reward as we seek Him. When we obey God's commands, not knowing the outcome in our circumstances, we are acting by faith (like Abraham). By faith we do not look to this world for our satisfaction, but to Christ and the celestial city. By faith we refuse sin's pleasure (like Moses). By faith we trust God to do His will, even work miracles. By faith we endure suffering, trusting God no matter what.
 5. Jewish zealots in Jerusalem rebelled against the Roman Empire in AD 66. The Roman legions under Titus laid siege in AD 70, trapping 600,000 inside the city walls. There was massive starvation. Five months later the walls were broken through, and most of those remaining were killed – more from the murderous zealots than by the hands of the Romans.

Chapter 23 - James: Faith Proven by Works

7. a. Four men in the New Testament bear the name of James. They are James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, James the son of Alphaeus, James the brother of Jesus, and James the father of the Apostle Jude.
- b. After refusing to follow Jesus (his older half-brother) during His life on earth, James was saved of God and became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. He was called "the Just" because he was a man of good works and prayer; and history records he was martyred for refusing to deny Jesus before the Sanhedrin.
8. While *Romans* stresses our **position** in Christ, *James* places great emphasis on our walk with Christ: the **practical** outworking of an inward state of grace evidenced in a holy life. "Faith without works is death."
9. a. Because 1) our words reflect what is in our hearts, and 2) it is with our words that we so often offend others and start unnecessary conflicts.
- b. Personal answer.

Lesson 12 1 Peter through Jude

Chapter 24 - 1 Peter: Partakers of Christ's Sufferings

1. The churches in Asia Minor were facing the threat of suffering after Nero blamed the fire in Rome on the Christians in 65 AD. Peter, in Rome and facing his own prosecution, writes to reassure and instruct these believers on how to react in suffering: look to heaven for hope that brings courage to persevere.
2. The Lord is the Church's Example. The people of Christ must therefore endure hardships patiently (2:20), and without retaliating in kind (3:9). In the end, God the Father will reward the righteous and judge those who do evil (3:12).
3. 1) All suffering has a purpose (at times not easy to discern - 1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:14). 2) Suffering is to be expected (4:12). 3) Suffering is not to be dreaded or avoided (3:14), but is to be endured patiently (2:23; 3:9), with rejoicing (4:13).
4. Please review this with a mature trusted friend.

Chapter 25 - 2 Peter: Knowledge of Our Lord

5. Knowing that false teachers would be coming among those who profess to know the Lord, Peter prepares and warns the general Church to stand firm against them, and to hold fast to the true knowledge of God.
6. 1) First, there must be a partaking of the divine nature by faith (1:4). 2) The fruit of righteousness must be manifested.

7. False teachers are characterized by covetousness (2:3), sensuality (2:10), ruthlessness (2:12), with eyes full of adultery (2:14). False teachers are servants of corruption (2:19).

Chapter 26 - 1 John: Fellowship with Christ

8. John wrote to warn the Christians to reject the errors of *Gnosticism*, and that the Christians should not sin (2:1). Nor should they be deceived. As an apostle, John was determined that all teachers be tested for the truth (4:1). Finally, with a pastor's heart John wanted the Christians to have assurance of their salvation (5:11-13).
9. "Incarnation" means to become human. It is the key to Christ's fulfilling the law: He is God, yet He became fully man in order to teach us, to set an example for us, and perfectly to obey the law (qualifying Him to become a sacrifice without blemish).
10. True joy does not come from circumstances, but from communion with Christ, and fellowship with other believers.

Chapter 27 - 2 John: Walking in Truth

13. It is possible that John has a specific woman in mind. That would not be surprising for women played a vital role in the early church. However, it is also possible that John writes in veiled language as a pastor to his people – where the Church itself is considered in feminine terms (note Eph. 5:23-33).
14. There were false teachers (cp. 1 John 2:18-29) in the early assemblies who would go from church to church, and teach doctrines in the name of Christ which were in reality destructive of the Christian faith. John wants the Church to be aware of such things and refuse hospitality to false teachers.
15. John writes of loving those who are in Truth (1:1), and of others who know the Truth (1:1). He speaks of the Truth which dwells in the saints (1:2), and of grace, mercy, peace coming in Truth (1:3). John rejoices that the saints are found to be walking in Truth (1:4), and embracing Truth (by which he means the doctrines of Christ). That is important, for those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ "hath not God" (1:9).

Chapter 28 - 3 John: Hospitality

16. Just as John had written in 2 John to exhort the extreme of too open hospitality, he now writes Gaius to encourage him that Diotrephes was erring on the opposite extreme of too narrow hospitality. Diotrephes was encouraging closed doors to anyone who disagreed with him, on even minor doctrines, in order to maintain a position of power out of a motive of pride. Paul points out that we should maintain fellowship with those who agree with us on the cardinal doctrines, even when there is minor variation in beliefs on other doctrines.
17. a. Gaius - a native of Macedonia, a traveling companion of Paul, and possibly a pastor.
b. Diotrephes - a church leader in the same city as Gaius. He did not love the brethren, because he denied hospitality to Paul's representatives over minor issues.
c. Demetrius - a man whose living testimony bore witness to the truth of redeeming grace.

Chapter 29 - Jude: Keep from Falling

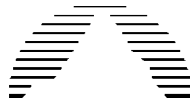
18. Jude wanted to write about the common salvation (1:3), but decided to write and exhort the Church to "*contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,*" *rejecting false teachers.*
19. *First*, they fail to remember past judgments of God illustrated by the Israelites in the wilderness (1:5), by the fallen angels (1:6), and by the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrha (1:7). *Second*, they dream filthy dreams for they are spiritually asleep (1:8). *Third*, they defile the flesh with sexual immorality (1:8). *Fourth*, they despise authority including that of God's Word. They speak evil of earthly and heavenly dignitaries (1:8). These teachers of falsehood are self-willed (Gen. 4:3-8). They will not accept the substitutionary work of Christ but go about to establish their own religion.
20. Spiritual truth can be recognized in that it magnifies the person and work of Jesus Christ, and promotes holiness. Titus 1:1 speaks of "the truth which is after godliness."

Lesson 13 The Revelation: Christ Is Lord!

1. a. *The Revelation* is spiritual in nature. There is a spiritual basic conflict between the Church and the forces of evil.
b. *The Revelation* is historical. Most of the events have been fulfilled historically.

- c. *The Revelation* is a summary of successive ages. It reveals the unfolding of Church history (as seen from the vantage point of time).
- d. *The Revelation* is futuristic. The key verse is Revelation 1:9.
2. One important factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced is the dating of *The Revelation*. If a late date theory is held (c. AD 90), then it is possible that all that John saw is in the futuristic view. However, if an early date (c. prior to AD 70) of *The Revelation* can be established, then a good argument can be made that what John saw would happen actually has happened (historical view).
 3. In Apocalyptic literature, the purpose of the writer was to unveil a particular meaning by using signs and symbols. Its pattern is that certain themes occurred over and over again.
 4. *The Book of the Revelation* uses numbers in a symbolic way. **Four** living creatures, horsemen, and angels; **twelve** elders, gates to the city of God, foundations, and varieties of fruit on the tree of life; **seven** (*completeness*) messages to the Seven Church (2:1-3:22), Seals (6:1-17), Trumpets (8:6-11:19), Personages (12:1-14-20), Vials (Bowls) of God's Wrath (16:1-21), Final Judgments (17:1-20:15), and Seven Wonderful Blessings (21:1-22:5). A *thousand* also means perfection or completeness (cp. Psalm 90:4). The Church is complete reflected in twelve thousand being saved from each of the twelve tribes of [spiritual?] Israel (7:1-8). Satan is bound for a *thousand* years (20:3). In a negative sense, the number 3 1/2 is associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5). We read of a 42 month (or 3 1/2 year) period. This number is designed to symbolize man's attempting to diminish the glory and power of God.
 5. The overall message of *The Revelation* is "God is all-powerful." It gives us hope in that God's kingdom with His saints is irrevocably established. And we see more of truth: the true heart of man apart from God is hatred of God, and the true heart of God toward man is long-suffering, mercy, and just hatred of sin. The book brings the whole story of redemption, begun in Genesis, to a telling conclusion. "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth" – The Revelation 19:6.
 6. The **First Vision** (ch. 1-3) is of the resurrected Christ challenging His Church to remain loyal in the midst of great tribulation. The **Second Vision** (ch. 4-7) is of Christ the Slain Lamb standing with a sealed scroll before God the Father in heaven. As the Lamb opens each of the seven seals containing the destinies of individuals and nations, a series of disasters befell the earth. A series of seven angels blowing seven trumpets forms the **Third Vision** (ch. 8-11). At the sound of these trumpets divine judgment falls again. The **Fourth Vision** (ch. 12-14) consists of the persecution of the Church (symbolized by a heavenly woman and by two witnesses [Moses and Elijah]) by Satan and the Beast (Nero?). The **Fifth Vision** (ch. 15-16) contains another series of seven: seven bowls pouring out God's wrath. The **Sixth Vision** brings into focus the judgment of Babylon (a symbol for Rome?) (ch. 17:1-19:10). The **Seventh Vision** promises a final victory, final judgment, and final blessedness (ch. 19:11-22). There will be a glorious future for the people of God. Christ has promised to make all things new: a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem (21).
 7. a. Premillennialists believe there is a rapture of the Church into the clouds with Jesus, a seven year tribulation period, followed by Christ's return to earth to reign for a literal thousand years, followed by judgment and the New Heaven and New Earth. Amillennialists understand the Millennium to be a picture of the present reign of Christ, "the kingdom of God is within you" – Luke 17:21. Postmillennialists believe that Christians will bring about a visible reign of godliness by being actively involved in society to establish godly laws and society.
 - b. Perhaps this should be a personal answer, but we trust most can agree that: 1) a study of the end times is subject to several valid interpretations because of its dependence on so much symbolism, and 2) the end times should never displace major doctrines of salvation and sanctification in the life of a believer or church, or become grounds for division.

Thank you for seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through your diligent study of this course.



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Answer Key for Graders

The New Covenant in Christ

A Survey of the New Testament

Course NT1

Mount Zion Bible Institute

Note to Graders

Own words: The student has been encouraged to use his own words while formulating his answers from the reading. It is OK when he occasionally quotes from the text directly. If, however, the student is just copying directly from the text repeatedly, then it is suggested to give a comment to him, to the effect that (for all future courses in the small 5" x 8.5" format) he is encouraged to use his own words, to describe his own understanding of what the author has said in the text.

We have sometimes quoted from the text directly in this answer key, as an accurate reference to the original text. This has been done in order to have an accurate standard of comparison for the student's answers in his own words. (Otherwise, the grader would be comparing the student's 'answers in his own words' to our 'answers in our own words', and there would be a drift away from the author's original meaning in the text.) Therefore, please accept the student's answers when they are a reasonable representation of the general gist of the text; do not require an exact match with our answers provided here. This is especially so when the answers herein are longer (in order to include several possible student answers) –shorter student answers are acceptable.

Personal responses: Some questions ask for a personal response. Please give special attention to these--they will often generate rare opportunities for an intimate glimpse into another human soul. We must be prepared to respond with both compassion and exhortation.

Literature: Wherever appropriate, **please ask us to send** specific related Mount Zion literature from our catalog to the student as an encouragement, which we can easily enclose along with his graded answer sheets when they are returned to him. Many of the student's personal answers will reveal real needs, and this is our best opportunity for discipleship.

Encouragement: Some students may find this course a real challenge. In giving feedback, we should find a path which both 1) corrects errors which might lead to false Christian concepts, and 2) encourages the student for the effort they have made. It might be best to show some tolerance for incomplete or even misguided answers, where they do not compromise biblical truth.

Feedback: For many students, this is the only discipleship feedback that they receive. It is very important, therefore, that we as graders not only 1) mark their answers according to the answer key, but also 2) **write additional discipleship comments** on their answer sheets, perhaps 1 or 2 sentences on every 2 or 3 pages. Opportunities for these come up especially in response to a reflection or personal application question. The comment can be a suggestion to consider some Bible verses or a different point of view, or it can relate your own personal experience, or it can communicate a biblical principle that they need to hear.

Lesson 1 Historical Background

Chapter 1 - In the Fullness of Time

RESPONSE

Prophesy fulfilled

1. What is the *Septuagint*?

The Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures, translated in about 250 BC. [Seventy scholars were involved in the effort, therefore it is often abbreviated to LXX when written (Greek: septuagint means '70').]

The Macedonian Empire; Palestine under the Ptolemies

2. What two things did Alexander the Great leave behind when he died?
- 1) *A world in which he had disseminated Greek language, culture, and philosophy.*
 - 2) *a fragmented empire [that brought civil war and regional contention].*

The Maccabees

3. What is noteworthy about the Maccabee family?
- A Jewish family, the Maccabees, also known as the Hasmoneans, were able to lead a successful revolt against the Syrian Ptolemies, restore Temple worship, establish peace, and consolidate power into their own political dynasty.*

Roman Rulers in New Testament Times

4. Under whose reign was Jesus born? What were some of his accomplishments?
- 1) *Jesus was born in the reign of Augustus Caesar (27 BC-AD 14) according to Luke 2:1.*
 - 2) *His accomplishments included ending civil war after the assassination of Julius Caesar, bringing many needed reforms, saving resources, encouraging morality, and fortifying the defense of the empire's frontiers.*

The Consolidation of Control

5. What were the benefits of the Roman "provincial system?"
- It allowed Rome to accomplish an outward expansion, bringing Roman authority, government, culture, and peace.*

The Providential Provision of God

6. Describe some aspects of the "providential provision of God" in preparing the way for the Gospel through Greek and Roman influence.
- 1) *The Greek 'trade' language became common throughout the Roman Empire, later enabling clear and rapid communication of the gospel.*
 - 2) *The peace of Rome allowed the gospel to be proclaimed freely. And, people could travel all over the Mediterranean world freely.*

REFLECTION

7. a. Name the three major empires which influenced the Middle East up to the first century.
Persia (including Darius), Greece, and Rome.
- b. Which one do you think contributed the most to the spread of Christianity?

Chapter 2 - The Conception of Christianity

RESPONSE

8. Identify the following:
- a. Torah
Literally, law. A title for the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
 - b. Targum
A collection of the translations of Hebrew Old Testament books into the Aramaic language.
 - c. Talmud
A Hebrew civil and canonical interpretation of the Scriptures.
 - d. Synagogue
[Greek, a gathering, assembly.] It was first established in the homes of the exiles of Babylon. Ten males in a community were needed for a synagogue to be established.
 - e. Pharisees
Literally, 'to be separate.' They wanted to keep the Law perfectly. They first emerged during the Maccabean period during the days of John Hyrcanus (134-104 BC).
 - f. Sadducees
Descended from Zadok (cp. 1 Kings 2:35), the Sadducees became the liberals of their day. They were worldly-minded priests who observed the letter of the Law, but denied essential truths such as the resurrection and

future retribution.

g. Scribes

Their primary job was to copy the Holy Scriptures. They became familiar experts in the Law and teachers of the Law because of their long hours of experience in copying the Law.

h. Zealots.

Radical Jews who would kill Romans at random, hoping to gain freedom through rebellion.

9. From the “Books of the New Testament” chart (page 26), list the five major groupings of the New Testament books.

1) The Gospels, 2) Acts (as history), 3) the Pauline Epistles, 4) the General Epistles, and 5) The Revelation (as prophecy).

Lesson 2 The Synoptic Gospels and Matthew

Chapter 3 - The Synoptic Gospels: Behold the Lamb!

RESPONSE

The Gift of the Gospels

1. On your answer sheet, make four columns as in the chart below. Fill in the chart answering the five questions below for each *Gospel*, using the information in the comparison box (on page 30):
 - a. Who was Jesus portrayed as
 - b. To which audience (world) was the book written
 - c. What characteristic of Jesus is emphasized
 - d. What is a focus of the content in the book: *what Jesus* _____
 - e. What types of events or teachings are mentioned most

Answer:

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
a. <i>The Messiah</i>	<i>A servant</i>	<i>The Perfect Man</i>	<i>The Son of God</i>
b. <i>To the Jewish world</i>	<i>To the Roman world</i>	<i>To the Greek world</i>	<i>To all the world</i>
c. <i>His Authority</i>	<i>His ministry to people</i>	<i>His integrity</i>	<i>His Deity</i>
d. <i>What Jesus <u>said</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>did</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>thought</u></i>	<i>What Jesus <u>was</u></i>
e. <i>Sermons and messages</i>	<i>Miracles</i>	<i>Parables</i>	<i>Personal interviews</i>

A Concise Summary of the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ

2. On your answer sheet, make a small map of “Palestine during the Time of Jesus” (from page 34). Include only the region around the Sea of Galilee. Now locate the cities where Jesus visited from December of AD 27 through the summer of 28.

Cana, Capernaum (Matt. 8:5), Nain, [Gergesenes (Matt. 8:28)], Nazareth (Matt. 9:1), [Bethsaida (Matt. 11:1)]
Cities in brackets are not mentioned in the text, but the advanced student may have included them. [He also visited Jerusalem – not included because not in Galilee.]

Chapter 4 - Matthew: Presenting Christ as the King of the Jews

RESPONSE

Why Written

3. Why did Matthew write the *Gospel According to Matthew*?
Matthew wanted the Jewish people to see that Christ was in fact their promised Messiah, the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies.

Leaving All to Follow the Lord

4. Who was Matthew and what does his name mean?
Little is known of the man named Matthew (lit. gift of God). A tax collector, he was called to be a disciple of Christ. According to legend, he was killed with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, AD 60.

Preparation of the King - Ch. 3 - 4:16

5. Why was Jesus baptized?
Jesus was baptized in order to fulfill the righteousness of the Law (Matt. 3:15), which required priests to be ceremonially cleansed prior to assuming their duties (Ex. 29:4-7; Lev. 8:6-36).

Proclamation of the King - Ch. 4:17 - 9

6. Read Matthew chapters 5-7. What is the overall fundamental principle which Jesus was communicating in the *Sermon on the Mount*?
1) That the righteous requirements of the Law could never be fulfilled in external obedience only, but applied equally to the thoughts and intents of the heart. And, 2) that God demands internal as well as external obedience. [As such, all men are hopelessly guilty of breaking the Law, and are in desperate need of a Savior outside of themselves.]

Program of the King - Ch. 10 - 20

7. Is the Church ultimately built upon Peter or Christ? What is the *true* foundation? Provide Scripture for your answer.
The Church is built upon Christ as the cornerstone. The true foundation is Christ Himself (1 Pet. 2:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11).

Passion of the King - Ch. 21 - 28

8. List the Ecclesiastic, Civil, and Theocratic trials of Christ.
- 1) *Ecclesiastical Trials*
 - Preliminary hearing before Annas (John 18:12-14, 19-23);*
 - Hearing before Caiaphas and select members of the Sanhedrin (Matt 26:57);*
 - Before the whole assembled body of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 27:1-2);*
 - 2) *Civil Trials*
 - Before Pilate (Matt. 27:11-26);*
 - Before Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6-12);*
 - Return to Pilate (Luke 23:11-25);*
 - 3) *Theocratic Trial*
 - At Calvary – God exercised His righteous punishment upon sin.*

REFLECTION

9. Why is the accumulation of money such a compelling attraction to people, despite the evidence that it does not bring happiness?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

10. What does the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection *mean to you personally*?

Lesson 3 Mark and Luke

Chapter 5 - Mark: Presenting Christ as the Servant of All

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. **Briefly** and in your own words, what was John Mark's purpose in writing the *Gospel According to Mark*?
John Mark wanted to reach the Roman world with the good news of redemption [from the penalty of sin through Christ's perfect sacrifice].
2. Realizing that the Romans respected power, what did Mark write about that would have impressed them?
Mark records twenty-eight miracles of the Master to impress his Roman readers that Jesus Christ was powerful, the Son of the Living God. His power exceeded even what the Romans conceived as their own mighty power!

A Young Man of Privilege and Destiny

3. Summarize in one paragraph the life of John Mark.
John Mark came from a wealthy family which enjoyed having its own house and servants. At a young age, he came to faith in Christ and befriended Peter, Paul, and Barnabas. Through his own personal failure he caused an argument to erupt between Paul and Barnabas but was later reconciled to the Apostle to the Gentiles. In the providence of the Lord he was chosen to write a narrative of the life of Christ.

Unity, Division, and Reconciliation

4. a. Why did Paul become upset with John Mark?
Sometime during the First Missionary Journey, John Mark had deserted the company. Whatever the reason, it was not good enough for Paul not to become angry with the young man and not want to take him along on a Second Missionary Journey.
- b. What was the ultimate outcome of their relationship?
Twelve years later Paul was reconciled with John Mark and the past had been forgiven (cp. Col. 4:10 with Philemon 1:24).

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

5. a. Is there evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is factually true? Which of these 25 historical facts do you believe is the best proof? Why?
Yes, the long list of factual events is abundant proof of the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. [The rest is a personal answer.]
- b. What is your overall personal response after reading this account of the resurrection?
Personal answer.

REFLECTION

6. 28 of the 35 miracles performed by Jesus are recorded in the *Gospel According to Mark* (see Appendix One, page 178). Which one of these impresses you the most? Why?

Chapter 6 - Luke: Presenting Christ as the Perfect Man

RESPONSE

Why Written

7. To whom was Luke writing, and why?
Luke wants to reach the Greek mind. The Greeks upheld reason, high achievement, and perfection. Thus Luke emphasizes Jesus' parables, masterful teaching, and His super-human intellect.

The Life of Luke

8. List three things that are known about Luke.
*1) Luke was a close friend of Paul (Phil. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11),
2) he was a man of culture and education, and
3) he was a well respected physician (Col. 4:14).*
9. What was Paul's legal right as a citizen of Rome?

As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to appeal his legal case personally before the court of the Emperor in Rome itself.

Perfect Birth - Ch. 1 - 4:13

10. List five occasions when angels ministered to Christ.

Angels 1) announced His birth (Luke 1:26-37),

2) protected His life during the days of His infancy (Matt. 2:13,20),

3) under-girded Him following His temptation by the Devil (Matt. 4:11),

4) encouraged Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43), and

5) rolled the stone away to let the world in to see the resurrected Lord (Matt. 28:2, 5-7; John 20:11-14).

REFLECTION

11. On three major occasions Jesus prayed (Luke 5:16; 6:12, 9:29). What does His example teach us about the importance of prayer?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

12. Write out your prayer schedule. If you do not have one, would you consider initiating a definite time to be alone with God?

Lesson 4 John: Presenting Christ as the Son of God

From chapter 7 in the book.

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. For what purpose was the *Gospel According to John* written?

John presents Christ as the Son of God in His Deity, to convince all the world that Jesus was who He claimed to be: God Himself! As such, there could be no middle ground to accept Christ as a good teacher: He was either a liar to be rejected, or God Incarnate - to be worshipped and served in all humility!

2. Where does the *Gospel According to John* primarily take place?

In the Temple in Jerusalem, and in the surrounding vicinity.

3. What is the significance of Jesus saying "I Am..." on eight different occasions?

This is a direct confirmation of His Deity, as Jesus repeated the very words of Jehovah God from Exodus 3:14.

This expression in Exodus became the most sacred Jewish name for God: YHWH, or Yahweh (transliterated to Jehovah) – the Self-existent One – the Great I AM. The Jews understood the meaning of His words and sought to kill Him for blasphemy – claiming to be God.

The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved

4. List all the books of the Bible written by John.

1) The Gospel of John, 2) First John, 3) Second John, 4) Third John, 5) The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

John's Journey

5. Describe briefly the heresy of *Gnosticism*. What were its major errors?

In order to explain why men sin, the Gnostics believed that all matter was evil. The spiritual had to be free from everything material. They came to believe that freedom from material sin lay in knowledge of spiritual things, which was only available to the intellectuals. Their major error was in denying the deity of Christ (since He came in the flesh and had a body).

Deity Proclaimed - Ch. 1 - 12

6. Read John 1:1-18, which describes Jesus Christ. In your own words, summarize briefly what this portion of Scripture says about Jesus (who He was and why He came).

Jesus is God, He created all things, He is life itself, He gave light to men's darkness, but He was rejected by men in darkness, yet He gave life to become sons of God to those who receive Him and are born of God (not their own acts), He became flesh in order to declare God to us.

7. List four characteristics of a *Biblical Christian*.

- 1) *He has faced realistically the problem of his own personal sin;*
- 2) *he has seriously considered the one divine remedy for sin;*
- 3) *he has wholeheartedly complied with God's terms for obtaining forgiveness for sin (to "receive" Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord);*
- 4) *he manifests in his life that his claims to repentance and faith are real; i.e., he leads a holy life.*

REFLECTION

8. What transformed John from a "Son of Thunder" into the "Apostle of Love.?"

MAKING IT PERSONAL

9. Is there any evidence that you are a *teachable person* like John, to the point that a portion of your life has been transformed? If so, what is that evidence? Please be specific. (And remember your example - it will encourage someone else later.)

Lesson 5 Acts: Witness to the World

From chapter 8 in the book.

RESPONSE

Introduction

1. What might be a better title for the fifth book of the New Testament? Explain your answer briefly.
The Acts of the Holy Spirit.

The Powerful Personality of Peter

2. Summarize the life of Peter (in less than a half-page).
Peter is presented as a very emotional personality with a penchant for talking (cp. Mark 8:29; Mark 10:28; 11:21; Matt. 15:15; 18:21; Luke 12:41). Many things are known about Peter. He is the son of Jona (John) according to Matthew 16:17; he and his brother, Andrew were partners in a fishing business in Galilee (Mark 1:16); he was married (Mark 1:29-31; 1 Cor. 9:5) and had a residence in Capernaum (Mark 1:21,29). Prior to receiving the call to follow Jesus, Peter had been a disciple of John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). As a disciple of Christ, the name of Peter is listed first in the apostolic roster (Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14; Matt. 10:2). Such preference is appropriate because Peter was a leader among men. He was sometimes singled out for special recognition (Mark 8:29-33) and enjoyed private moments with the Lord. Peter was present when Jesus raised a little girl to health (Mark 5:35-41), at the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-8), and when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:43-50). The worst moment in Peter's life came when he denied the Lord of glory (Mark 14:66-72). However, he was restored to fellowship and given a place of leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:17-19; John 21:15-19; Mark 16:7) in Jerusalem. His wise counsel and leadership allowed him to serve as a unifying force between those who ministered to the Jews and those who ministered to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11)

A Summary of Saul's Salvation (and following)

3. Summarize the life of Paul (in less than a half-page).
Born of Jewish parents (who were also Roman citizens) from the tribe of Benjamin, Paul was reared in the city of Tarsus, in Cilicia. A capable student filled with religious zeal, Paul became "a Hebrew of the Hebrews" (Phil. 3:5). His fervor for the things he loved so dearly would find an inappropriate outlet. As an adult, Paul persecuted those Christians of "The Way" until he was converted to Christ himself, c AD 34. Soon after his salvation, Paul began to preach Christ with the same intensity that he had once reserved for the Law. For Paul, the Law had lost its vitality and validity. Paul came to understand that if belief in Christ was the true object of saving faith, then even the Gentiles could believe. Paul would go and preach to the Gentiles which he did for over thirty years despite much hardship and sorrow. Regarding the end of Paul's life there is little information. He suffered martyrdom under the Roman emperor Nero.

REFLECTION

4. Persecution played a large part of the story of the Church in Acts. In what ways do average Christians suffer [that they are able to enter into the kingdom of God - see Acts 14:22].

5. Should Christians actively seek the following (explain each answer):
 - a. the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. bold witnessing that might trigger persecution?
6. What impresses you about Paul's three missionary journeys? Why?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

7. Please share the account of someone you have personally witnessed to recently. If you have not given witness to Christ lately, state why that might be. (*If you do not know how to witness, please ask for spiritual counsel in this area from someone you trust.*)

Lesson 6 Romans through 2 Corinthians

Chapter 9 - Romans: Faith Alone

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. What was Paul's purpose in writing *The Epistle to the Romans*?
He hoped to visit them after traveling to Jerusalem, and therefore wanted to prepare them. Thus he sets out the most complete and well-developed presentation of the great fundamental Christian doctrines [the nature of sin, Christ's redemption, our justification, identification with Christ in His death and new life, the victorious Christian life via the Holy Spirit, assurance of salvation, and principles for holy living].

From Ruin to Redemption - Ch. 1 - 5

2. Read Romans chapters 3-5. How can a man be declared righteous before God?
By putting his whole trust (belief) in the finished work of Christ at Calvary (where Christ's shed blood was the acceptable sacrifice to pay for all his sin), depending not in even one small bit on his own works to earn God's favor, accepting God's gift as an act of His free grace.
[Note to graders: if the answer is off track, suggest to us to send a booklet on basic salvation.]

From the Self-life to the Christ-life - Ch. 6 - 8

3. What was Paul's answer to the problem: "if sin causes God's grace to abound, it seems that it is OK to go on sinning?"
No!! We are dead to sin via new birth into Christ's life. How then can we still live in sin?!
[Note to graders: if the answer is off track, suggest to us to send a booklet on holy living.]

From Duty to Devotion - Ch. 12 - 16

4. Read Romans 13:1-6.
 - a. What does God require of you toward authorities in your life? Are there any exceptions mentioned?
To submit to all authorities, without exception in the Romans instructions. We know from Acts 5:29 that there is one exception: when men command us to directly violate God's commands in Scripture. [If we are to claim Acts 5:29, the key is that our motivations must be Spirit-filled and not selfish in any way.]
 - b. Who are the authorities that God has placed over you?
Personal answer [hopefully to include: God Himself, government authority (and prison officials if incarcerated), church authority, employers, and family (if not a head of own household)].
 - c. Are you practicing what Romans 13:1-6 commands? What changes will you make?
Personal answer.

REFLECTION

5. Why is salvation by grace through *faith alone* rejected by so many in favor of a works-oriented salvation?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

6. Please write out a *brief* statement as to why you believe you are saved, and on what basis you hope to enter heaven.

Chapter 10 - 1 Corinthians: The Cross for the Church

RESPONSE

A City Called Corinth

7. In your own words, what is a brief history of Corinth?

Originally a Phoenician settlement, Corinth enjoyed an ancient history. The Greeks came to dominate the city and the region. In 146 BC Corinth was destroyed by the legions of Rome. One hundred years later, in 46 BC, the Romans rebuilt the city in pure white marble under the imperial order of Julius Caesar.

Why Written

8. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians?

The Corinthian believers, after straying far away from holiness, had received Paul's 'lost letter' and made some changes. But the people still had major problems in their church, and they had asked Paul a number of questions as well. So Paul writes them 1) to admonish them to correct real problems, and 2) to answer their questions about church practices.

Overview of 1 Corinthians

9. List at least ten problems that the church in Corinth faced.

Paul admonished them for their problems: 1) favoring one man over another(1:10-16), 2) relying on human wisdom (1:17-2:31), 3) carnality – allowing themselves to be motivated and enjoy the old lusts of the fleshly nature (3:1-22), 4) incest (5:1-13), 5) going to court (6:1-8), 6) promiscuous sexual indulgence (6:9-20),

In addition, Paul tried to answer some of their questions about church practices: 7) marriage (7:10-40), 8) “gray areas” – in this case eating meats sacrificed to idol (8:1-9 cp. 10:14-33), 9) giving (9:1-14), 10) the danger of falling away (9:15-27), 11) abuses at the Lord's Table (11:20-34), 12) misuse of spiritual gifts (12:1-31), and 13) misunderstood doctrine regarding the resurrection of our Lord(15:1-58).

10. Read 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ important?

Because without His bodily resurrection, then all that Scripture promises regarding our own resurrection after physical death into glorified bodies – this must also be false. Then Christians of all people are to be pitied, living lives separated from the world based on a false hope. The historic bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is all important to the believer.

REFLECTION

11. Is it possible for a church (such as Corinth) to be both spiritual *and* wicked at the same time? Explain your answer.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

12. In *your own* pursuit of holiness, what personal standards have you established (even if others might consider them to be “legalistic”)?

Chapter 11 - 2 Corinthians: Ministry in the Church

RESPONSE

Why Written

13. Why did Paul write *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians*?

With news that the Corinthians had repented of their errors, and had returned to a respect for Paul, he writes to encourage them and inform them of his (and their future) sufferings, giving an account of his ministry, appealing to his converts to keep themselves pure, and answering his critics (labeling them as 'false prophets').

The Pain of Paul

14. Briefly describe the sufferings of Paul in your own words.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Men plotted to kill him in Damascus | Acts 9:24 |
| 2. Others plotted to kill him in Jerusalem | Acts 9:29 |
| 3. He was to be stoned in Iconium | Acts 14:5 |
| 4. He was stoned and left for dead in Lystra | Acts 14:19 |
| 5. In Philippi he was beaten with rods and put in stocks | Acts 16:23,24 |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 6. <i>In Thessalonica a mob tried to destroy him</i> | <i>Acts 17:5</i> |
| 7. <i>He was driven out of Berea</i> | <i>Acts 17:13,14</i> |
| 8. <i>He was plotted against in Corinth</i> | <i>Acts 18:12</i> |
| 9. <i>In Ephesus he was almost killed</i> | <i>Acts 19:29; 2 Cor. 1:8,9</i> |
| 10. <i>In Corinth again, shortly after writing 2 Corinthians, his death was again plotted</i> | <i>Acts 20:3</i> |
| 11. <i>In Jerusalem, a mob would have killed Paul had not the Roman soldiers intervened</i> | <i>Acts 22</i> |
| 12. <i>He was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years.</i> | |
| 13. <i>He was imprisoned in Rome for two more years.</i> | |
| 14. <i>Unrecorded sufferings: beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks, personal deprivation</i> | <i>2 Cor. 11:23-27</i> |
| 15. <i>Finally, Paul was taken to Rome to be executed</i> | <i>2 Tim. 2:9</i> |

Paul's Account of His Ministry

15. Describe the differences between the *gospel* and the *law*.

One was written on the heart, the other on stone. One was of the Spirit, the other was of the letter. One was unto life, the other unto death. One was unveiled, the other was veiled (or hidden). One was unto righteousness, the other was unto condemnation. One remains while the other passes.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

16. What are you willing to endure *personally* for the sake of the gospel?

Lesson 7 Galatians and Ephesians

Chapter 12 - Galatians: Life in Liberty

RESPONSE

Grace for the Gauls

1. Who were the Galatians?

In the third century BC, a group of people who had originally migrated westward into Macedonia and Greece from north of the Black Sea settled in the north central part of Asia Minor. The Greeks called these new settlers Galatai, from which the name Galatians is derived. By 25 BC this section of Asia Minor and all its inhabitants had been taken over by the Romans under the rule of Augustus Caesar.

Why Written

2. What doctrinal issue facing this church caused *The Epistle to the Galatians* to be written?

Initially, the Galatians had been received into the Church apart from the rite of circumcision, and without any obligation to keep the Jewish ceremonial law. Baptism had been administered. But then Jewish Christians in the Church at Antioch (who had come to faith but who were also legalistic) challenged the practice of accepting Gentiles into the Church without insisting that they observe the Jewish law (Acts 15:1). The situation became serious as the whole issue was debated and individuals took sides.

The True Gospel - Ch. 3 - 4

3. What was the purpose of the Law?

The Law was only a caretaker until Christ came. The Law had no life to give. Only Christ can give life and that more abundantly. Christ gives life by grace through faith, alone (cp. Eph. 2:8-9). No man has ever been justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

True Freedom - Ch. 5 - 6

4. Summarize in a few words the *works of the flesh* and the *works of the Spirit*.

The works of the flesh are selfish sins: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, jealousy, wrath, strife, division, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, reveling.

The works of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

[Note to graders: it is not necessary for the student to list all of these. Even a summary of the general nature of the two will suffice.]

REFLECTION

5. Are Christians who look to God's grace "lawless"? If not, by which laws do *you* believe true Christians live? Explain your answer.

Chapter 13 - Ephesians: Union with Christ

RESPONSE

Why Written

6. Why did Paul write *The Epistle to the Ephesians*?
Paul wanted to encourage the Ephesians (and possibly other churches) that they must continually uphold the magnificence of Christ and the true doctrines of the Christian faith, and attend to their application, in order to avoid drifting into error. He first writes an unhindered meditation on the magnificence of our riches in Christ, regarding union with Christ personally, and then focuses on unity in the Christian Church through practical application.

Union Obtained - Ch. 1 - 3

7. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Summarize briefly what this says about the true Christian who knows Jesus Christ.
God has abundantly blessed His children with every spiritual blessing (just as we will have in heaven itself), to this end He has chosen us, redeemed us, and adopted us into His family, all by grace.
8. For what purpose does Paul say God saves souls?
God has saved souls in order that they "should be to the praise of His glory" (1:12).

Union Maintained - Ch. 4 - 6

9. What relationship is marriage designed to illustrate?
Husbands and wives must love and respect one another (with agape love, 5:22-23). By doing this they will model the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church (5:25,32). Parents and children are to live in harmony as well (6:1-4).
10. Read Ephesians 6. List the Divine weapons of warfare.
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Loins girded</i> | <i>Truth</i> |
| <i>Breastplate</i> | <i>Righteousness</i> |
| <i>Sandals</i> | <i>Peace</i> |
| <i>Shield</i> | <i>Faith</i> |
| <i>Helmet</i> | <i>Salvation</i> |
| <i>Sword</i> | <i>The Word</i> |

REFLECTION

11. If true saving faith is revealed in a life of delightful following-after Christ in His holy ways, why do many Christians feel that the Christian life is restraining, and that "non-Christians seem to have more fun?"

Lesson 8 Philippians and Colossians

Chapter 14 - Philippians: Joy in Unity

RESPONSE

Historical Background

1. Summarize the historical background of the city of Philippi.
The city of Philippi was established on the great Roman road, the Egnatian Highway, connecting it to the important trade routes of the East. The city of Philippi was named after Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, when he became king of Macedonia by force in 359 BC. In 42 BC, the historic battle of Philippi took place between Romans Brutus and Cassius, who allied themselves against Antony and Octavian, avengers of the death of Julius Caesar. In 31 BC Octavian defeated his former ally, Antony, in a historic naval battle. As a Roman colony, Philippi enjoyed all the special privileges of Roman citizens everywhere.

The Church at Philippi

2. How was the church at Philippi established?

During his Second Missionary Journey (AD 50-54), Paul, accompanied by Silas and Timothy, had a vision in the night (Acts 16:9) to preach the gospel in Macedonia (Acts 16). In obedience, Paul and his party traveled to Neapolis, the port of Philippi, proceeding on foot to Philippi. Along the river bank a place of prayer had been established, where a woman named Lydia and others had gathered. As Paul preached the gospel, the Lord opened the heart of Lydia. She opened her home to others so that a new church could be established.

Why Written

3. Why did Paul have a special relationship with the church at Philippi?

Those who came to faith under Paul's ministry in Philippi appreciated his labors of love. To show their appreciation, they sent Paul needed money: twice while in Thessalonica (Phil. 4:16), and again when he was at Corinth (2 Cor. 11:9).

4. What is an important theme of Philippians? Explain your answer.

Joy! Paul will exhort the believers to "rejoice in the Lord!" The theme is joy because "joy" is used often, and it is returned to as a topic in several places.

Joy in Unity - Ch. 2

5. a. Read Philippians 2:5-11 several times. In your own words, summarize what this says about Jesus.

Jesus voluntarily humbled Himself as a servant, setting us the great example. He was obedient to the will of the Father even unto death at the cross. Because of this, God has highly exalted Him, that at the name of Jesus every knee everywhere shall bow to honor Him as Lord.

b. What does this mean to you personally?

Personal answer.

Note to graders: here again is an opportunity to suggest to us appropriate tracts or booklets to send: on salvation, the cross, humility, or the glory of Christ.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

6. Would you consider yourself a "happy" person? If not, why not?

Chapter 15 - Colossians: Complete in Christ

RESPONSE

Why Written

7. Why was *The Epistle to the Colossians* written?

The motive for the writing of the letter to the Colossians was concern about Jewish teachers trying to mingle the works of the Law with the grace of the gospel (2:11, 16). The Judaizers had found fertile soil in Colossae. With the demand to observe the ceremonial law, stress was being laid on the importance of observing special days, such as the Sabbath, the new moon, and the feast day. Rules and regulations had been imposed on drinks and food. Once more the all-sufficiency of Christ for salvation was being undermined with a subtle appeal to the flesh: to earn God's favor (already granted based entirely on the merit of Christ) through good works.

Pre-eminence of Christ - Ch. 1

8. Read Colossians 1:11-27 several times. How are the riches of God's glory displayed according to Colossians 1:27?

God's glory is displayed via Christ being found in the hearts of Christians.

The Deity of Christ in Colossians

9. What does *Colossians* say about the deity of Christ?

By many strong statements the deity of Christ is affirmed (Col. 1:15-20; 2:9-10). He is declared to be:

- 1) *The Image of the invisible God*
- 2) *The First-born of all creation*
- 3) *All things are created through Him*
- 4) *He is before all things*
- 5) *In Him all things consist (i.e., hold together)*
- 6) *Head of the body, the Church*

- 7) *The Beginning*
- 8) *The First-born from the dead*
- 9) *In Him all fullness dwells*
- 10) *Through Him all things are reconciled.*
- 11) *Christ in you is the hope of glory*
- 12) *In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*
- 13) *In Him dwells all the fullness of Godhead bodily*
- 14) *In Him you are complete (lit. brought to perfection)*
- 15) *The head of all principality and power.*

[Note to graders: again, the student's answer does not need to be exhaustive. It is enough if he includes a few of these points, or even writes a general summary statement.]

Lesson 9 1 and 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 16 - 1 Thessalonians: The Second Coming

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. Why was *The First Epistle to the Thessalonians* written?
After visiting Thessalonica for less than four weeks during the Third Missionary Journey, Paul was concerned for their welfare, and sent Timothy to them. Timothy reported that they were witnessing boldly and growing in number, but facing both persecution from without, and misconception from within. Paul responds with this letter to address two main issues: 1) personal attacks against Paul, and 2) misconceptions about the second coming, that if a Christian died before the second coming, he would not participate in God's kingdom. His response is both to encourage and to instruct them, including telling the truth about himself.

The Second Coming of Christ - Ch. 4 - 5

2. Based on the review in this section, what are the basic facts we know in the New Testament about the second coming of Christ?
1) Jesus is coming again, 2) no one knows when nor will anyone ever know when, 3) the believer is not to speculate on the matter, but is to be watchful and ready, the Lord will come suddenly, 4) believers who have died will rise first, 5) believers who are alive will be given a glorified bodies.
3. When the Lord comes again the second time (Heb. 9:28) for all who believe, who shall be the first to greet Him?
"The dead in Christ shall rise first" – 1 Thes. 4:16.
4. While Christians are waiting for the Lord to come again, what should they be doing?
While Christians wait for the Blessed Hope of the Second Coming of Christ, they are to maintain good works and restrain themselves from all forms of immorality (4:1-8).

REFLECTION

5. Why do good Christian people continue to set dates for the return of Christ despite the biblical prohibition to do so, and despite the total failure of all past predictions?
6. The death of a believer is likened unto "sleep" in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Why?

Chapter 17 - 2 Thessalonians: Judgment to Come

RESPONSE

Why Written

7. What was the initial reaction of the believers at Thessalonica to Paul's first letter?
When Paul sent his first epistle to the Thessalonians from the city of Corinth, he thought he had answered their questions concerning the Second Coming of Christ. However, new concerns had arisen for two main reasons. First, Paul's teachings in the first letter had been misunderstood. Second, an erroneous teaching had been seriously considered (2 Thess. 2:2).

8. What erroneous teaching had the Church been confused by? How did this come about?
It was being suggested that the Lord had already come again, because their severe sufferings were understood as the judgmental wrath of God!

Watching - Ch. 2

9. How did Paul prove that the Second Coming of Christ was still impending?
Paul points out that the Second Coming of Christ could not have occurred because there had not been a falling away from the faith, nor the revelation of the son of perdition (2:3). Furthermore, when the Lord does come, He will righteously judge those who have dared to hurt His people (1:7-10).

Working - Ch. 3

10. What is to be the attitude of the Church towards those who will not work?
If a man will not engage in honest labor, he should not eat (3:10). Paul himself set the example of not being idle nor taking advantage of the goodness of God's people (3:8).

MAKING IT PERSONAL

11. Is there any doctrinal truth that you were mistaught? How did the Lord correct your understanding? Please be specific.
[Note to graders: what a good opportunity to suggest literature related to the doctrine mentioned.]

Lesson 10 The Pastoral Epistles

Chapter 18 - 1 Timothy: Protect the Gospel

RESPONSE

The Tenderness of Timothy

1. Briefly, who was Timothy?
1) *Timothy was a native of Lystra, in the province of Galatia.*
2) *He was the son of Eunice and the grandson of Lois - who were devout Christians.*
3) *His father was a Greek.*
4) *From a child, Timothy had been exposed to those teachings which lead to salvation.*
5) *He was allowed to become a traveling companion with Paul and engage in the work of the ministry during the Apostle's Second and Third Missionary Journeys.*

Why Written

2. Why was *The First Epistle to Timothy* written?
[Between two possible imprisonments in Rome, Paul likely made a trip to visit churches in Asia Minor and possibly Spain. If there was only one Roman imprisonment, then the letter was written from Rome.] Paul left Timothy in Ephesus, and wrote this letter with practical instructions: how to behave as a pastor in order to put this church into vital condition, so that it could withstand the troubles ahead.

Principles for the Pastor - Ch. 4 - 6

3. What is the true origin of much false teaching?
The true origin of much false teaching is nothing less than demonism (1 Tim. 4:1).
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16. What specific directives are given to those who would be individuals of integrity?
Individuals who would have integrity are: 1) to flee from the love of money; 2) to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness; 3) and to lay hold on eternal life.

Chapter 19 - 2 Timothy: Preach the Gospel

RESPONSE

Why Written

5. Why can 2 Timothy be called "The Last Letter"?

Shortly after communicating with Timothy, Paul was brought to trial and executed. It is probably the last letter he ever wrote.

Last Words - Ch. 4

6. Why did Alexander the coppersmith rush to Rome?

This is probably the same Alexander of Ephesus whom Paul had delivered unto Satan (1 Tim. 1:20). Now, Alexander had a chance to retaliate and so he did Paul “much evil” by testifying against him.

REFLECTION

7. Is it “fair” that a man who had arrested innocent people and thrown them in jail, a man who stood by while another was killed, and who hurt many without mercy, is it “right” that such a man be saved and honored in the end?

Note to graders: please suggest the booklet “How to Be Free from Bitterness” if needed.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

8. Do you have the capacity to forgive and love those who have wounded you, like Paul once wounded the Church, or is your love and forgiveness conditional in that you are waiting on an apology from the offender?

Chapter 20 - Titus: Teach the Gospel

RESPONSE

Why Written

9. What was Titus to do in the church on the island of Crete?

In addition to bringing organizational stability to the church in Crete, Titus was to silence those of “the circumcision party” (or the Judaizers, 1:10-16).

Who to Be Teachers - Ch. 1

10. List the qualifications for being an elder in a church.

An Elder must 1) be blameless, 2) not self-willed, 3) not soon angry, 4) not given to wine, 5) no striker, 6) not a lover of money, 7) a lover of hospitality, 8) a lover of good men, 9) sober, 10) just, 11) holy, 12) temperate [self-controlled], 13) one who has held fast the faithful word as he has been taught, and 14) able to exhort [convince] the gainsayers [opposition].

11. What did the Judaizers teach?

The Judaizers (1:10-16) argued for circumcision as a sign of spirituality, and then went on to teach “Jewish fables”(1:14).

MAKING IT PERSONAL

12. Do you have a servant’s heart or is there a secret, intangible, but very real impulse to “be in charge?”

[Note to graders: suggest material on “humility” if appropriate.]

Chapter 21 - Philemon: Grace in Practice

RESPONSE

Why Written

13. Describe or define the following:

a. Apphia

was probably the wife of Philemon.

b. Ahippus

may have been the son of Philemon, and perhaps a pastor of the assembly.

c. Philemon

a leader in the church at Colossae, and a wealthy man.

d. Onesimus

a slave of Philemon, who stole money from his master and ran away to Rome.

e. “beloved fellow worker”

Philemon

- f. “profitable.”
Onesimus, the converted runaway slave

REFLECTION

14. a. Summarize the story that is told in *Philemon*.
Paul, while imprisoned in Rome, receives Onesimus as a new convert. Onesimus is a runaway slave, who was therefore subject to whatever cruel punishment the owner might choose, often tortuous death. The master is Philemon, a leader in the Colossae church whom Paul knows and loves from Ephesus. Paul sends this letter (probably at the same time as the Colossian letter) with Onesimus as he returns in repentance to Philemon. Paul encourages Philemon to apply the Ephesian letter's principles of union with Christ, and unity (and forgiveness) among the brethren. The manner of Paul's presentation is an example of spiritual leadership, tact, and diplomacy.
- b. What is its main lesson to you personally?
Personal answer, hopefully to include forgiveness.

Lesson 11 Hebrews and James

Chapter 22 - Hebrews: Drawing Near

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. Explain the driving purpose for the writing of *Hebrews*.
Many Jews who professed faith in Christ, continued to participate in the Temple worship. When Nero began persecuting Christians, it became clear that Judaism would continue as a protected religion, but that Christians would be expelled from all Jewish rites (including the Temple), and persecuted as well. These professing Christians were therefore forced to make a choice: to return to Judaism, or to continue to follow Christ. The writer explains and exhorts them to continue on with Christ to make their faith sure, because He is superior to the Old Testament practices in every way.

Christ's Sacrifice as Our Priest - Ch. 5 - 10

2. Identify the following:
- a. Melchizedek priesthood
This priesthood stands from before time and is everlasting, in contrast to the Levitical priesthood established under the Mosaic Law, which fades away.
- b. New Covenant (read Hebrews 8:8-13 several times).
The Old Covenant of Works was in reality a Covenant of Death, because men could not fulfill their good works to receive God's blessing. The New Covenant is written upon a heart of flesh by the finger of God. It includes God's putting His laws into our minds and hearts, whereby all His children may know Him, and He will remember our sins no more because of Christ's finished work on the cross.
3. In what way is Christ superior to angels, prophets, high priests, and the leaders of Israel?
*Christ is superior to angels in that He is the Son of God.
Christ is superior to the prophets for He is the One of whom the prophets spoke.
Christ is superior to the High Priest for He has an eternal ministration in heaven.
Christ is superior to the Leaders of Israel for they all died and were limited in wisdom, power and ability.
In all these areas He is without precedent.*

Christ's Sufficiency as Our Provision - Ch. 11 - 13

4. Read Hebrews 11. What lessons do you learn here about “faith?”
*Personal answer, hopefully to include some of the following:
Faith is the basis of 1) our hope and 2) spiritual reality. It is by faith that we can come to God through the sacrificial blood of Christ (like Cain). We please God by acting in faith, knowing that He is our reward as we seek Him. When we obey God's commands, not knowing the outcome in our circumstances, we are acting by*

faith (like Abraham). By faith we do not look to this world for our satisfaction, but to Christ and the celestial city. By faith we refuse sin's pleasure (like Moses). By faith we trust God to do His will, even work miracles. By faith we endure suffering, trusting God no matter what.

[Note to graders: remember, short student answers are also acceptable.]

The Temple and the Destruction of Jerusalem

5. In two or three sentences, describe the circumstances during AD 66 to 70 surrounding the destruction of the Second Temple.

Jewish zealots in Jerusalem rebelled against the Roman Empire in AD 66. The Roman legions under Titus laid siege in AD 70, trapping 600,000 inside the city walls. There was massive starvation. Five months later the walls were broken through, and most of those remaining were killed – more from the murderous zealots than by the hands of the Romans.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

6. *Hebrews* is among the longer of the New Testament epistles. But it develops step-by-step, unfolding a beautiful progression of understanding. What value is there in reading a book of the Bible in its entirety at one sitting? Would you be willing to make an effort, if it is not now your practice, to read a book of the Bible in its entirety in one sitting? Which one will be your first reading?

Chapter 23 - James: Faith Proven by Works

RESPONSE

James “the Just”

7. a. Distinguish between the four men named James in the New Testament.
Four men in the New Testament bear the name of James. They are James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, James the son of Alphaeus, James the brother of Jesus, and James the father of the Apostle Jude.
- b. Describe the author of *James*.
After refusing to follow Jesus (his older half-brother) during His life on earth, James was saved of God and became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. He was called “the Just” because he was a man of good works and prayer; and history records he was martyred for refusing to deny Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

Why Written and Test of Works - Ch. 2

8. Explain the harmony that exists between the *Epistle of James* and the *Epistle to the Romans* in the matter of works and faith.

*While Romans stresses our **position** in Christ, James places great emphasis on our walk with Christ: the **practical** outworking of an inward state of grace evidenced in a holy life. “Faith without works is death.”*

Test of Words - Ch. 3

9. a. Read James chapter 3. Why is this emphasis on the words which come out of our mouths so important?
Because 1) our words reflect what is in our hearts, and 2) it is with our words that we so often offend others and start unnecessary conflicts.
- b. Do you need to work on this area? If so, what will you do to become more obedient with the use of your mouth?
Personal answer.

REFLECTION

10. Once Christians asked, “How close can I get to heaven and still miss it?” Today, it seems that Christians ask, “How far away can I stray from the Christian life and still get to heaven?” What are the implications of this shifting of emphasis on practical Christianity?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

11. Do people know that *you* are a Christian by your works? Because you have been asked, please share some “works” which testify to saving grace in your own soul.

Lesson 12 1 Peter through Jude

Chapter 24 - 1 Peter: Partakers of Christ's Sufferings

RESPONSE

Why Written

1. Why was *The First Epistle of Peter* written?
The churches in Asia Minor were facing the threat of suffering after Nero blamed the fire in Rome on the Christians in 65 AD. Peter, in Rome and facing his own prosecution, writes to reassure and instruct these believers on how to react in suffering: look to heaven for hope that brings courage to persevere.
2. Why should Christians not think it strange to suffer persecution for righteousness sake?
The Lord is the Church's Example. The people of Christ must therefore endure hardships patiently (2:20), and without retaliating in kind (3:9). In the end, God the Father will reward the righteous and judge those who do evil (3:12).

Overview of 1 Peter

3. List three things the believer should remember in the midst of suffering.
First, all suffering has a purpose though at times it is not easy to discern what that purpose might be (1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:14).
Second, suffering is to be expected (4:12).
Third, suffering is not to be dreaded or avoided (3:14), but is to be endured patiently (2:23; 3:9), with a measure of rejoicing (4:13).

MAKING IT PERSONAL

4. Grade yourself on the following question:
"How well do you endure unjust and unnecessary suffering and slander?" (Pick one of the following 'grades' and explain your choice.)
 - A Very well. Willing to forgive. Willing to pray for enemies. No feelings of bitterness. Genuine love. Willing to establish fellowship if the opportunity arises. Believe that the Lord has something better. Willing to rejoice in suffering.
 - B Better than average. Fluctuating between feelings of retaliation and releasing the situation to move on in life. Defensive at times; non-defensive at other times. Will *consider* a lawsuit. In the end, will do what is right and offer prayers and seek to be reconciled if possible. Will do good to all others given an opportunity.
 - C Average. Willing to forgive but will never forget. Less trusting in future relationships. In the end, will move on still loving the Lord, still going to church, and still faithful to the Word but always hope that *no* more tribulations will come.
 - D Disgraceful. Will write letters of defense. Will try to retaliate, if not in kind, in some definite way. Might leave the church for a while.
 - F Total failure. Furious every time the situation is thought of, and it is thought of often. Willing to get other people to take offense. Want nothing more to do with Christians or the church.

Chapter 25 - 2 Peter: Knowledge of Our Lord

RESPONSE

Why Written

5. Why was *The Second Epistle of Peter* written?
Knowing that false teachers would be coming among those who profess to know the Lord, Peter prepares and warns the general Church to stand firm against them, and to hold fast to the true knowledge of God.

True Knowledge: Explained - Ch. 1

6. What two ways can Christians know for sure of their salvation?
 - 1) *First, there must be a partaking of the divine nature by faith (1:4).*
 - 2) *The fruit of righteousness must be manifested.*

False Knowledge: Exposed - Ch. 2

7. Give the characteristics of false teachers.
False teachers are characterized by covetousness (2:3), sensuality (2:10), ruthlessness (2:12), with eyes full of

adultery (2:14). False teachers are servants of corruption (2:19).

Chapter 26 - 1 John: Fellowship with Christ

RESPONSE

Why Written

8. Briefly, why was *The First Epistle of John* written?
John wrote to warn the Christians to reject the errors of Gnosticism, and that the Christians should not sin (2:1). Nor should they be deceived. As an apostle, John was determined that all teachers be tested for the truth (4:1). Finally, with a pastor's heart John wanted the Christians to have assurance of their salvation (5:11-13).
9. Define the "incarnation" of Jesus.
"Incarnation" means to become human. It is the key to Christ's fulfilling the law: He is God, yet He became fully man in order to teach us, to set an example for us, and perfectly to obey the law (qualifying Him to become a sacrifice without blemish).

Overview of 1 John

10. What is the basis of joy according to John?
True joy does not come from circumstances, but from communion with Christ, and fellowship with other believers.

REFLECTION

11. Do you think that it is presumptuous for a person to claim to know for certain that they are truly saved and will go to heaven when they die? Explain.
[Note to graders: here is an opportunity to send literature related to assurance.]

MAKING IT PERSONAL

12. 1 John 2:1 says that the Word of God is written that "you sin not" or literally, that "you may commit no act of sin." Most conservative Bible teachers believe that the reference here is to *habitual sin*: sin that is on-going in your normal lifestyle. If you find yourself continuing to commit a certain sin, please be encouraged to seek *spiritual* help. Confession to someone you can trust is one of the first steps to freedom and recovery. It is also the most difficult.
Have you responded to this instruction to deal with a habitual sin by becoming accountable to a mature Christian whom you can trust?

Chapter 27 - 2 John: Walking in Truth

RESPONSE

Why Written

13. Identify the "elect lady?"
It is possible that John has a specific woman in mind. That would not be surprising for women played a vital role in the early church. However, it is also possible that John writes in veiled language as a pastor to his people – where the Church itself is considered in feminine terms (note Eph. 5:23-33).

Overview of 2 John

14. What is the main message of 2 John?
There were false teachers (cp. 1 John 2:18-29) in the early assemblies who would go from church to church, and teach doctrines in the name of Christ which were in reality destructive of the Christian faith. John wants the Church to be aware of such things and refuse hospitality to false teachers.
15. How is the word "truth" used by John?
The word "truth" is important to John, as it was important to Jesus (who said "I am the Truth, the Way, and the Life" and also said "the Truth shall set you free"). John writes of loving those who are in Truth (1:1), and of others who know the Truth (1:1). He speaks of the Truth which dwells in the saints (1:2), and of grace, mercy, peace coming in Truth (1:3). John rejoices that the saints are found to be walking in Truth (1:4), and embracing Truth (by which he means the doctrines of Christ). That is important, for those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ "hath not God" (1:9).

Chapter 28 - 3 John: Hospitality

RESPONSE

Why Written and Overview of 3 John

16. What practical problem does 3 John discuss?

Just as John had written in 2 John to exhort the extreme of too open hospitality, he now writes Gaius to encourage him that Diotrephes was erring on the opposite extreme of too narrow hospitality. Diotrephes was encouraging closed doors to anyone who disagreed with him, on even minor doctrines, in order to maintain a position of power out of a motive of pride. Paul points out that we should maintain fellowship with those who agree with us on the cardinal doctrines, even when there is minor variation in beliefs on other doctrines.

17. Identify the following:

a. Gaius

Gaius was native of Macedonia, a traveling companion of Paul, and possibly a pastor.

b. Diotrephes

Diotrephes was a church leader in the same city as Gaius. He did not love the brethren, because he denied hospitality to Paul's representatives over minor issues.

c. Demetrius

Demetrius was a man whose living testimony bore witness to the truth of redeeming grace.

Chapter 29 - Jude: Keep from Falling

RESPONSE

Why Written

18. What topic did Jude write about?

Jude wanted to write about the common salvation (1:3), but decided to write and exhort the Church to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," rejecting false teachers.

Danger - :1-16

19. What were the specific sins of the false teachers?

First, they fail to remember past judgments of God illustrated by the Israelites in the wilderness (1:5), by the fallen angels (1:6), and by the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrha (1:7).

Second, they dream filthy dreams for they are spiritually asleep (1:8).

Third, they defile the flesh with sexual immorality (1:8).

Fourth, they despise authority including that of God's Word. They speak evil of earthly and heavenly dignitaries (1:8). These teachers of falsehood are self-willed (Gen. 4:3-8). They will not accept the substitutionary work of Christ but go about to establish their own religion.

Duty - :17-25

20. How can spiritual truth be recognized?

Spiritual truth can be recognized in that it magnifies the person and work of Jesus Christ, and promotes holiness. Titus 1:1 speaks of "the truth which is after godliness."

Lesson 13 The Revelation: Christ Is Lord!

Based on chapter 30 in the book.

RESPONSE

The Last Letter

1. List the four methods which have been used to interpret the *Book of The Revelation*. Briefly explain each (in one sentence).

a. The Revelation is spiritual in nature. There is a spiritual basic conflict between the Church and the forces of

evil.

- b. The Revelation is historical. Most of the events have been fulfilled historically.
- c. The Revelation is a summary of successive ages. It reveals the unfolding of Church history (as seen from the vantage point of time).
- d. The Revelation is futuristic. The key verse is Revelation 1:9.

2. What is a key factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced?

One important factor for deciding which method of interpretation should be embraced is the dating of The Revelation. If a late date theory is held (c. AD 90), then it is possible that all that John saw is in the futuristic view. However, if an early date (c. prior to AD 70) of The Revelation can be established, then a good argument can be made that what John saw would happen actually has happened (historical view).

An Unusual Style of Writing

3. Briefly describe Apocalyptic literature.

Apocalyptic literature is an unusual style of writing. The purpose of the writer was to unveil a particular meaning by using signs and symbols. Its pattern is that certain themes occurred over and over again. These include the re-gathering of scattered Jews to the Holy City (Isa. 27:12,13), the resurrection of the dead (Dan. 12:2,3), a New Jerusalem to replace the old (destroyed by Babylon), the reign of the Messiah from the Holy City, a glorious age to come, and a united Israel with all the tribes re-gathered (Jer. 3:18; Isa. 11:13; Hos. 1:11).

In the age to come, the world would be fertile like the Garden of Eden (Isa.32:15; 51:3; 35:1), all wars would cease (Isa. 2:4), nature would be at peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Hos. 2:18), and there would be no more pain or sorrow (Jer. 31:12; Isa. 35:10; 65:10-22).

The Spiritual Significance of Special Numbers

4. How are numbers used in *The Revelation*?

As The Book of the Revelation uses a special style of writing, it also uses numbers in a symbolic way, especially four, twelve, seven, and a thousand. In The Revelation we find four living creatures, four horsemen, and four angels; twelve elders, twelve gates to the city of God, twelve foundations, and twelve varieties of fruit on the tree of life. The number seven places a significant role. According to Hebrew tradition, this number spoke of completeness. There are seven messages to the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22) which are mentioned by name. There are Seven Seals (6:1-17) and Seven Trumpets (8:6-11:19), as well as Seven Personages (12:1-14:20), Seven Vials (Bowls) of God's Wrath (16:1-21), and Seven Final Judgments (17:1-20:15). Finally, there are Seven Wonderful Blessings (21:1-22:5).

In like manner, a thousand also means perfection or completeness (cp. Psalm 90:4). The Church is pictured as being complete reflected in twelve thousand being saved from each of the twelve tribes of [spiritual?] Israel (7:1-8). And Satan is bound for a thousand years that "he should deceive the nations no more" (20:3). In a negative sense, the number 3 1/2 is associated with Satan (11:2; 13:5). We read of a 42 month (or 3 1/2 year) period. This number is designed to symbolize man's attempting to diminish the glory and power of God.

The Content and Place of The Revelation

5. What is the overall message of *The Revelation*?

The overall message of The Revelation is "God is all-powerful." It gives us hope in that God's kingdom with His saints is irrevocably established. And we see more of truth: the true heart of man apart from God is hatred of God, and the true heart of God toward man is long-suffering, mercy, and just hatred of sin. The book brings the whole story of redemption, begun in Genesis, to a telling conclusion.

"The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth" – The Revelation 19:6.

The Structure of the Book

6. List and briefly describe the seven visions around which *The Revelation* is based.

The First Vision (ch. 1-3) is of the resurrected Christ challenging His Church to remain loyal in the midst of great tribulation.

The Second Vision (ch. 4-7) is of Christ the Slain Lamb standing with a sealed scroll before God the Father in heaven. As the Lamb opens each of the seven seals containing the destinies of individuals and nations, a series of disasters befall the earth.

A series of seven angels blowing seven trumpets forms the Third Vision (ch. 8-11). At the sound of these trumpets

divine judgment falls again.

The Fourth Vision (ch. 12-14) consists of the persecution of the Church (symbolized by a heavenly woman and by two witnesses [Moses and Elijah]) by Satan and the Beast (Nero?).

The Fifth Vision (ch. 15-16) contains another series of seven: seven bowls pouring out God's wrath.

The Sixth Vision brings into focus the judgment of Babylon (a symbol for Rome?) (ch. 17:1-19:10).

The Seventh Vision promises a final victory, final judgment, and final blessedness (ch. 19:11-22). There will be a glorious future for the people of God. Christ has promised to make all things new: a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem (21). And because of this, the heart of the Christian cries out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (22:20).

The Millennium - Chapter 20:1-10

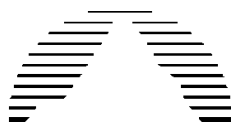
7. a. **Briefly** describe the three different views when interpreting the thousand year reign of Christ.
Premillennialists believe there is a rapture of the Church into the clouds with Jesus, a seven year tribulation period, followed by Christ's return to earth to reign for a literal thousand years, followed by judgment and the New Heaven and New Earth.
Amillennialists understand the Millennium to be a picture of the present reign of Christ, "the kingdom of God is within you" – Luke 17:21.
Postmillennialists believe that Christians will bring about a visible reign of godliness by being actively involved in society to establish godly laws and society.
- b. Is it appropriate to invest a lot of time and energy in defending a particular fixed interpretation of the end times? Explain your answer. [Please note the last paragraph of this section.]
Perhaps this should be a personal answer, but we trust most can agree that:
- 1) a study of the end times is subject to several valid interpretations because of its dependence on so much symbolism, and*
 - 2) the end times should never displace major doctrines of salvation and sanctification in the life of a believer or church, or become grounds for division.*

REFLECTION

8. Read Revelation chapters 4-5.
- a. In your own words, describe worship in heaven.
 - b. If this is the way worship is in heaven, what priority should our own worship have now?
9. *The Revelation* describes the defeat of those entities which seek to hurt the Church, such as the False Beast (political power) and the False Prophet (Caesar worship). What great principle can Christians find to take comfort in?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

10. Make a chart listing in the first column the seven churches of Asia. In the second column list the problem in each church. In the third column give the promise that the Lord made to each church. In the fourth column give the Scripture reference where each promise has been given.
11. Take some time to review all the lessons of this *New Testament Survey* study. What new understanding have you gained about the most Holy God, His Word, and changes in your own heart through the work of the Holy Spirit?



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