Knowing Christ

Studies in the later Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Winter/Spring 2020
Knowing Christ

Studies in the later Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Peter

That I may know Him,
and the power of His resurrection,
and the fellowship of His sufferings,
being made conformable unto His death.
Philippians 3:10 KJV

Trinity Bible Church
Portland, Oregon
Winter/Spring, 2020
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Introduction

In the early days after Christ’s ascension to the Father’s right hand, the young Church expected it would be a short time until Christ returned to establish His kingdom on earth. While they never lost their hope in the Lord’s return, it became increasingly clear that the purpose of God was more complex and more wonderful than they had imagined. Their duty was not just to evangelize as much of the world as possible before the Lord returned; their duty was to grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord Jesus Christ. Christ was preparing a place for them, but God was also at work, preparing them for that place. As Paul told the churches on his first missionary journey, “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 4:22). The tribulations in themselves did not prepare them for the kingdom, but through these tribulations their faith in Christ was tested and strengthened. At the same time, they were learning the “many things” that Jesus had told the disciples in the upper room before His death, that they had yet to learn (John 15:12-15). This was one of the important reasons that Jesus had sent His Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles first taught and then later recorded these “many things” in a collection of writings that soon would make up our New Testament. Many were in the form of letters written to the New Testament churches. It is six of these epistles, four by Paul and two by Peter, to which we turn in our study, guided by this booklet.

All of the writings of the New Testament are equally valuable to us. However, it is of particular value for us to hear what the Holy Spirit had to teach later in the New Testament era. All of these epistles were written after the Church had been established for many years. There had been much growth, both in numbers and in spiritual maturity as they awaited Christ’s return. However, Christ had not returned. Rather, they were facing many tribulations. Paul was in prison. Many of the believers were suffering, and in a variety of ways. The Word of God was under attack by false teachers. In a sense, it seemed that all was for nought.

The six epistles in our study are each unique but have a common purpose to help the early believers understand what they must know to endure to the glory of God. They wanted to teach the maturing Church that this was not mere delay, but a time in which the “manifold wisdom of God” was being displayed in heavenly places by the Church. It was a time in which Christ was being magnified in the lives of His faithful servants. It was a time in which the preeminence of Christ would be seen as His saints devoted themselves to pleasing Him in all aspects of daily living.

Perhaps the best summary of these two apostles’ words to a maturing Church is expressed by Paul: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

We are partakers of the life of Christ. It will be a great blessing to see Him and be with Him in His glory. It is also a great blessing to live as His people in a world of tribulation. A people whose affection is set upon Christ will be diligent to please Him in daily living. They will desire to know Him more as He is revealed in the written Word of God. They will reject false teachers who would deprive them of this knowledge. They will see life as a spiritual warfare in which they can honor Christ by standing against the wiles of the devil. They will rejoice in tribulation, as an opportunity to prove the genuineness of their faith in Christ. Paul and Peter, in these late epistles, want to focus the eyes of the Church in all generations upon the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. We too will seek this high goal in our study of these old but timeless epistles.
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5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
1 Peter 1:3-9

3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.
May the Mind of Christ, my Savior

Kate B. Wilkinson

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior, Live in me from day to day,
2. May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
3. May the peace of God, my Father, Rule my life in everything,
4. May the love of Jesus fill me, As the waters fill the sea;
5. May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
6. May His beauty rest upon me As I seek the lost to win,

By His love and pow'r controlling All I do and say,
So that all may see I triumph Only through His pow'r.
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing,
Him exalting, self abasing, This is victory.
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only Him.

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Outline of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 1:3-3:21)

I. Paul’s Salutation (Ephesians 1:1-2)

II. Paul’s Doxology and His First Prayer (Ephesians 1:3-23)
   A. The doxology (1:3-14)
      1. The emphasis upon the work of the Father (1:3-6)
      2. The emphasis upon the work of Christ (1:7-12)
      3. The emphasis upon the work of the Holy Spirit (1:13-14)
   B. The first prayer (1:15-23)

III. Two Descriptions of the Gentiles’ Past and Present (Ephesians 2:1-22)
   A. The first description (2:1-10)
      1. The past (2:1-3)
      2. The present (2:4-10)
   B. The second description (2:11-22)
      1. The past (2:11-12)
      2. The present (2:13-22)

IV. The Apostle Paul’s Ministry to the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1-21)
   A. God’s revelation to Paul of the mystery of the church, the body of Christ (3:1-13)
   B. Paul’s second prayer for Gentile believers (3:14-19)
   C. Paul’s benediction for the Ephesians (3:20-21)

THE PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:1-6:24)

V. The Christian’s Walk (Ephesians 4:1-6:9)
   A. Personal instructions for all believers (4:1-5:21)
      1. Walk worthy of your calling (4:1-17)
      2. Walk not as unbelieving Gentiles walk (4:17-19)
      3. Put off the old man, put on the new man (4:20-32)
      4. Walk in love (5:1-6)
      5. Walk as children of light (5:7-14)
      6. Walk circumspectly (5:15-21)
   B. Specific instructions for the family (5:22-6:4)
      1. Wives (5:22-24)
      2. Husbands (5:25-33)
      3. Children (6:1-3)
      4. Fathers (6:4)
   C. Special instructions for the workplace (6:5-9)
      1. Servants (6:5-8)
      2. Masters (6:9)

VI. The Christian’s Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)
   A. The strength required (6:10-11)
   B. The enemies (6:12)
   C. The armor (6:13-17)
   D. Prayer (6:18-20)

VII. Paul’s Conclusion (Ephesians 6:21-24)
Lesson 1: The Church and the Trinity
Ephesians 1

Memory: Philippians 2:5  
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Why did Paul bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

2. What do we have in Christ Jesus?

3. What is the “mystery” of God’s will?

4. How do we obtain an inheritance in Christ Jesus?

5. What part does the Holy Spirit have in our salvation?

6. Why did Paul give thanks to God for the Ephesians?

7. What requests did Paul make for the Ephesians in his prayers for them?

8. How did God display “the greatness of His power?”

9. What is the Church?
Lesson 2: The Church and the Sinner
Ephesians 2

Memory: Philippians 2:6 and review    Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. How is the believer’s former condition described?

2. What attributes of God are seen in the work of salvation?

3. How are we saved?

4. Why are we saved?

5. Why did we need to be “brought near” by the blood of Christ?

6. What peace did Christ make on the cross?

7. How did Paul describe our current condition?

8. What is the foundation of the building Paul described?

9. What is the place of Jesus Christ in this building?
Lesson 3: The Church and the Eternal Purpose of God
Ephesians 3

Memory: Philippians 2:7 and review        Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Whose prisoner did Paul consider himself?

2. How did Paul come to know “the mystery”?

3. What was “the mystery” that Paul taught?

4. What gift of grace was given to Paul?

5. What did God intend to make known by the Church, and to whom is He making it known?

6. How did Paul view his tribulation?

7. What requests did Paul make in his prayer for the Ephesian believers?

8. What expectation did Paul have of God?

9. What desire did Paul have for God?
Lesson 4: The Duty of the Church: Unity and Holiness
Ephesians 4

Memory: Philippians 2:8 and review  Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What characteristics will be seen when we walk worthy of our calling?

2. List all the unities (the things that are “one”) that set a pattern for the unity of believers.

3. What gifts did God give to His people?

4. What is the purpose of these gifts?

5. How do the Gentiles walk?

6. What are the two men that Paul spoke of, and what are we to do about them?

7. What instructions did Paul give concerning each of the following?
   - your neighbor:
     - your wrath (anger):
     - the devil:
     - your work:
     - your speech:
     - the Holy Spirit:
     - one another:
Lesson 5: The Duty of the Church: Love and Wisdom
Ephesians 5:1-6:9

Memory: Philippians 2:9 and review  Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. How are we to be imitators of God?

2. Who will not have an inheritance in the kingdom of God?

3. How do we walk as children of light?

4. How do we walk wisely?

5. How will the filling of the Holy Spirit be manifest?

6. What instruction did Paul give to wives?

7. What instructions did Paul give to husbands?

8. What instructions did Paul give about children?

9. What instructions did Paul give to servants and masters?
Lesson 6: The Defense of the Church  
Ephesians 6:10-24

Memory: Philippians 2:10 and review  
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Why must we put on the whole armor of God?

2. What enemy are we fighting?

3. What does each piece of armor represent?
   - girdle
   - breastplate
   - shoes
   - shield
   - helmet
   - sword

4. What did Paul say about prayer?

5. What prayer request did Paul ask for himself?

6. Why did Paul send Tychicus to Ephesus?
Outline of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Philippians

I. Paul’s Greeting (Philippians 1:1-2)

II. Paul’s Delight in the Philippian Believers (Philippians 1:3-11)
   A. His thanksgiving to God for them (1:3-8)
   B. His prayer for them (1:9-11)

III. Paul’s Report to the Church about His Imprisonment (Philippians 1:12-26)

IV. Paul’s Exhortations to the Church (Philippians 1:27-2:18)
   A. To be like-minded and humble (1:27-2:4)
   B. To have the mind of Christ (2:5-11)
   C. To work out their own salvation (2:12-18)

V. Paul’s Beloved Co-workers (Philippians 2:19-30)
   A. Timothy (2:19-24).
   B. Epaphroditus (2:25-30).

VI. THE PREEMINENT THEME OF THE EPISTLE (Philippians 3:1-4:9)
   A. “Rejoice in the Lord” (3:1-3)
   B. Paul’s testimony of his joy in the Lord (3:4-14)
   C. Paul, the example to follow (3:15-4:9)
      Note especially 3:17 and 4:9

VII. Paul’s “Thank You” for the Church’s Gift (Philippians 4:10-19)

VIII. Paul’s Conclusion (Philippians 4:20-23)
Lesson 7: Christ Magnified in Me
Philippians 1

Memory: Philippians 2:11 and review  
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Why was Paul thankful and confident as he thought of the Philippian saints?

2. How did the Philippians share the grace of God with Paul?

3. What prayer requests did Paul make for the Philippians?

4. What good came from Paul’s imprisonment?

5. Why did Paul rejoice?

6. What was Paul’s earnest expectation and hope?

7. What was Paul’s view of life and death?

8. What did Paul mean when he exhorted the Philippians to demonstrate a worthy conduct?

9. What two things are granted to us on the behalf of Christ?
Lesson 8: Christ’s Mind in Me
Philippians 2

Memory: 1 Peter 1:3 and review
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What was the basis for Paul’s appeal for unity?

2. What did Paul say about how we should look at ourselves and others?

3. What was the mind of Christ Jesus that we are to seek?

4. What was the result of the humiliation of Jesus Christ?

5. What did Paul say about working out our own salvation?

6. What will cause Paul to rejoice in the day of Christ?

7. How did Timothy demonstrate the mind of Christ?

8. How did Epaphroditus demonstrate the mind of Christ?

9. How could the Philippian church demonstrate the mind of Christ?
Lesson 9: Christ’s Righteousness in Me
Philippians 3

Memory: 1 Peter 1:4 and review  Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Why did Paul write the same things to them again?

2. Why did Paul warn them to beware of dogs?

3. What reasons did Paul have for confidence in the flesh?

4. Why did Paul count all these things as rubbish (“dung” in the KJV)?

5. How was Christ important to Paul?

6. What was Paul’s goal in life?

7. How did Paul want the Philippian believers to walk?

8. What did Paul say about the enemies of the cross of Christ?

9. What was Paul eagerly awaiting?
Lesson 10: Christ, Sufficient for Me
Philippians 4

Memory: 1 Peter 1:5 and review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What did Paul think about the Philippians, and what did he want them to do?

2. What did Paul say about Euodias and Syntyche?

3. How can we get the peace of God?

4. What did Paul say about the peace of God?

5. What should we be thinking about or meditating upon?

6. What made Paul rejoice?

7. What had Paul learned through his experiences?

8. What did Paul say about the generosity of the Philippians?

9. What did Paul tell the Philippians about their own needs?
Outline of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians

I. The Introduction (Colossians 1:1-14)
   A. Salutation (1:1-2)
   B. Thanksgiving (1:3-8)
   C. Intercession (1:9-14)

II. The Apostle’s Message – The Glory of Christ (Colossians 1:15-23)

III. The Apostle’s Mission (Colossians 1:24-2:23)
   A. His deep concern and his objectives (1:24-2:5)
   B. His first exhortation (2:6-7)
   C. His warnings and his rebukes (2:8-23)

IV. The Apostle’s Application of the Truth (Colossians 3:1-4:6)
   A. For heavenly mindedness (3:1-4)
   B. To mortify sin (3:5-11)
   C. To cultivate holiness (3:12-17)
   D. For special groups (3:18-4:1)
      1. Wives and husbands (3:18-19)
      2. Children and fathers (3:20-21)
      3. Servants and masters (3:22-4:1)
   E. Concluding exhortations (4:2-6)

V. The Conclusion (Colossians 4:7-18)
   A. Tychicus and Onesimus, the letter carriers (4:7-9)
   B. Salutations (4:10-15)
   C. Paul’s parting words (4:16-18)
Lesson 11: The Preeminence of Christ
Colossians 1

Memory: 1 Peter 1:6 and review Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What did Paul and Timothy do when they heard of the faith and love of the Colossians?

2. What did Paul say about the Gospel?

3. What prayer requests did Paul bring to God on behalf of the Colossians?

4. Why did Paul give thanks to the Father?

5. How did Paul express the preeminence of Christ?

6. What did it please the Father to do in Jesus Christ?

7. What does it mean to be reconciled?

8. What is the mystery?

9. What did Paul say about his work?
Lesson 12: Distractions from Christ
Colossians 2

Memory: 1 Peter 1:7 and review
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What was Paul’s earnest desire for the Colossian church?

2. What did Paul rejoice to see in the Colossians?

3. What did Paul warn them about?

4. What did Paul teach about the deity of Christ?

5. How are we complete in Christ?

6. What did Christ do about sin?

7. What did Paul say about “a shadow”?

8. How can we be beguiled (cheated or defrauded) of our reward?

9. What did Paul say would have an appearance of wisdom, but not be able to control the flesh?
Lesson 13: Life in Christ
Colossians 3:1-17

Memory: 1 Peter 1:8 and review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Since we are risen with Christ, what should we do?

2. Why does the believer have hope?

3. What should we mortify (put to death), and why?

4. What is the “old man,” and what should we do about it?

5. What is the “new man,” and what should we do about it?

6. What does it mean to be the elect (chosen) of God?

7. What are the obligations of the elect?

8. What should we do “above all these things”?

9. What is the standard for Christian conduct?
Lesson 14: A Community in Christ
Colossians 3:18-4:18

Memory: 1 Peter 1:9 and review
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What instructions did Paul give to each of the following?
   - Wives:
   - Husbands:
   - Children:
   - Fathers:
   - Servants:
   - Masters:

2. What did Paul say about prayer?

3. What did Paul say about our walk and our speech?

4. What did Paul say about each of the following individuals?
   - Tychicus
   - Onesimus
   - Aristarchus
   - Mark
   - Jesus or Justus
   - Epaphras
   - Luke
   - Demas

5. What final instructions did Paul give about the church at Laodicea and Archippus?
Outline of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle
to Philemon

I. Greeting (vv. 1-3)

II. Prayer (vv. 4-7)
   A. Thanksgiving for their love and faith (vv. 4-5)
   B. Prayer for productive faith (vv. 6-7)

III. Request (vv. 8-17)
   A. To Philemon for Onesimus, who was once unprofitable (vv. 8-11)
   B. To receive Onesimus as a brother, even as Paul himself (vv. 12-17)

IV. Promise (vv. 18-20)
   A. Paul’s word that he would accept responsibility for any debts owed by Onesimus (vv. 18-19)
   B. Paul’s confidence that Philemon would do as he requested (vv. 20)

V. Closing (vv. 21-25)
Lesson 15: An Intercessory Epistle
Philemon

Memory: Review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. To whom is this epistle addressed?

2. For what was Paul thankful?

3. What prayer request did Paul make for them?

4. What could Paul do to get them to do what was “convenient” (fitting or proper), and what did he do?

5. Who was Onesimus?

6. What request did Paul make concerning Onesimus?

7. What reason did Paul suggest for Onesimus’ departure from Philemon?

8. How did Paul propose to deal with any debts Philemon might have incurred because of Onesimus?

9. What hopes did Paul have about Philemon’s response to his request?
Outline of the First Epistle of Peter

I. Introduction (1 Peter 1:1-12)
   A. The writer and the recipients (1:1-2)
   B. Praise to God for salvation – the doctrinal section (1:3-13)
      1. The nature of salvation (1:3-5)
      2. Their joy in salvation while suffering (1:6-9)
      3. Salvation and the Old Testament prophets (1:10-13)

II. The Exhortations (1 Peter 1:14-5:9)
   A. To be holy (1 Peter 1:14-3:12)
      1. Concerning the needs of individual believers (1:14-2:10)
         a. To have hope and to be holy (1:14-25)
         b. To grow spiritually (2:1-10)
      2. Concerning sin and the people of the world (2:11-17)
         Note that Peter makes a distinction between sin and the people in this sinful world.
      3. Concerning special groups among believers (2:18-3:12)
         a. Servants (2:18-25)
         b. Wives (3:1-6)
         c. Husbands (3:7)
         d. All believers – love within; restraint without (3:8-12)
            Note that Peter supported his exhortations by Scripture: verses 10-12 are a quotation from Psalm 34:12-16a.
   B. To suffer only for righteousness’ sake (1 Peter 3:13-5:11)
      1. Some of the benefits of suffering as Christians (3:13-4:19)
         a. It gives opportunities to witness to the world (3:13-17)
         b. This is confirmed and illustrated by the benefits of Christ’s suffering (3:18-22)
         c. It produces greater godliness in our lives (4:1-19)
            (1) To do God’s will (4:1-6)
            (2) To prepare for His coming (4:7)
            (3) To pray (4:7)
            (4) To love each other (4:8-10)
            (5) To minister the Word, depending upon God, for His glory (4:11)
            (6) Not to think it strange that we suffer, but to rejoice that we are partakers of Christ’s sufferings (4:12-14).
            (7) To keep us from sin (4:15).
            (8) To trust God to take care of us (4:16-19)
      2. More special instructions (5:1-11)
         a. For elders (5:1-4)
         b. For the young (5:5a)
         c. For all of the Lord’s people (5:5b-11)

III. Conclusion (1 Peter 5:12-14)
   In verse 13 Paul states how he would describe this epistle: “I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.”
Lesson 16: A Living Hope
1 Peter 1:1-2:12

Memory: Review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. Why did Peter bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

2. Why does God send trials or tests of our faith?

3. What did the prophets so diligently seek to learn?

4. What is the standard of Christian conduct?

5. How are we redeemed?

6. How are we born again?

7. How do we grow?

8. From 1 Peter 2:1-12, what various terms are used to describe the people of God?

9. How should the people of God live?
Lesson 17: Submitting in Hope
1 Peter 2:13-3:12

Memory: Review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What is the Christian citizen’s responsibility to government, and why?

2. What is the Christian servant’s responsibility to his master, and why?

3. What was Christ’s example for us?

4. Why did Christ die?

5. How is the Christian wife to conduct herself, and why?

6. How is Sarah an example?

7. How should the Christian husband treat his wife, and why?

8. How should Christians treat each other?

9. What did Peter say from the Old Testament to those who would “love life, and see good days”? 
Lesson 18: Suffering in Hope  
1 Peter 3:13-4:19

Memory: Review  

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What did Peter say to those who suffer for righteousness’ sake?

2. What was the effect of Christ’s sufferings?

3. What did Peter teach about baptism?

4. What effect will suffering have upon us in this lifetime?

5. How do the unsaved react to the changed behavior of a Christian?

6. How should it affect us that “the end of all things is at hand”?

7. What should be our goal in speaking and ministering?

8. How should a Christian respond to suffering?

9. Why should a Christian endure suffering?
Lesson 19: Serving in Hope
1 Peter 5

Memory: Review

1. How did Peter describe himself?

2. How should the elders shepherd the flock of God?

3. What reward can an elder anticipate?

4. What instruction did Peter give to younger people?

5. Why should we be humble?

6. What did Peter say to anxious (worried) Christians?

7. What did Peter teach about the devil?

8. What did Peter understand about God?

9. How did Peter summarize this letter?

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”
Outline of the Second Epistle of Peter

   The emphasis is upon what we all have in Christ. This is the beginning of what the Apostle Peter would say especially about THE PRESENT.

II. Their Present Need (2 Peter 1:5-21).
   While there is no difference between the believers, then or now, as to what we have in Christ, yet as far as our growth in the Lord is concerned, there are always great differences. But God’s ultimate purpose for us all is the same. We are saved to be made like our Lord Jesus Christ.
   A. Their need to add to their faith (1:5-11).
      Note Peter’s emphasis on “these things” in verses 8, 9, 10, 12, and 15. He was emphasizing their need for spiritual growth.
   B. The Apostle Peter’s great concern for them (1:12-21).
      His concern went beyond his own lifetime, and that is one reason he was writing to them.

III. Warnings from THE PAST (2 Peter 2:1-22).
   This basically has to do with false teachers, false teaching, and sinful living. This chapter illustrates why it is so important for us to read the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. We need to know about God’s judgment of angels, His judgment on the whole world in the days of Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah, and even Balaam. False teachers will lead us into sin. The Bible teaches us that God is not only a God of love, but that he is righteous, and that He judges sin.

IV. Assurance Regarding THE FUTURE (2 Peter 3:1-16).
   Peter began the epistle by speaking about the promises of God; he concludes his epistle on the same note. See verses 4, 9, 13. God’s promises are all sure and certain. Therefore, our hope in the promises should affect the way we live.

V. Conclusion (2 Peter 3:17-18).
   In verse 17 we have a warning; in verse 18 a command to continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of “our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” To be growing spiritually is our greatest safeguard against sin and false teaching.
Lesson 20: Knowing God
2 Peter 1

Memory: Review
Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. To whom is Peter writing?

2. What do we receive through the knowledge of God?

3. How are we made partakers of the divine nature?

4. What qualities should we be diligent in seeking?

5. Why should we seek these qualities?

6. How did it affect Peter to know that he would die soon?

7. Where did Peter learn of the “power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

8. What did Peter see and hear on the “holy mountain”?

9. What did Peter say about the Scriptures?
Lesson 21: Springs Without Water
2 Peter 2

Memory: Review

Hymn: “May the Mind of Christ, my Savior”

1. What did Peter warn them about false teachers?

2. What did Peter teach about angels who sinned?

3. What do we learn about the ways of God from the stories of Noah and Lot?

4. How did Peter describe the unrighteous?

5. What did Peter want us to learn from the story of Baalam?

6. Why did Peter speak about springs, storms, mists, and darkness?

7. How do false teachers lead people astray?

8. What did Peter teach about those who escaped defilements, but then return to them?

9. How are false teachers like a dog or a pig?
Lesson 22: The Promise of His Coming
2 Peter 3

Memory: Review

1. Why did Peter write this epistle?

2. How will mockers show their disdain for the promise of the Lord’s return?

3. How did Peter respond to these scoffers?

4. How did Peter explain the apparent delay of the Lord’s return?

5. How did Peter describe the coming of the day of the Lord?

6. What should our attitude be toward the coming of the day of the Lord?

7. How should our lives be affected by the prospect of the coming of the day of the Lord?

8. What did Peter write about Paul?

9. What warning did Peter give?

10. What final word of instruction did Peter give?
The Development of the New Testament

Acts 1:8 “… and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

the life and ministry of Jesus Christ

BC 4

33

acts 1-7

33-34 AD

acts 8-12

35-47 AD

acts 13-28 • 48-62 AD

48 AD • Acts 13-14 • 1st missionary journey
49 AD • Acts 15 • Jerusalem counsel
50-53 • Acts 16-18 • 2nd missionary journey
53-57 • Acts 18-21 • 3rd missionary journey
57-62 • Acts 22-28 • Roman prison #1
62-67 • release and ministry
67-75 • Roman prison #2

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44-47

Matthew

James

Galatians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Romans

57-58

Luke

Acts

60-62

60s

Mark

Ephesians

Colossians

Philemon

Philippians

1 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

1 Peter

2 Peter

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

33

The Acts of the Apostles

62

four prison epistles
**Ephesians**

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<th>the Church of Jesus Christ</th>
<th>prison epistle 60</th>
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<tr>
<td>the foundation of the Church</td>
<td>the function of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>the ministry of salvation</td>
<td>the walk in Christ</td>
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<td>the life in Christ</td>
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<td>God’s revelation</td>
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<td>1-7 the mystery of Christ</td>
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<td>8-13 the ministry of the mystery of Christ</td>
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<td>prayer</td>
<td>13-17 prayer</td>
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<td>14-19 Christ may dwell in your hearts</td>
<td>18-20 final word</td>
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<td>benediction</td>
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<td>20-21</td>
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**Philemon**

rejoicing in Christ

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<th>the truth of Christ</th>
<th>the joy of Christ</th>
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<td>Christ received</td>
<td>the attitude of Christ</td>
<td>Christ to know</td>
<td>rejoice in Christ</td>
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<td>1-2 greeting</td>
<td>1-4 humility for unity</td>
<td>1 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>1 stand firm in the Lord</td>
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<td>3-8 thanking</td>
<td>1-11 humility like Christ</td>
<td>beware of false teachers</td>
<td>2-3 live in harmony</td>
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<td>He humbled Himself</td>
<td>2 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>4-7 the peace of God</td>
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<td>Christ proclaimed</td>
<td>God exalted Him</td>
<td>3 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>8-9 the God of peace</td>
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<td>12-26 Paul proclaiming the gospel in prison</td>
<td>work out salvation</td>
<td>4 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>Paul rejoiced</td>
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<td>Paul rejoiced</td>
<td>God working in</td>
<td>5 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>10-20 thanking</td>
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<td>27-30 Christians standing firm for the gospel in life</td>
<td>be children of God</td>
<td>6 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>21-22 greeting</td>
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<td>19-24 Timothy</td>
<td>hold fast the word of life</td>
<td>7 rejoice in the Lord</td>
<td>23 praying</td>
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<td>25-30 Epaphroditus</td>
<td>Christ followed</td>
<td>8 rejoice in the Lord</td>
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## Colossians

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<th>prison epistle 60-62</th>
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<td><strong>3</strong> the sufficiency of Christ</td>
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<td>fullness in Christ</td>
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<td>1-4 “set your mind on Christ!”</td>
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<td>3-8 thanksgiving to God</td>
<td>5-11 attend to personal holiness in Christ</td>
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<td>9-12 intercession to God</td>
<td>“Christ is all, and in all.”</td>
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<td>15-23 the preeminence of Christ</td>
<td>12-17 attend to corporate harmony in Christ</td>
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<td>24-29 the Gentile mystery: “Christ in you, the hope of glory”</td>
<td>18-4:1 attend to outward behavior in Christ</td>
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<td>1-5 stability of faith in Christ</td>
<td>2-6 devotion to prayer, conduct with wisdom, speech with grace</td>
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<td>6-7 “walk in Christ!”</td>
<td>7-9 coming information</td>
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<td>8-15 standing firm in the victory in Christ</td>
<td>10-15 sent greetings</td>
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<td>16-19 holding firm to the substance of Christ</td>
<td>16-18 final words</td>
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<td>20-23 submitting only to the person of Christ</td>
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## Philemon

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<th>prison epistle 60-62</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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<td>1-3 salutation</td>
<td>Paul and Timothy to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus and the church in Colosse</td>
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<td>4-7 thanksgiving for Philemon</td>
<td>thanksgiving to God for your love and your faith · your fellowship through knowledge</td>
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<td>8-17 petition for Onesimus</td>
<td>the appeal for love’s sake</td>
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<td>the appeal for Onesimus · from useless to useful</td>
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<td>the return · ministry but only with consent not compulsion</td>
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<td>parted for a time · back forever</td>
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<td>from slave to brother</td>
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<td>partner like Paul</td>
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<td>18-20 provision for Philemon</td>
<td>promise to repay the debt</td>
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<td>request to refresh my heart in Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-25 final words</td>
<td>confidence in obedience · prepare a lodging</td>
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<td>greetings from fellow workers · Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke</td>
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<td>grace of Christ be with your spirit</td>
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# 1 Peter

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<td><strong>submission</strong></td>
<td>3:12</td>
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<td>the Father of Jesus Christ</td>
<td>the new birth</td>
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<td>the way of suffering</td>
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<td>the preserved inheritance</td>
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<td>for righteousness sake</td>
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<td>the prophetic search</td>
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<td>with a good conscience</td>
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<td>the fixed future hope</td>
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<td>the present pursuit of holiness</td>
<td>no sin, no threats,</td>
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<td>born again to love one another</td>
<td>entrusting Himself to</td>
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<td>2:1-12</td>
<td>born again to grow</td>
<td>the righteous judge</td>
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<td>into a spiritual house</td>
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<td>as the people of God</td>
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<td>as aliens and strangers</td>
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<td>3:1-7</td>
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<td>live before the Lord</td>
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<td>arm yourselves to suffer</td>
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<td>Psalm 32:12-16</td>
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<td>wisdom and prayer</td>
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<td>love &amp; serve one another</td>
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<td>no surprise at fiery trials</td>
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<td>enthrust your souls to</td>
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<td>a faithful Creator</td>
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<td><strong>the way of service</strong></td>
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<td>shepherd the flock</td>
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<td>humble to exalt</td>
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<td>cast your anxiety</td>
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<td>be alert for the devil</td>
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<td>God of grace will</td>
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<td>establish you</td>
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<td>12-14</td>
<td><strong>this is the</strong></td>
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<td><strong>true grace of God</strong></td>
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<td><strong>stand firm in it</strong></td>
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# 2 Peter

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<td><strong>enemies of Christ</strong></td>
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<td>true knowledge</td>
<td>false knowledge</td>
<td>knowledge</td>
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<td>attacking the truth</td>
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<td>1 <strong>salutation · faith in Christ</strong></td>
<td>warning about false teachers</td>
<td>warning about mockers</td>
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<td>2-11</td>
<td><strong>developing faith</strong></td>
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<td>5-9</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
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<td>12-21</td>
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<td>the danger of mockers</td>
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<td>“Where is the promise of His coming?”</td>
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<td>the certainty of God’s promises</td>
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<td>promise: His coming</td>
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<td>promise: the day of the Lord</td>
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<td>promise: new heavens and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>new earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td><strong>found in faith</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”</td>
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