Boys and Girls:

Welcome to the next quarter. We are almost half way through the book of Acts. We have already met Barnabas and Saul of Tarsus.

In this quarter, we will follow Saul/Paul on journeys for the Lord. It will be important to get acquainted with the map of that time to follow his journeys. We will look at the different ones who travel with him. We will look at letters that he writes along the way. If we all study hard we will learn a lot about the work of the apostles. We will also learn about our service in the Lord.

We will use 1Corinthians 13 as our memory verses, one a week for the quarter.

I am looking forward to being your teacher.

**1 Corinthians 13**

New King James Version (NKJV)

**The Greatest Gift**

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

 2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor,* and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Lesson 1

First Journey

Acts 13:1-43

 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers. They prayed together worshiping God. The Holy Spirit said to them, “Set aside Barnabas and Saul. I’ve called them for my work.” The leaders of the church prayed and laid hands on them. The Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Saul out. They took John Mark with them and set off. The three sailed to the island of Cyprus. There they spoke God’s word in the Jewish synagogues.

 They traveled through the whole island. At Paphos lived a magician, a false-prophet names Bar-Jesus. The ruler of Cyprus, Sergius Paulus, wanted to hear God’s word. But the magician tried to keep him away from the “faith” by argument and ridicule. Saul, now called Paul, watched him carefully. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. “Elymas, you son of the devil,” he said. “You are an enemy of all that is right. Stop making the Lord’s straight paths crooked. God’s hand is against you. You will not be able to see for a while.”

 Immediately, a mist and darkness fell upon Elymas. He had to have someone lead him away by the hand. Sergius Paulus, saw what was done and believed. He was delighted at the teaching about the Lord.

 The three continued on their journey. Up to this point Luke, who is the writer of Acts, gives mention to Barnabas and Saul. After this time, he will refer to them by Paul and Barnabas indicating that Paul is now taking the lead. Also at this time, John Mark leaves them in Perga and returns to Jerusalem.

 In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul is asked to speak. His speech consists of three sections:

1. Israel’s history, in which they received God’s blessings, led them to Christ (vv. 17-25)
2. God fulfilled His promises to Israel by raising Jesus from the dead (vv. 26-37)
3. In Jesus alone is forgiveness and justification (vv. 38-41)

As the people went out of the synagogue, there was great excitement. They begged that Paul and Barnabas come back on the next Sabbath day. The people were encouraged to continue in the grace of God.

Don’t forget your memory verse!!!!! 1st Cor. 13:1

LESSON 1

**In Cyprus** (Acts 13:4–12)

Short Answer

1. .How did Saul and Barnabas get to Cyprus?
2. Where is Cyprus?
3. What did they do in Salamis?
4. Who was their assistant?
5. Who did they find in Paphos?
6. Why did Sergius Paulus call for Saul and Barnabas?
7. What did Elymas do?
8. What did Paul call Elymas? What did he do to him?
9. What was the effect on the proconsul?

**At Antioch in Pisidia** (Acts 13:13–15, 42–52)

True or False

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Paul went directly to Antioch from Paphos.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Paul preached in the courtyard.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Most members of Paul’s audience were Gentiles.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Gentiles asked for Paul to preach the next Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The crowd the next Sabbath was small.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Jews were envious.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Paul and Barnabas told the Jews that they were going to the Gentiles.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Gentiles were sad that the gospel would be preached to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Jews expelled Paul and Barnabas from the region.

\_\_\_\_\_10. The disciples were very sad.

**Paul’s Sermon** (Acts 13:16–41)

Fill in the Blanks

1. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Israelites when they were in Egypt.
2. God put up with the Israelites for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years in the wilderness.
3. He destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ nations in Canaan and gave the land to the Israelites.
4. God gave them judges for about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.
5. The last judge was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The first king was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who was from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. God raised up a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the seed of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. John preached the baptism of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Paul declared that the promise God made to the fathers was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us in that He has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up Jesus.
10. God raised Jesus from the dead, no more to return to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Through Jesus is preached the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sins.
12. Paul reminded them of the prophecy that warned that God would work a work which “you will by no means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Application

1. The Jews and Gentiles in Antioch had very different reactions to Paul and Barnabas’s work. Describe their reactions. Which group should we be more like?
2. Many times when things are difficult and people are making fun of us, it is tempting to give up. If we take our lesson from Paul and Barnabas, what will we do?
3. Some people think that we must make people feel good about themselves if they are to become Christians. Would Paul agree with this? Explain your answer by looking at how he treated Elymas.

Lesson 2

First Journey

Acts 13:44-14:28

 Paul and Barnabas come back on the next Sabbath. Almost the whole city had gathered to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitude, they were filled with jealousy. Paul said to the Jews that the word was to come first to them, but they were not worthy of eternal life. Paul said from now on he would turn his attention to the Gentiles as God had called him to do. The Gentiles were glad to hear this and the word of the Lord spread throughout the area. The Jews expelled Paul and Barnabas from their borders.

 Paul and Barnabas were almost stoned like Stephen in Antioch. But they escaped to Iconium. Do to the unrest, they moved on to Lystra in Lycaonia. There they saw a crippled man. Paul exclaimed, “Stand up on your feet.” And the man jumped up and began to walk. The crowds saw this.

 “The gods have come down to us as men!” they exclaimed. “This one,” they shouted pointing to Barnabas “is Zeus. The other man does all the talking. That means he’s Hermes!” This was Paul. The priest of the temple of Zeus brought oxen to offer for sacrifices.

 Paul and Barnabas rushed unto the crowd. “Friends!” they shouted. “Why are you doing this? We are human just like you. We’ve brought good news: turn from worthless things! The living God made heaven and earth and everything in them. He fills your bellies with food and your hearts with joy!” They were barely able to stop the sacrifices.

 Then people came from Antioch and excited the crowd against Paul. He was stoned and dragged still alive out of Lystra. The next day he went with Barnabas to Derbe to preach the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

Soon Paul and Barnabas returned to the church at Antioch in Syria. They went back through many of the same cities appointing elders in every church. Upon arriving in Antioch, they gathered the church together and told all the things that God had done with them and how the door of faith was opened to the Gentiles. This was the end of the first journey of Paul and Barnabas.

**At Iconium** (Acts 14:1–7)

Fill in the Blanks

At the synagogue, both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believed.

The unbelieving Jews \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Gentile’s minds against the brethren.

Paul and Barnabas spoke \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, bore \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the word, granted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The city was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Jews and Gentiles and their rulers wanted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.

When they became aware of the plot they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Lystra and Derbe.

**At Lystra** (Acts 14:8–20)

Number the Events in Order

\_\_\_\_\_ The people called Barnabas Zeus and Paul, Hermes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul was stoned.

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul told the man, “Stand up straight on your feet!”

\_\_\_\_\_ The priest brought sacrifices.

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes.

\_\_\_\_\_ The healed man leaped and walked.

\_\_\_\_\_ The disciples thought Paul was dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul asked why the people were doing these things.

\_\_\_\_\_ A lame man heard Paul speaking.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jews from Antioch and Iconium stirred up the crowd.

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul got up and went into the city.

**Concluding the Trip** (Acts 14:21–28)

Short Answer

1. What happened when they preached the gospel in Derbe?
2. List the next three cities they went visited.
3. Why did they go to these cities?
4. What did they appoint in each church?
5. What did they do in Perga?
6. What happened when they returned to Antioch?

Thinking Back

Identify one thing that happened in each of these cities on Paul and Barnabas’s journey:

1. Salamis, Cyprus
2. Antioch in Pisidia
3. Iconium
4. Lystra
5. Derbe
6. Perga
7. Antioch

Application

The people at Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were gods because of the miracles they could perform. Can you think of people today that people treat like gods? How did Paul and Barnabas react? How do people react today?

Lesson 3

Jerusalem Counsel

Acts 15:1-35

 The date is somewhere around 48-55 A.D. It is some 20 years after the beginning of the church. Many Gentiles have been concerted by this time. Trouble arises from a new source. Instead of being persecution from unbelievers, this is a conflict in belief among the disciple themselves.

 Some of the believing Jews did not believe that Gentiles had the right to be saved without first becoming Jews-that is, without being circumcised as a sign of their covenant relationship with God. Since this trouble was from within the church itself, it proved to be a great hindrance of the spreading of the gospel. It would be a source of conflict throughout the remainder of the first century and will be discussed in more than one of Paul’s future epistles.

 What to do? Paul and Barnabas had many extensive debates. After a time it was determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others should go up to Jerusalem to discuss the matter. Paul already knew the answer revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless the Spirit instructed Paul and Barnabas to go on to Jerusalem.

 Paul and Barnabas and their companions were welcomed by the church, apostles and elders. Paul met first with James (the brother of Jesus-as James the brother of John was already dead), Peter and John. They were in full agreement.

 Knowledge of right does not always assure correct behavior and teaching. The objections came from the Pharisees who believed. Paul did not give in to their demands for even one hour.

 Peter spoke to the gathered first. He listed the things that had happened:

1. God chose me to be first to preach to the Gentiles.
2. God gave the same sign to show His approval of the Gentiles as he did to the apostles, by sending the Holy Spirit.
3. God made no distinction between the Gentiles and the Jews, cleansing them by faith. He required nothing of Gentiles that He did not require of Jews.
4. Why do you, therefore, challenge what is clearly God’s will? Why demand they do what we and our ancestors could not do?
5. The fact is, we will be saved by god’s grace, just as the Gentiles.

Paul recounted that God had demonstrated He approval of the message that he and Barnabas had been preaching among the Gentiles. God had worked many signs, miracles and wonders through them to produce faith among the Gentiles.

 Afterwards James spoke up saying:

1. God showed His concern for the Gentiles by taking from them a people for Himself.
2. This is what the prophets predicted: for example, Amos.
3. Do not make it difficult for the gentiles who are turning to the Lord.
4. Let us leave them alone, except to write them, warning them to abstain from:

a.. Contamination of idols

b. Fornication

c. Strangled animals

d. Eating of blood

 5. Moses’ law is read and preached in the synagogues every

 Sabbath.

 Afterwards the apostles, elders and the whole congregation agreed to send letters by Paul and Barnabas to all the congregations of Jews and Gentiles. A certain man, Titus-a Greek disciple, left with Paul and Barnabas and was compelled to be circumcised, as proof that Paul had been correct in his teaching. As Paul and Barnabas left Peter, James and John offered them the right hand of friendship and encouraged them to take the gospel to the Gentiles as God intend and to remember the pour.

Don’t forget your memory verse!!!!! 1 Cor. 13:2

LESSON 3

1. Look back in Acts 14:27. What group of people had become followers of Jesus?

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

2. Where was the last place Paul and Silas went on the first missionary journey? (Acts 14:26)

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

3. Where did Paul and Barnabas go to discuss the question of circumcision?

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

4. Which law did the Pharisees demand the Gentiles to keep?

\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The apostles and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came together in Jerusalem.

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stood up just to talk.

3. Through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ we are saved.

4. Look up grace in a Bible dictionary. What does it mean?

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ declared miracles and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles.

1. Who went with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch?

2. The apostles, elders and brethren wrote a letter to Gentiles in what three areas?

Using a map, underline the locations below.

Antioch Jerusalem Cilicia Syria

Lesson 4

Second Journey: Philippi

Acts 15:36-16:40

 After a time, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return to the places where we preached the gospel and see how the brethren are doing. Barnabas agreed. He asked to take John Mark with them again. For whatever reason that John Mark left in the middle of the first journey, Paul did not want to take John Mark with them. Paul and Barnabas could not reconcile this difference.

 They finally chose to go their separate ways. Barnabas and John Mark left and went to Cyprus to check on the brethren there (Barnabas’ homeland). Paul chose Silas to go on with him through Syria and Cilicia.

 When Paul and Silas arrived at Lystra, they met a young man named Timothy. He was a faithful young man born to a Greek father and Jewish mother. As he had a mixed heritage, Paul took Timothy and had him circumcised to prevent hindrance of their work among the Jews.

 As they traveled, they delivered the degrees from Jerusalem. The churches were strengthened in their commitment to the Lord and increased daily.

 As Paul and Silas were planning to continue through Asia, a vision came to Paul to come to Macedonia. Paul tells the others and they all make plans to go where God directs. Luke (the writer of Acts) joins them at this point. He describes the journey as we did this or that instead of they did this or that.

 As they traveled they looked for people who loved God and wanted to learn more about Him. Some women were sitting by the river. The women gathered there to pray and talk about God. Paul and the others sat down with the women to talk to them about Jesus. “Jesus is God’s Son,” they said. “He died and came back to life again so that you can live forever with Him.” Lydia heard what Paul and the others said. Lydia believed what they said. Lydia loved God. Her and her whole family came to believe and was baptized. She said to Paul, “If you judge that I am faithful to the Lord, stay at my house.”

 As the company continued to travel by the river near Philippi, they met a girl who had a diving spirit. For many days she followed Paul crying after them saying, “These men are servants of the Most High God; they tell you the way of salvation.” When Paul could stand it no long he charged the spirit in Jesus’ name to come out of the girl.

 When the girl’s master heard of this, they stirred up a mob. Paul and Silas were arrested. The jailer put chains on their feet and locked them in the jail. Paul and Silas were not afraid. They sang and prayed all night.

 About midnight, an earthquake happened to shake the jail. It was terrible and the jail doors opened and the chains fell off the prisoners. The jailer came in and would have killed himself because the prisoners were loose. Paul called to him not to kill himself, the prisoners were all there. The jailer took Paul and Silas home to care for them. Paul and Silas taught the jailer about Jesus. The jailer and his family heard the good news about Jesus and believed in him. In the same hour of the night they were baptized. At daylight, the officials let Paul and Silas go free. The jailers told the magistrates that these men were Roman. They begged them to leave the city and they did.

LESSON 4

TRUE OR FALSE

\_\_\_ 1. Barnabas suggested to Paul that they go back and visit the brethren they saw on their first journey.

\_\_\_ 2. Paul wanted to take John Mark with them on their second journey.

\_\_\_ 3. John Mark had left Paul and Barnabas in Perga and didn’t complete the first journey.

\_\_\_ 4. Barnabas decided to take John Mark and sailed to Cyprus.

\_\_\_ 5. Paul’s new partner is Peter.

\_\_\_ 6. At a later time, Paul wants John Mark to work with him. (Hint: II Timothy 4:11)

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. When Paul and Silas traveled to Lystra, they met \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and asked him to join their trip.

2. Timothy’s father was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His mother was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. The Holy Spirit told Paul, Timothy and Silas not to go to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to preach.

4. In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a vision appeared to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ saying, “Come over to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and help us.

5. Name the people who went with Paul to Macedonia. (Hint: verse 10 shows the pronoun we.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6.Who were Timothy’s mother and grandmother? Read II Timothy 1:5.

7. In which city did Paul meet Lydia?

8. What were Lydia and the women she was with doing?

9. What was Lydia’s job?

True or False

\_\_\_1. A certain slave boy followed Paul and Silas.

\_\_\_2. The masters made a little money because the young slave girl could tell fortunes.

\_\_\_3. The slave girl said these men are servants of the devil.

\_\_\_4. Paul commanded that the unclean spirit come out of the slave girl.

\_\_\_5. The slave girl’s masters were angry that the little girl couldn’t make money for them.

\_\_\_6. The masters had Paul and Barnabas arrested, beaten and put in prison.

1. What time of the night were Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns to God?
2. What three things happened inside the prison?
3. Why did the jailer drew his sword? (Hint: According to Roman law, a guard who allowed the escape of a prisoner was put to death.)
4. What did Paul say to the jailer?
5. How did the jailer and his family express their belief in Jesus Christ?
6. What time of the night were Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns to God?
7. What three things happened inside the prison?
8. Why did the jailer drew his sword? (Hint: According to Roman law, a guard who allowed the escape of a prisoner was put to death.)
9. What did Paul say to the jailer?
10. How did the jailer and his family express their belief in Jesus Christ?

Lesson 5

Second Journey: Thessalonica, Berea, Athens

Acts 17

 Paul and Silas travel to Thessalonica. In Thessalonica, Paul went into the synagogue to discuss the scripture. For three Sabbaths he explained why Christ had to die. He proved that Christ had risen from the dead. Paul said, “This man I am telling you about is Jesus Christ.”

 Some Jews, many Greeks and some important women joined Paul and Silas. Certain Jews formed a mob with ruffians from the marketplace. The city was in an uproar. They assaulted the home of Jason, a believer, trying to find Paul and Silas. The people accused, “These people are turning the world upside down. Now they have come to our town. They proclaim this Jesus Christ as king.” The officials were up upset but acted with restraint. They allowed Jason to make bail and they were all released.

 Paul and Silas continued on to Berea by night. They went to the synagogue. The Jews were more civil and eager to hear the message. They wondered if this was true. So they studied the scripture daily. Many believed and were baptized alone with Greek women and noblemen.

 Even though they had much success for the Lord in Berea, it was not long until those from Thessalonica followed to cause more trouble for Paul and Silas. Silas and Timothy stayed while Paul slipped away to Athens and waited for his companions.

 Paul found Athens to be an interesting city. Paul soon was known for his talking and preaching. It seems the people did nothing but seek out new ideas. They were curious about these strange notions that Paul was saying about this man Jesus. Paul told the people that he saw an interesting altar in their city. On it was written, “To An Unknown God.”

Paul said, “I declare this God, who made the world and everything in it, to be the Lord of heaven and earth. He has no need of the shrines or anything humans can give. Instead, he gives us life and breath and all things.”

 Paul from atop a hill in Athens declared the true God. He proclaimed that this God created from one man all nations. Every man can reach out to Him and find Him. He told them that they too were His children and He was not far from them. He called the people to change and prepare for a day when God would judge all His people. Some laughed at Paul’s words. But some joined Paul and believed. In every crowd there would be those that did not believe and those that believed and were obedient to Gods call.

LESSON 5

1. Mark Paul’s next stop on your map – Thessalonica.
2. Who do you think Paul’s companions were? (Hint: Look at the pronoun in verse 1.)
3. Where did Paul usually go to preach when he came to a new city?
4. What did Paul talk about?
5. Who believed what Paul said?

TRUE OR FALSE

\_\_\_1. The Jews were jealous of Paul and Silas and used evil men to start a riot in Thessalonica.

\_\_\_2. After the Jews couldn’t find Paul and Silas in Jason’s house, they dragged Jason and other Christians to the Roman rulers.

\_\_\_3. The Jews accused the Christians of acting contrary to the decrees of Herod.

1. Where did Paul, Silas and Timothy go next? Mark this city on your map.

2. Who believed what Paul preached?

a.

b.

c.

3. Who followed Paul and his companions to Berea?

4. When Paul left Berea, to what city did he go? Mark it on your map.

Mark Athens on your map. Does that city exist today? What country is it in?

 What did Paul see that provoked him?

Describe the word idol.

Draw and Idol

Where is the usual place Paul preached?

What name did some people call him?

What did Athenians and foreigners like to spend their time doing?

1. The men of Athens had made an altar to the \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_.

2. God gives to all \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_, \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ and all things.

3. In God we \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ and \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ and have our being.

4. Even the Greek poets said, “For we are also His \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_.

TRUE OR FALSE

\_\_\_1. The true God is made in our image.

\_\_\_2. God commands that all men repent.

\_\_\_3. God will judge the world in righteousness.

\_\_\_4. Some people laughed at Paul when he described the resurrection.

\_\_\_5. No one in Athens believed Paul’s teaching.

Lesson 6

Letters from Corinth; 1 Thessalonians

Acts 18:1-11; 1Thessalonians 1-3

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met and worked with a couple Aquila and his wife Priscilla. They were tentmakers as was Paul. Every Sabbath he would try to convince Jews and Greeks about Jesus.

Silas and Timothy met Paul here in Corinth. They found him very busy. He was talking about the scripture with the Jews. He assured them that Jesus was the Christ, the one all Israel had been looking forward to. They argued and snubbed him. He finally shook the dust out of his cloak in their faces and said, “This means I am through with you. You must answer to God for refusing the truth. I am not to blame. Now I am going to pay attention to the Gentile.”

 The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Speak and don’t be silent. I’m with you and no one will harm you. Many people in Corinth belong to me.” Paul continued to plant the word among the people.

The lessons in Acts are events and sermons that Paul preached along hi journeys. But during his journeys he wrote letters to specific congregations to make points that were needed for the individual groups. While in Corinth at the home of Titus Justus, Paul writes to the people in Thessalonica. He writes to encourage the Christians there. He writes:

1. We thank God that you turned from idols to God. They truly became Christians. (1:2-10)
2. You know the way my co-workers and I labored while we were with you. You responded by treating the gospel as God’s word, not our own. (2:1-16)
3. I sent Timothy to you because I was afraid the persecution you are facing might make you give up, but Timothy has returned with good news about you. (2:17-3:10)
4. May the Lord establish you and increase your love. (3:11-13)

Lesson 6

1. Underline on your map the next city Paul visited.

2. Who did Paul meet in Corinth?

3. From which country did Aquila and Priscilla come?

4. What was their occupation?

5. Why did Paul stay with them?

6. What did Paul do every Sabbath day?

7. Who joined Paul in Corinth?

Fill in the blanks:

1. Paul thanked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the Thessalonians had turned away from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. I sent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to you to encourage you after the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Paul wished that their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would increase.

Lesson 7

Letters from Corinth; 1 Thessalonians

Acts 18:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 4-5

 The concept by which the 1 Thessalonian letter can be remembered is: Idolaters have become worshipers of God.

 Paul continues his letter:

1. Walk so as to please God (4:1-12)
2. Instructions about those who have died in the Lord. They will return with Christ. (4:13-18)
3. No one knows the time when these things will be. No warning. So be ready, prepared. (5:1-11)
4. Various instructions for the church, and closing remarks. (5:12-28)

Paul was proud of the reports that Timothy brought to him in Corinth. He wanted the brethren to continue to live holy, hard-working lives in the Lord.

 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the unbelieving Jews united and brought Paul before the judgment seat to make accusation against him. The accusation was that Paul persuades men to worship God contrary to the law. Gallio said this was not a matter for him to deal with. “I determine not to judge in this matter,” Gallio said. He drove them out of the judgment seat.

Lesson 7

1.The Thessalonians can best be remembered at the people who turned from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to serve and worship God.

1. Paul encouraged the people to continue to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.
2. Who brought the good words about the Thessalonians back to Paul?

**Short Answer**

1. How did the Lord speak to Paul to assure him he would not be harmed in Corinth?

On what other occasion did God speak to Paul in this manner?

2. How long did Paul teach in Corinth? (During this time, it is thought that Paul wrote to

the Thessalonians.)

3. Why did the Jews bring Paul to the proconsul Gallio?

4. What did Gallio decide not to do?

Lesson 8

Letters from Corinth; 2 Thessalonians

Acts 18:18-22

 Very shortly after the first letter that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he writes them again. He is still in Corinth. The second letter is a follow-up of the first to clarify some points of misunderstanding on the part of the saints at Thessalonica.

 In the letter he writes:

1. Paul gives thanks for them and comforts them in their afflictions. (1:3-12)
2. Do not be disturbed by false teachers regarding the Lord’s second coming. (2:1-12) It seems there were those who told them that the Lord was coming soon and they did not have to work are carry on with their normal daily activities.
3. He renews his expression of thanksgiving for them, and hopes that God will encourage and strengthen them, (2:13-17)
4. He request that they pray for him and his coo-workers. (3:1-5)
5. Gives them instruction on how to deal with those who would walk disorderly. (3:6-15)
6. Then he closes with his prayer for them that God would give them peace. (3:16-18)

On a personal note, he says that he signed this letter in his own handwriting. The concept by which the 2 Thessalonian letter can be remembered is: The Lord is not coming back immediately.

 Paul loves the brethren in Corinth, but after much time with them it is time for him to travel on to Syria. He had Pricilla and Aquila with him. They arrived at Ephesus. Paul did not stay in Ephesus very long, but promised to return. He left Pricilla and Aquila there in Ephesus and traveled on to Jerusalem for a visit and made reports on his second journey. Then Paul traveled on to Antioch where he remained for some time.

Lesson 8

In Thessalonica, there were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ teachers. They were teaching falsely about the second \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. Paul wanted them to be comforted because the Lord was not coming back \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Once again Paul thanked the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for them and their faithfulness.

**Short Answer**

1. Where did Paul go after Corinth?

2. Who accompanied him?

3. What did Paul promise to do?

4. What did Paul do in Cenchrea?

5. Read Numbers 6:1-12. What vow did he take? What did the vow require?

6. After Paul went to Caesarea and Antioch, where did he go?

Lesson 9

Third Journey: Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus; Galatians

Acts 18:23-19:10; Galatians 1-2

 Paul soon leaves for his third journey. He retraced some of his route of his second journey visiting churches that were established. He further taught the brethren and strengthened them.

 Remember that Paul had left Pricilla and Aquila in Ephesus. While they were still there a man came from Egypt. He was a Jew named Apollos trained in reasoning, in speech and in debate that was mighty in the scripture. Pricilla and Aquila meet this man and learned that he only knew of the baptism of John. Pricilla and Aquila took him aside and taught him the additional facts of Jesus’ sacrificial death, of His resurrection, of His ascension and He rule in heaven. After this his knowledge was complete. He continued to speak boldly for the Lord. He left Ephesus to go to Achaia. The brethren gave him letters of introduction. Apollos was a great help to those who believed in that location. He refuted the Jews’ arguments showing that Jesus was indeed the Christ.

 Paul returns to Ephesus as he had promised. He found some disciples who knew only the baptism of John. John’s baptism was for the remission of sin, for the Jews, and was and expression of their repentance. Their baptism was not in the name of Jesus Christ, nor did it require faith in Jesus as the Messiah. When they heard this, they were baptized. Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

 Paul spoke boldly in the synagogue in Ephesus for some three months. The unbelieving Jews once again said evil things about this “way” of Christ. Paul left the synagogue, taking the disciple with him to the school of Tyrannus.

 Paul writes several letters from Ephesus. Judaizing teachers had come to Galatia. They would that the Gentiles be circumcised to become Jews. Paul writes to rebuke these. The lessons are very practical for us today.

 Paul begins the epistle with a warning, rather than an expression of thanksgiving. The first two chapters are in defense of Paul’s apostleship and his authority from God. He writes:

1. Salutation (Greeting) (1:1-5)
2. A warning against “other” gospels (1:6-10)
3. A defense of the gospel Paul preached. The gospel Paul preached was revealed to him from heaven (1:11-14)
4. Paul’s peers among the apostles acknowledged his gospel-the one and only gospel (2:1-10)
5. Paul account of the occasion in which he reproved Peter, and Peter accepted the reproof (2:11-21)

Paul’s concern for these brethren was great.

Lesson 9

1. From which city did Paul begin his travel on the third journey?

Who was with him on this journey?

2. Into what region did he travel?

3. Who taught Apollos the way of God more accurately?

4. Where did Paul travel next?

Mark it on your map. In what region is this city?

5. Had Paul ever visited this city before? (Hint: Acts 18:19) Explain.

6. In what country is Ephesus today?

7. Whose disciples did Paul find in Ephesus? (Hint: verse 3)

8. When the disciples heard about Christ, what did they do?

9. How long did Paul speak in the synagogue?

In the school of Tyrannus?

When Paul writes to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he was concerned that false teachers were teaching them another gospel. Paul said what he preached had been revealed to him from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God. The other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acknowledged the gospel that Paul delivered. Paul even had to rebuke \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he was doing wrong.

Lesson 10

Letters from Ephesus: Galatians 3-4

 Paul continues with his letter to the Galatians. Paul says, “You foolish Galatians did the spiritual blessings you have come through the law or through the gospel of Christ. In chapter 3 and 4 is points out that spiritual freedom is in Christ, not by law. He writes:

1. Justification comes by faith, not by law (3:1-14)

1. All who believe are children of Abraham (3:6-9)
2. Those under the law were under a curse, because they could not keep the law (3:10-12)
3. Jesus redeemed us by becoming a curse to make forgiveness possible (3:13-14)

2. Adding of the law did not void the covenant of promise that God had made to Abraham (3:15-4:7)

1. The law was the guardian to bring the heirs of promise to Christ (3:19-24)
2. We were prisoners, but now are released-we are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ (3:25-29)
3. Christ came to set men free from the bondage of the law, and to give us the privileges of sons (4:1-7)

3. You Gentiles were released from another bondage, idolatry-and now you are willing to go under the bondage of law (4:8-11)?

4. Contrast between the Galatians’ feelings for Paul at the beginning and now (4: 12-20)

5. Allegory: Hagar (bondmaid) and Sarah (the wife) of Abraham (4:21-31)

Lesson 10

 What did Paul call the Galatians?

Why did he call them that?

Paul reminded them that justification come by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and not by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The law was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them because they could not keep the law perfectly. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took away the curse and the law when he died on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The letter to the Galatians is and important letter about the new faith of Christianity. Some of the Jewish Christians were teaching that the new Gentile Christians would have to, in a sense, become a Jew first before they could be considered accepted.

The main lesson Galatians is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in Jesus Christ. His death freed us from the bondage of the law. We cannot bind the law on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 11

Letters from Ephesus: Galatians

Galatians 5-6

 Paul continues his letter to the Galatians. He writes in chapters 5-6 that freedom in Christ is not license to sin.

1. Christ set us free: do not enter into bondage again (5:1)
2. One who accepts circumcision accepts the obligation of the whole law (5:2-12)
3. Do not use your freedom to indulge in the flesh (5:13-15)
4. Walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh (5:16-26)
5. Responsibilities to one another (6:1-5)
6. Sowing and reaping (6:6-10)
7. True motives of false teachers (6:11-16)
8. Paul was branded with the marks of Christ (6:17)
9. Benediction (6:18)

The concept by which we will remember Galatians is: Spiritual freedom is through Christ.

Now we must walk in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What things will walking in the Spirit bring to our life?

Walking by the flesh will only bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!!!!!

Lesson 12

Letters from Ephesus: 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1-3 and some of 4

 The whole world of Asia comes to hear the words of Paul while Paul is in Ephesus. Yet Paul still had concerns for the church and the different congregations. He continues to write.

 Aquila and Pricilla are still with Paul in Ephesus. He had hoped to go to Corinth, but great opportunities open in Ephesus and he is detained. Visitors come to Ephesus from Corinth. They bring letters with questions for Paul. They also bring word of trouble among the saints at Corinth. Paul deals with the problems first and scolds them like naughty children.

 The letter says:

1. Introduction (1:1-9)
2. Divisions due to personal preferences about preachers (1:10-17)
3. Worldly wisdom versus God’s wisdom (1:18-2:16)
4. It is the message that is important, not the messenger (3:1-4:13)

The thread of division, coupled with the threads of worldly wisdom and pride, go through chapter 4.

Lesson 12

Questions:

Here in Corinthians we read about the first division in the church.

What does the word division mean?

The church was divided over the different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What questions did Paul ask about their division?

1.

2.

3.

 Paul called the message of the cross \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to men. This message was the secret \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. It had been hidden through all the time before, but is now

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to us.

 Paul said they were acting like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he would continue to treat them like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They needed to learn that it was not important who taught them the message of the cross. What was important?

Paul called himself their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel.

Do you think Paul loved the people in the church in Corinth?

Lesson 13

Letters from Ephesus: 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 4-6

 Paul till had a desire to come to them. But in the letter he continues to write:

1. It is the message that is important, not the messenger (3:1-4:13)
2. I hope to come to you in love, not with a whip (4:14-21)
3. There is a gross immorality among you (5:1-13)
4. He talks about their practice of going to law with brethren (6:1-11)
5. Honor God with your body, rather than letting it be defiled (6:12-20)

After this Paul will address the questions that came from the brethren in Corinth.

Questions

It is the message that is important, not the messenger. Boys and girls what does this mean?

God uses all kind of men to preach and teach the gospel. But they all bring one message.

 Paul was hoping soon to come to the Corinthians. He did not want to come to them with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He wanted to come to them in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

True or False

\_\_\_ Paul had heard there was a great sin in the church at Corinth.

\_\_\_ Paul was not concerned.

\_\_\_ Immorality has a place in the church.

\_\_\_ Paul told them to get rid of the one practicing immorality.

\_\_\_ Honor God with you bodies for it is the temple of God.

What does it mean to take someone to court?

Lesson 14

Letters from Ephesus: 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 7-10

 After Paul addresses the problems that he was aware of, then he answers questions that were delivered to him in chapters 7:1-11:1.

Advice on marriage (7:1-40):

1. God’s law on Marriage: let each person have his own mate in marriage. Each is bound so long as the partner lives (7:1-7; 39-40).
2. Let the married remain married, unless the unbelieving partner refuses to remain (7:9-16)
3. One can serve God whether slave or free, whether married or single (7:17-24)
4. Times of distress are upon you, so it might be better to remain unmarried, but you do not sin if you married. It is better to marry than fall to temptations (7:8, 25-38)

Eating things sacrificed to idols; dealing with spiritual “rights” (8:1-11:1):

1. You have knowledge: No idol is God; therefore, meat is not contaminated when it is sacrificed to an idol (8:1-6)
2. But what about the weak brother? Will your “right” to eat the meat cause him to partake in idolatrous worship? (8:7-13)
3. Paul says, “I have ‘rights too, but I have not used them, lest I hinder my work for the Lord” (9:1-27)
4. Do not be over-confident of your ability to resist temptation. Your fathers fell (10:1-13).
5. Do not participate in the worship at the idol temples. The true recipient of that false worship is the Devil (10:14-22).
6. Seek the other person’s good above your own “rights” (10:23-11:1).

Lesson 14

 The Corinthians had questions on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

After rebuking the Corinthians about immorality, he tells the people that a man should have \_\_\_\_\_ wife, and a woman should have \_\_\_\_\_\_ husband. They are bound together as long at the partner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But Paul tells them that they can still serve God married or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Marriage was designed that man and women would not sin. Paul warns them that during times or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it might be hard to be married. When you are single you worry only about yourself. If you are married you must worry about the safety of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Before the hearing of the Gospel of Christ, the men and women of Corinth had worshiped \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Now they were having problems with whether or not to eat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to idols. What does Paul tell them?

Paul says in Christ we all have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and freedoms. It is more important to consider the rights and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of another. We want to help others get to heaven and not be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ block.

 Paul warns the Corinthians not to be over-confident about their ability to resist \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Their fathers before them had fallen to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He warns them to stay away from the worship of idols for it is the worship of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are to seek the good of others above our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rights.

Lesson 15

Letters from Ephesus: 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 11-14

 After answering some of their questions, in 11:2-14:-40 he returns to problems that they are experiencing. He instructs them to teach them to be in fellowship with the Lord. It is not only for their good but for the future of the church. It guides you and I today.

Disorder in worship (11:2-34):

1. Failure to show proper submission, based upon God’s order (11:2-16).
2. Failure to partake of the Lord’s Supper with proper reverence (11:17-34).

Improper use of spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40):

1. There is jealousy among you (12:1-31).
2. A better way: LOVE (13:1-13).
3. The proper way to use gifts you have (14:1-40).

Lesson 15

The line of authority is simple in the Lord’s church. Paul explained it such:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is over Christ

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is over man

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is over woman

This is God’s order and men and women often disagree.

Paul warns them about their attitude when they are assembled together. What is an assembly?

Jesus left an example of taking a memorial meal to remember the sacrifice of His body and His blood. Was this to be a meal like we eat at home or was is something else? What was it?

In the beginning of the church, there were special needs. To help people grow and gain knowledge of the things of the church, the apostles laid their hands on some to impart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

gifts. They were important. Name some.

They were not to make men proud or better than anyone else. The Spiritual gifts were to help the church grow. Paul warned the people not to be proud or jealous. There was something coming that would be more important than the gifts. You have been learning 1 Cor. 13. What would be more important than the gifts?

A time would come when the gifts would cease. What we would have left would be ***LOVE***.

Lesson 16

Letters from Ephesus: 1 Corinthians

Acts 19:11-20:1; 1Corinthians 15-16

 Paul finishes up his first letter to the Corinthians. In chapters 15 and 16 he continues to address some of their problems.

Some are teaching there is no resurrection (15:1-58):

1. Jesus died, was buried, and was raised from the dead according to the scriptures (15:1-11).
2. If this is true, then how can some be saying there is no resurrection? All would be useless (15:12-19).
3. But Christ *has* been raised, and He will reign until Death is conquered (15:20-28).
4. Do not let your questions about the resurrection keep you from believing it will indeed take place (15:29-49).
5. Some will die, but all will be part of the resurrection. There will be victory over death! Stand firm! Never give up (15:50-58)!!!

Information concerning the collection for the saints (16:1-9):

1. Each of you lay aside your portion upon the first day of the week, so it will be together when I arrive (16:1-2).
2. One you choose will take the gift, or accompany me (16:3-4).

Close of the epistle (16:10-24)

1. Paul’s plan (16:5-9).
2. Warnings and greetings (16:10-24).

The concept by which we can remember the first letter to the Corinthians is: Love, the better way of avoiding problems within the church.

 No matter where Paul traveled or settled there were Jews who would challenge him. There were seven sons of a man named Sceva, a Jew who was an influential priest. They saw the miracles that Paul did and the spirits that he cast out. They wanted to “borrow” the charms that Paul used to cast out these demons. The evil spirit that they tried to cast out said, “Jesus I recognize, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” The person possessed leaped on the brothers and beat and overpowered them. They ran out of the house wounded and naked and bleeding. Everyone in Ephesus heard of this. They were awestruck and the name of Jesus was praised.

 Another result of Paul’s preaching was that many magicians believed. They came confessing that they were doing wrong and brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. The price of the books was over 50 thousand pieces of silver.

 Then a huge commotion broke out. The temple of the idol Diana was a big business. Little silver shrines of Diana were made and sold by the blacksmiths. One of the blacksmiths, Demetrius, accuses Paul of taking away their business. A riot rushed the city’s theater. Paul’s friends warned him not to go into the theater. A man named Alexander finally quieted the crowd. When it was learned that he was a Jew, the crowd that worshiped Diana shouted him down. The town clerk got control of the mob. “All knows that this town worships Diana. Her statue, which fell from heaven, is here. So you should be quiet and don’t be violent. Take your problems home before the Romans come and accuse us of rioting,” said the clerk. And that was the end of it.

Lesson 16

 Chapter 15 talks about the resurrection. Do you remember in the gospels when Jesus had discussions with the Sadducees? They were a sect of the Jews who did not believe in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so they were sad-u-see. Now there were those from that sect that believe in Jesus and did not understand about the resurrection. Paul asked them to remember that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was resurrected. If Jesus had not been resurrection all would be lost and we would never be reconciled with God and that would be very SAD. He told them to never give up for there would be a “great resurrection” and all who remained faithful to the end would be victorious over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In chapter 16, Paul tells them to “happily” lay aside a collection to take care of other saints. When are we to do that?

 Paul warns the Corinthians to do all things in love. Take care of the sins that were in the congregation. He would come to them at a convenient time.

 Back to the book of Acts; remember Paul stayed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years in Ephesus. Paul was doing great signs and wonders in Ephesus. There was a priest named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sons. When they tried to cast out a demon, the demon said, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I recognize, and Paul I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about, but who are you?” What happened to the sons?

Because of their faith and the example above, the magicians believed and even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their books of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

many costing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thousand pieces of silver. This caused a great commotion. There was a temple for the goddess the sale of her idols was a big business. Who stopped the commotion before there was big trouble?

Lesson 17

Letter from Macedonia: 2 Corinthians

Acts 20:1; 2 Corinthians 1-6

 After the uproar was over, Paul gathered the Ephesian believers. He’d been in Ephesus for three years. After encouraging them, he said farewell and left for Macedonia going through Troas and across the Aegean Sea.

 Upon leaving, Paul is deeply burdened. The trouble just before he left Ephesus. The disturbing report on the church at Corinth followed by the letter that he had to write to them. Plus when he reached Troas, he was expecting to meet Titus, Titus was not there.

 Things did not look much better when they arrived in Macedonia. But then Titus came and he brought good news from Corinth. Most of the Corinthians received the first letter well and made corrections. However there were those who rejected Paul’s message. Paul feels the necessity to write a second letter only a short week or two after the first.

 It is obvious at the beginning of the second Corinthian letter that Timothy had arrived in Macedonia and writes the second letter to the Corinthians from there. In the first 7 chapter Paul writes about his ministry and his companions. Paul writes:

1. Greeting and introduction (1:1-2).
2. Praise to God who comforts us in every affliction (1:3-11).
3. Paul’s change of plans, and his reasons for making the changes: not fickleness, but in hope to spare them rebuke (1:12-2:4).
4. The fornicator has been sufficiently punished (2:5-11).
5. Paul begins telling of his rejoicing that his reproof has been accepted (2:12-13).

Paul will pick-up with these thoughts in chapter 7 in the next lesson.

He changes thought:

1. Thanks be to God who leads us in triumph! We, His ministers, are the aroma of Christ (2:14-17).
2. You are our “letter of recommendation” (3:1-3).
3. It is God who makes us adequate as ministers of the new covenant (3:4-6).
4. The glory of the new covenant is far greater than that of the old (3:7-11).
5. The new covenant is more open than the old. We reflect His glory (3:12-18).
6. Accordingly, ministers of new covenant speak plainly (4:1-6).
7. Bodily weaknesses do not affect the value of this great treasure (4:7-15).
8. We are sustained by a glorious hope (4:16-18).
9. Our desire is to be clothed with our eternal body (5:1-5).
10. To be with Christ is preferable, but whether in the body of with Christ, we must live so as to be well-pleasing to Him (5:6-10).
11. Our purpose is sincere (5:11-13).
12. We are constrained by the love of Christ to conduct our ministry (5:14-15).
13. In Christ everyone is made new (5:16-19)
14. As Christ’s ambassadors, we beseech men to be reconciled to God (5:20-6:3).
15. The conditions and characteristics of Paul’s ministry (6:4-10).
16. We still have affection for you-please have the same for us (6:11-13).
17. Do not form compromising relationships with unbelievers (6:14-7:1).

Questions for Lesson 17

1. How many years did Paul stay in Ephesus total?

2. Paul left Ephesus on his way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Who was Paul expecting to meet in Troas?

4. Finally they arrive in Macedonia. At first did things look better there?

5. What happened to make things better?

6. Because the word from Corinth by Titus was good and bad Paul writes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ letter to the Corinthians.

7. Paul’s plan to come see them at this time had changed. Not because he was fickle, but he wanted to give them more time so that when he did come he would “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” that his reproof had been accepted.

 Paul was truly thankful for the changes that had already happened because of the 1st letter. Titus and Timothy are both with Paul at this point.

Paul explains to the brethren that he was in danger expecting to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

on many occasions.

 Paul thanks the brethren on how they had dealt with the man who was guilty in 1 Cor. chapter 5. But he reminds them that when a man repents and does better, we are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them. Don’t make him so sorry that he become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with guilt. (2:5-11)

 Paul asks the Corinthians, which was the better covenant- the old or the new?

He calls the New Covenant, the gospel, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We must be well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God. We will be made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

 We all are Christ’s ambassadors, bringing men back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

by way of the gospel. Paul warns them not to make friendships with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It may cause them to lose faith.

Lesson 18

Letter from Macedonia: 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 7-9

 Here in the middle of chapter 7 is where Paul goes back to his thoughts that he started in 2:12-13. Paul writes:

1. Open your hearts to us; we have not wronged you (7:2-4).
2. I rejoice that my reproof has been well received (7:5-16).

Now in chapters 8-9 Paul talks concerning the collect being made for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

1. The Macedonian churches have been liberal beyond their means (8:1-6).
2. Purpose of the collection (8:6-15).
3. Precautions being taken (8:16-24).
4. Be sure your collection is ready (9:1-5).
5. God blesses the cheerful, liberal giver (9:6-15).

What does Paul say to the Corinthians?

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Lesson 19

Letter from Macedonia: 2 Corinthians; 3rd Journey continue

2 Corinthians 10-13; Acts 20:2-3a

 Paul is still on his third journey. Paul still is defending his own apostolic ministry and authority. In chapter 10-13, he finishes up with his defense and the assurance that his will come to them in person. Paul writes:

1. Please do not make me have to use my authority (10:1-6).
2. Though I might appear weak, my authority is real and divinely given (10:7-18).
3. Please indulge me while I state my credentials as an apostle, a faithful servant of God (11:1-4).
4. Paul was not in the least inferior to his adversaries (11:5-15).
5. Paul’s labors and trials (11:16-33).
6. The greatest of his visions and revelations is illustrated by one vision from fourteen years before (12:1-10)>
7. The Corinthians themselves should have testified these things of Paul (12:11-13).
8. My willingness to spend myself in your behalf should have shown that my love for you is sincere (12:14-18).
9. Paul’s “boasting” is not to defend himself, but to help the Corinthians (12:19-21).
10. When I arrive, everything will be sorted out, and the power of Christ will be demonstrated (13:1-10).
11. Final exhortations (13:11-13).
12. Benediction (Blessing) (13:14).

 The concept by which we can remember the book of 2 Corinthians is: It is God who gives us strength to do our work. This is Paul strongest defense of his apostleship. Remember he is defending himself to fellow Christians-not to unbelieving Jews or opposing Gentiles.

Lesson 19

 Paul continually has to defend his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Paul’s apostolic ministry and authority came be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Himself. His authority was real. He was a faithful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

What were Paul’s trails? (11:23-33)

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Paul said he had spent himself for them to prove that his \_\_\_\_\_\_

For them was sincere. Paul told them that he was coming, in joy, and they would sort everything out.

Finally he exhorted:

13:11 finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Lesson 20

Letter from Corinth: Romans

Romans 1-4

 By the winter Paul finally finds himself in Corinth, as he had planned. He will stay for about three months. While there he will write to the brethren in Rome. Paul did not start the congregation in Rome. He hoped to visit Rome for the first time, after he delivers the gift to the poor saints in Jerusalem. Paul’s dear friends and companions, Priscilla and Aquila are back in Rome. After he writes the letter, Phoebe, from the congregation at Cenchrea, may have taken the letter to Rome. In the end, Paul will go to Rome, but as a prisoner, not as he had planned.

 The book sets forth God’s plan whereby men may be counted righteous. The letter says:

* God’s plan for righteousness is revealed in the gospel (1:1-17).
* Greeting and introduction (1:-7)
* I want to preach to you-because the gospel is for all (1:8-17).
* God’s plan for righteousness: needed by all (1:18-3:20).
* The Gentiles ignored God and sinned to the extreme (1:18-32).
* The Jews broke their law also. They have no room to boast (2:1-29).
* All have sinned (3:1-20).
* God’s plan for righteousness: given through faith (3:21-4:25).
* God has devised a plan for forgiveness (3:21-31).
* Even Abraham and David were justified by faith, not by perfect lives (4:1-25).

Lesson 20

Finally, Paul finds himself where?

Two of Paul’s closest friends are in Rome, who are they?

Paul has not been to Rome, does he plan to go?

Does Paul go to Rome as he had planned?

 The letter to the Romans is one of Paul’s very best. The book sets forth God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whereby men may be counted righteous.

Paul wrote to share God’s words with them. He had preached to many. The gospel is for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. All \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needed the gospel.

Did the Gentles need the gospel?

Did the Jews need the gospel?

What was going to save all men, even Abraham and David?

**FAITH**

Lesson 21

Letter from Corinth: Romans

Romans 5-8

 Since we are justified by faith we have peace with God and hope for our souls. We can rejoice in our hope, and we can be confident God will not disappoint us. Paul continues to write:

* God’s plan for righteousness: solving the problem of sin (5:1-6:23).
* We can rejoice in our hope (5:1-11).
* Christ’s death more than compensates for the curse caused by Adam’s sin (5:12-21).But God’s grace demands responsibility on our part. We are committed to live as servants of Christ (6:1-18).
* The wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life (6:19-23).
* God’s plan for righteousness overcoming the curse of the law (7:1-25).
* We have been delivered from the law (7:1-6).
* The law identified sinful behavior; but it commands trapped men in disobedience (7:7-13).
* Even the good man, by himself, struggles with the pressures of sin. Defeat is inevitable (7:14-24).
* But man is not alone! He can rely upon Jesus Christ (7:25).
* God’s plan for righteousness: providing for man’s spiritual needs (8:1-39).
* In Christ, instead of condemnation, I have life (8:1-17).
* Present sufferings cannot compare to the glory that awaits us (8:18-27).
* We are secure – nothing can separate us from God (8:28-39).

Questions Lesson 21

1. God’s plan for righteousness was to solve the problem of sin. The problem of sin was that it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us from God.

2. All that was lost when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sinned was regained by the death of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Now because of our faith we have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Justified by faith, rejoicing in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, living at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.

5. We all are responsible for our own actions. We must commit ourselves to being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

6. Paul says one of the most powerful things in 6: 23. Who has sinned?

7. What will happen to all who die without Jesus Christ?

8. The curse of the law is death, but through Jesus Christ the free gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. The law was not useless. We learn many lessons from the law.

Its main purpose was to show us our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and point out just how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we are without Jesus.

10. No matter how great our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are here in this life, it cannot compare to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that awaits us.

11. We can walk away from God, but we can be secure He will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leave us.

Lesson 22

Letter from Corinth: Romans

Romans 9-11

 In Christ, you will not be condemned. Your body becomes the place where God’s Spirit lives, and the spirit helps you to live just like Jesus. That is what God had planned- That everyone should be made a copy of Jesus. Paul continues to write:

* God’s plan for righteousness: fulfilling the hope of Israel (9:1-11:36).
* But what about the Jews? They had so many blessings, but they were separated from the love of God (9:1-5).
* God’s word did not fail. Being a physical descendant of Abraham did not assure God’s favor (9:6-18).
* God’s choices were above the Jews’ criticism (9:19-29).
* The Gentiles gained righteousness through faith, while the Jews lost it by a lack of faith (9:30-33).
* The Jews tried to establish their own system of righteousness by works, and failed because they did not accept God’s plan (10:1-4).
* Righteousness which is of faith is based upon faith in the gospel which is preached to all (10:5-15).
* Faith comes when men will both hear and believe the message of Christ (10:16-17).
* The Jews were informed about God’s plan to save Gentiles also, but most refused to hear (10:18-21).
* God has not rejected His people; He saves all those who believe on Him and love Him – whether Jew or Gentile (11:1-6).
* Most of Israel hardened their hearts; those who believed were chosen (11:7-10).
* Israel’s disobedience furnished the occasion for the Gentiles’ salvation (11:11-12).
* Paul rejoices in his work among the Gentiles, hoping to provoke his people to seek salvation (11:13-16).
* Gentiles are not to think that they have been saved because of how righteous they are; they too stand by their faith (11:17-21).
* Behold the goodness and severity of God (11:22-24).
* Knowledge of God’s plan will prevent arrogance on the part of the Gentile Christians (11:25-27).
* God does not hate the Jews; He is perfectly willing for them to be saved from their sins also-by faith (11:28-32).
* Doxology (11:33-36).

Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

Lesson 22

 God made for Himself a special people. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

were that people. But just being the descendants of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was not enough. The purpose of the Jews was to demonstrate the need for the grace of God. They were to be a people from whom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our Savior could come. He would be the one person who could keep the \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly.

 The promises made to Abraham were partly about this special nation. The final promise was to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mankind. The Jew lost their relationship with God because of their lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Gentiles could gain righteousness through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And now the Jews could regain righteousness through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also. All man can gain the righteousness of God by faith in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. The good news of Christ is that now all men can hear and believe.

 Remember the Jews heard this good message first. Many refused to believe and obey. So God had a plan all along to send the message to the Gentiles. In Acts 9, He specifically called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to go to preach to the Gentiles. Now God saves all who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Him, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His word.

 Something kept many Jews from believing in Christ. They had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their hearts. Paul was sad that his own people reject Christ, but he rejoiced in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ among the Gentiles. He did want the Gentiles to think they were better than the Jews. The Gentiles were saved because of their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and not their own righteousness.

 God has two sides. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God is reserved for those who trust and obey. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God is reserved for those who refuse to trust and obey.

Oh the depth and the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God.

Lesson 23

Letter from Corinth: Romans

Romans 12-13

 Therefore, in view of God’s mercy, remember you are to live good lives, presenting your bodies as living sacrifices to God. Paul continues to write: God’s plan for righteousness: demanding righteous lives (12:1-15:13).

* In view of God’s mercy, let your lives be transformed (12:1-21).
* Fulfill your obligations to others (13:1-14).
* Let you behavior show you concern for the spiritual welfare of your brethren (14:1-23).
* Do not deal harshly with a weak brother on matters of judgment (14:1-12).
* Do not put a stumbling-block in his path by your actions (14:13-23).

In view of God’s mercy, list what we can do.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 24

Letter from Corinth: Romans

Romans 15-16

Instead of condemning your weak brother, or putting a stumbling block in his path, let the strong help the weak. Paul continues to

Write:

* Let your behavior reflect the example of Christ, who gave Himself as a sacrifice for others (15:1-13).
* Paul had preached the gospel from Jerusalem all the way around Illyricum (15:14-21).
* Now he hopes to visit Rome also, after he takes the gift to Jerusalem (15:22-33).
* Greetings and closing remarks (16:1-24).
* Benediction (16:25-27).

 In Romans, Paul tells us that all men can now be secure in Christ. The concept by which we will remember the book of Romans is: Justification is by faith in Jesus, not through works of the law.

 Questions Lesson 24

 The theme of Paul’s teachings is similar in every letter. He is constantly reminding us to be a reflection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Romans is one of those letters that tells that \_\_\_\_\_ men need the love and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God to be saved. Paul had preached all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Paul was not proud of that for himself, but that it brought glory to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Paul had never been to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but he hoped to come to them after he takes his gifts for the churches to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Paul always acknowledged those who helped him in the Lord’s work.

Justified by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus, not through works of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 25

Review / make-up

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Lesson 26

Review / make-up

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Boys and Girls:

Welcome to the next quarter. We are almost through the book of Acts. We have seen the travels with Paul and his companions.

In this quarter, we will follow Paul back to Jerusalem after his third journey for the Lord. We will see the hardships that come after his visit to Jerusalem. We will travel with Paul to Rome to plead his case before Caesar. We will study the books that Paul continues to write from Rome. If we all study hard we will learn a lot about the work of the apostles. We will also learn about our service in the Lord.

We will use Psalms 19 as our memory verses, one a week for the quarter.

I am looking forward to being your teacher.

### Psalm 19[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+19&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14170a)]

**1**The heavens declare the glory of God;
    the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

**2**Day after day they pour forth speech;
    night after night they reveal knowledge.

**3**They have no speech, they use no words;
    no sound is heard from them.

**4**Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
    their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**5**It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
    like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

**6**It rises at one end of the heavens
    and makes its circuit to the other;
    nothing is deprived of its warmth.

**7**The law of the Lord is perfect,
    refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
    making wise the simple.

**8**The precepts of the Lord are right,
    giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
    giving light to the eyes.

**9**The fear of the Lord is pure,
    enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
    and all of them are righteous.

**10**They are more precious than gold,
    than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
    than honey from the honeycomb.

**11**By them your servant is warned;
    in keeping them there is great reward.
**12**But who can discern their own errors?
    Forgive my hidden faults.

**13**Keep your servant also from willful sins;
    may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
    innocent of great transgression.

**14**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
    Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Lesson 1

Third Journey concludes

Acts 20:3b-21:14

 After three months in Corinth, Paul is ready to leave for Jerusalem. He is accompanied by several men who were involved with the collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem. They sailed on to Troas. Luke, who was recording the events surrounding the live and work of Paul, was with Paul at this time. This was the end of Paul’s third journey. It was spring. Paul and Luke stayed in Philippi until after the days of unleavened bread (Passover). Then they sailed on to Troas and met the others there.

 The group remained in Troas for 7 days. On the 1st day of the week they gathered with disciples there to “break bread”. Paul preached to the disciples. Paul intended to leave afterwards. He preached until mid-night. They were meeting in an upper room. A young man, Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, went to sleep and fell out the window to his death. Paul went down and fell upon the young man embracing him. He told the disciples, “be not troubled for the young man was alive.” Paul went back upstairs and continued to preach until dawn. The disciples were comforted. On the next day, Paul’s friends sail on to Assos, but Paul decided to walk. Paul was trying to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost.

 Paul met the others in Assos and for four days they sailed until they reached Miletus. He did not go to Ephesus. Instead he called for the elders from Ephesus to meet him in Miletus. Paul has been told by the Holy Spirit that when he gets to Jerusalem that there will be trouble. They beg him not to go on to Jerusalem. He tells them that he must complete his journey and he will not see them again.

 Paul tells them that he has held nothing back. He has preached to Jews and Gentile publicly and from house to house. He testified that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in Jesus Christ as the risen Son of God.

 Paul tells the elders to be watchful. They were to guard themselves and the flock among whom they worked. He warned them about false teachers who would come among them, distorting the truth, to draw away disciples away after themselves. Paul had prayed earnestly and worked with these men to prepare them for this day when he would be no longer with them.

 Paul left the elders in the care of God and the word of His grace which was able to build them up. I have left you an example to support the weak. And when Paul had said these things he knelt with the elders and prayed and wept. They all accompanied him back to the ship. They embraced him weeping and kissed him for they knew they would see him no more.

 Please remember to follow your maps. Paul is continuing on his third journey. Always pressing toward Jerusalem, Paul and his companions sail to Cos, then Rhodes, to Patara, going south of Cyprus towards Syria until they landed at Tyre.

 In Tyre, they found brethren and decided to stay for seven days. These brethren warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem. The Spirit knew what was to happen to Paul in Jerusalem. The people did not want Paul to go. But Paul knew that the Spirit intended for Paul to go so that he could continue to spread the gospel of Christ. The brethren followed Paul to the shore as he was about to leave. They, as the elders from Ephesus, wept and prayed. Paul sailed on to Ptolemais and then on to Caesarea. In Caesarea Paul meets us with Philip the evangelist. He was one of the disciples chosen in Acts 6 to do special service. He had four daughters with the gift of prophecy.

 Here Paul is met by a prophet named Agabus. He came down from Jerusalem to warn Paul in a strange way. He went to Paul, took his belt, tied his own hands, and said, “in this manner the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt, and will turn him over to the Gentiles.” Once again the brethren pegged and pleated with Paul not to go. But Paul answered: “What do you think you are doing, weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

 Paul stayed on in Caesarea for many days. Paul was determined to do the will of God.

Lesson 1 Questions

1. Who were the men that accompanied Paul with the collection and where were they from?

2. Do you remember who wrote the book of Acts?

3. Do you remember what Passover was for?

4. “Breaking Bread” for these disciples was to bring what to their remembrance?

5. As an example to the church today, what did Paul do after the disciples had broken bread?

6. It was not unusual for the church to meet in upper rooms. What happened while Paul was preaching?

7. Earlier in Acts, do you remember what happened on another Pentecost day?

8. What message was Paul preaching in his travels?

9. Paul warned the elders about what?

10. Why do you think the brethren in Tyre wanted Paul not to go to Jerusalem?

11. In Caesarea, Paul meets up with whom? What was special about his 4 daughters?

12. What was the warning from the prophet Agabus?

13. How did Paul answer Agabus?

Lesson 2

Paul in Jerusalem: Arrest and Defense to Jewish crowd

Acts 21:15-22:21

 Paul finally arrived in Jerusalem, but possible not in time for the Pentecost feast. The brethren received him warmly. On the day following, Paul met with James and all the elders. He gave a report of all the things he had accomplished on his third journey.

 Having made the report all glorified God. Then they had things to say to Paul. They were of the understanding that Paul was teaching the Jews that lived and worshiped with the Gentile brethren to forsake their customs. Paul needed to clarify his teaching. As part of the clarification, they advised Paul to take four men with him to be purified. They were to make a vow and have their heads shaved to prove that they were living in obedience to the law. In conclusion, the elders agreed firmly that the Gentile brethren did not have to keep the law of Moses. Paul accepted their advice, did as they had said.

 Paul did not object to the Jewish Christians keeping the customs of their fathers. They just could not bind them on the Gentile brethren. The acts of worship and the practices of sacrifices could no longer be observed. The death and sacrifice of Jesus once and for all make the law null and void.

 At the end of the period of purification, Paul was seen in the temple. Faithful Jews stirred up the crowd accusing Paul of teaching against the Jewish faith, laws and even the temple. They accused him of brining Gentiles into the temple. A fiery riot broke out and the Jews were attempting to kill Paul.

 Immediately the chief captain rescued Paul from the mob. When the mob saw the captain they stopped beating Paul. Paul was bound in chains. The captain asked what this man had done. The crowd became agitated again. They began to shout accusations. But the tribune did not learn what this man had done. He ordered Paul to be taken to the castle.

 As Paul was about to be carried into the castle, he asked to have a word with the captain. The captain was surprised that Paul could speak Greek. Paul asked to be able to speak to the people. The crowd was silenced and Paul was allowed to speak to the Jews.

 In Paul’s defense, he spoke to the people in their Aramaic language. The crowd got even quieter and Paul begins his defense. Here are the things that he told them.

1. I am a Jew, born in Tarsus.
2. I studied at the feet of Gamaliel.
3. I had a zeal for God and I, too, persecuted this Way.
4. But the Lord appeared to me.
5. The Lord asked why I persecuted Him.
6. He told me He was Jesus.
7. He called me to follow Him and teach His gospel to the Gentiles.
8. He instructed me to go to Damascus.
9. There Ananias told me what to do.
10. I would then be called to go and tell the Gentiles what I had done.
11. Jesus then came to me and told me to leave Jerusalem because I am sending you to the Gentiles.

This was just the beginning.

Lesson 2

1. Review some of the things that Paul did on his third journey.

2. To assure peace among the Jewish Christians, what did James and the elders advise Paul to do?

3. What act had put the Old Law and their responsibility to it aside?

4. How did the Jews react when Paul appeared in the temple?

5. Who came to the aid of Paul? Why was he surprise?

6. What request did Paul make?

7. What did Paul tell the people?

Lesson 3

Paul's Defense to Jewish Council; change of venue

Acts 22:22-23:35

 The crowd listened to Paul until he got to the part about being called to preach the good news to the Gentiles. Being faithful Jews, they shouted, “Do away with such a fellow, he is not fit to live.” The Jews were very proud people and have always had a hatred for the Gentiles. They threw off their cloaks and tossed dust into the air.

 The chief Captain rescued Paul again. He ordered that the soldiers take Paul into the castle to be examined. He ordered that Paul be bound and scourged to force him to tell his story. But Paul called for the centurion in charge. He told them that he was a Roman citizen. The soldiers became afraid; it was against Roman law to beat a citizen without a proper trial.

 The chief captain was called. He asked Paul if he indeed was a Roman citizen. The captain said he had to buy his papers to become a Roman citizen. Paul said yes he was a Roman citizen, born in Tarsus. The soldiers hearing this left the castle. Paul was unbound. He was held to meet with the Jewish council on the morrow. But he was not treated cruelly.

 The next day the captain takes Paul before the Sanhedrin. This was an assembly of both Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus himself had to deal with these Jews when he was on earth. Paul addresses the council. “I’ve always lived before God in good conscience until this very day.”

 At that point the high priest ordered that Paul be slapped in the mouth. Paul responded quickly that God would smite him. He called him a white washed wall. Paul did not realize that this was Ananias the high priest. The council charged Paul with showing disrespect for the High Priest. He confessed that he did not know that this was the high priest.

 Paul could see he would not get a fair hearing in this assembly. Paul claimed that he was a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. He was brought before them for one reason only, his hope and the resurrection of the dead. Immediately the council started arguing among themselves. The captain was afraid that Paul was going to be torn apart. For the third time the chief captain had to rescue Paul. The soldiers were commanded to take Paul to the fortress of Antonia for safe keeping.

 That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, “Cheer up: as you have testified of me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness of me at Rome also.”

 Then next day more that forty Jews vowed to kill Paul. A plot was devised to get Paul back to the council. But on his way there they planned to kill him. Paul nephew heard of this plan and got word to Paul. Paul instructed that his nephew be taken to the chief captain.

 Again the captain devise a plan to get Paul safely to Caesarea to appear be for the governor, Felix. That very night at 9:00pm the captain called together 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen. They also brought a horse for Paul. He wrote a letter to Felix about what had happened. Paul accusers were told.

 Paul was taken by 470 soldiers to Felix in Caesarea. Caesarea was the official headquarters of the Roman governor of Judea. It was on the seacoast a distance of seventy miles from Jerusalem. They delivered the letter to Felix. Felix agreed to hear Paul, but not until his accuser arrived. Paul was kept under guard in Herod’s palace which now served as the residence of the governor.

Lesson 3

True or False

\_\_\_\_ 1. God made a promise to Abraham about the Gentiles. They would be able to be saved through Christ.

\_\_\_\_ 2. The Jews had been God’s chosen people. Now all men can be God’s chosen people.

\_\_\_\_ 3. A Roman citizen could be beaten for any reason.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Paul was a Roman citizen and a Jew.

\_\_\_\_ 5. Paul was released without any other trail or punishment.

\_\_\_\_ 6. Paul had always lived right before God.

\_\_\_\_ 7. Paul and Jesus called the Pharisees white washed.

\_\_\_\_ 8. Paul knew that Ananias was the high priest.

Questions

1. What was the different opinion between the Pharisees and Sadducees?

2. What did the Lord tell Paul?

3. Who told Paul and the captain of the plot against Paul?

4. Who again devised a plan to get Paul to safety?

5. What was the plan? How many soldiers?

6. Who was the governor that Paul was going to appear before?

Lesson 4

Paul's Defense to Felix

Acts 24

 Paul was being held under guard at the old palace of Herod, now home of the Roman governor Felix. Felix agreed to meet with Paul when his accusers arrived. After five days, Ananias the high priest, some of the elders and an orator named Tertullus arrive in Caesarea to present their claims against Paul.

 Paul and these Jews were called before Felix. Tertullus, a lawyer for the Jews spoke first. He begins with five points:

1. Felix, you have done great thing for our nation.

Now, please hear us.

1. This fellow is a pest, an insurrectionist among Jews everywhere.
2. He is a ring-leader in the sect of the Nazarenes.
3. He profaned our temple and we arrested him.
4. We would have handled this case ourselves. But Lysias sent him to you.

The Jews joined in the accusations, affirming that what Tertullus had said was true.

 Felix makes no comment, but nodded to Paul to speak. Paul begins: “I’m happy to tell you my side of the story. I went to worship in Jerusalem twelve days ago. I didn’t argue with anyone or stir up the crowds. They can’t prove the things they say against me. I worship my ancestor’s God, believing the law and the prophets. My hope in God is the same as theirs. I do my best always to have a good heart. It is free from wrong before God and before people.”

 “I came to Jerusalem bringing gifts for the poor. I simply wanted to offer sacrifices. While I did this they found me in the temple and some Jews from Asia were there. There was no crowd or tumult. These Jews should be here today. All I did was mention that God would bring us back from the dead. Maybe that is their problem.

 Felix called for the Roman guard to be sent for. Felix knew a little about the Christian Way. He said he would hear more when the captain arrived. He ordered Paul to be kept under guard for his own protection. But Paul was allowed to see his friends.

 A few days later Felix sent for Paul. Felix and his wife, Drusilla, wished to hear more from Paul. He reasoned to them about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. Felix trembled at the words that Paul spoke, but did nothing. He sent Paul away, saying he would hear Paul again at a more convenient time. What Felix really wanted was money to let Paul go free. It did not happen. Paul remained there in prison two years.

Lesson 4

Felix told Paul that he would wait for a more convenient day. This whole story was about people who were not ready to hear the truth about God, Jesus and the resurrection. Tell in your own words what this story was about.

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Lesson 5

Paul's Defense to Festus

Acts 25

 Because Felix was impressed by what Paul taught, he sent for him often to converse with him. Nevertheless, he kept Paul in prison for the two years he remained the governor. Then, when he was succeeded by Porcius Festus, he left Paul in prison hoping it would gain him favor with the Jews. It was now A.D. 60.

 Just three days after Festus took charge over the province, Festus went to Jerusalem. There the Jews pressed him to bring Paul back to Jerusalem for trial, hoping they could ambush Paul on the way. Festus replied that he had Paul in custody in Caesarea. He said he would shortly be back in Caesarea and they could come there to bring charges against Paul.

 Upon his return, the next day, Paul appears before Festus. The Jews that had come from Jerusalem brought many serious charges against Paul. They had no proof for their claims. Festus asked Paul if he wanted to go to Jerusalem to put an end to all this unrest. Paul said he did not. He said, “I have done nothing against the Jewish law. I didn’t pollute the temple and I always respect the Roman emperor.” Paul calls for his right to be judged by Caesar. He was not a criminal, nor had he tried to escape, he had done nothing worthy of death and as a Roman citizen he had the right to be heard by Caesar. Festus talked with his council. Then he said, “You want the emperor to hear your case. Therefore, you will go to Rome.”

 Before Paul goes is sent to Rome, King Agrippa arrives in Caesarea with his wife Bernice. They continued there for many days. Festus decided to talk to the king about the situation with Paul. Festus relays the whole story of Paul’s arrest, the Jewish accusations, the trials and Paul’s imprisonment. He told of his confusion about just what to do with Paul. King Agrippa requested an audience with this fellow Paul.

 On the next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived in the judgment hall with great ceremony. Chief Captains, nobles and Festus the governor were also there. When everyone was settled, Festus called for Paul to be brought in. Before Paul spoke, Festus addressed the assembly to give them a little back ground in the case. He said, “King Agrippa, and all of you who are here today, you see this man whom all the Jews made accusation against in Jerusalem and here. They declared that he ought to die, but I found that he had done nothing worthy of death, and, as he has appealed to Caesar, I have determined to send him. The problem is that I have nothing to write about him to Caesar. This is why I have brought him before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after you hear his case, perhaps I will have something to write. It seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner and not send along a list of charges against him.”

 What a predicament Festus had gotten himself into! Seeking to please the Jews, he now had a prisoner going to Rome to meet with Caesar, with no charges. What will the emperor think of a governor who cannot decide a case in which there are no charges?

Questions 5

1. Why did the Jews want Paul to come back to Jerusalem?

2. After Felix, who became the governor for the Romans?

3. Did he hear Paul case?

4. Why didn’t Paul want to go back to Jerusalem?

5. Where did Paul want to go?

6. Who came to visit Festus?

7. What did Festus tell the assembly about Paul?

8. What predicament had Festus gotten himself into?

Lesson 6

Paul's Defense to Agrippa

Acts 26

 After Festus tells Agrippa the predicament that he faces, Agrippa calls Paul forward to tell his story. This chapter is a great story of Paul conversion and life for Jesus Christ. Paul steps forward and began his defense:

* Paul is pleased to defend himself before Agrippa, especially since he knew of the affairs of the Jews and would understand.
* I grew up a faithful Jew and my accusers could tell you this.
* I am being judged because of the hope that all my people are waiting to see fulfilled-the very promises God made to our ancestors.
* Why think it strange that God can raise the dead?
* In the beginning, I too opposed Jesus of Nazareth and all his followers.
* I put these followers in prison and casted my vote to put them to death. I would still be against them except for one thing.
* On the road to Damascus Jesus appeared to me himself.
* The Lord asked Paul, why do you oppose me?
* I recognized that this man was Lord, from God.
* He appeared to me so that I could be a servant and witness of the things I had seen and heard, and of the things He would yet reveal to me.
* Jesus gave me a task.
* I was to deliver the “good news” message that would deliver the Jews and Gentiles to turn them from darkness to light.
* Now all men can have their sins forgiven and can have eternal life in Jesus Christ.
* I have spent my life since that day obeying that charge, preaching to Jews and to Gentiles also.
* This is why the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me.
* I only taught what Moses s and the prophet foretold.
* Jesus is the “One” that the Jews were waiting to come.

 Festus became angry at this point. He said, “Paul, your much learning is driving you insane!!” Paul said he was not crazy. He confessed that he only spoke words of truth and reason. Paul asked King Agrippa a very important question, the same question that we are asked today, “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?” Paul knew that he did. King Agrippa responded, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Paul told the King that it was his prayer that not only he but all men should be as he was except for his chains.

 The assembly retires to a private place. King Agrippa says that he finds nothing worthy of death in this man. He said, “this man could have been set free if he had not appealed unto Caesar.”

 The complete turnaround in Paul’s life defies explanation if the Lord did not appear to him. Earlier in chapter 9:15, the Lord foretold that Paul would bear witness to His name before kings and rulers. So Paul would be escorted to Rome to appear before Caesar.

Lesson 6

1. Paul appeared before Felix, Festus and now he is to defend himself before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul had been a faithful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and even a Pharisee.
3. What had Paul don’t against the followers of Jesus Christ?
4. Jesus asked Paul why do you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me?
5. Did Paul recognize the Lord?
6. The Lord told Paul that He had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for him to do.
7. Paul was called especially to go preach to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Paul told Agrippa that the people could find \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from their sins and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life.
9. The Jews arrested me and tried to kill him, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was with Paul to this day.
10. Festus called Paul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .
11. Paul knew that King \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believed.
12. Paul wished that all would obey and be as he was except for his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Did Agrippa find any guilt in this man?
14. Who else was found guiltless at His trial?
15. Paul would now travel to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to appear before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lesson 7

Paul's Journey to Rome

Acts 27

 It is early fall A.D. 60. Sea travel is very dangerous during the winter weather. But this is fall and Paul would begin his last journey to Rome. Luke is very specific as he describes the route.

 When it came time for Paul to sail, the Roman authority put him and the other prisoners into the custody of a centurion by the name of Julius. Paul’s companions, Luke and Aristarchus, were allowed to accompany him.

 Paul was not treated as most of the prisoners. He had some freedom. A day after they set sail, the ship docked briefly at Sidon. Paul was allowed to visit some friends. They were able to provide provisions for his trip.

 The wind leaving Sidon almost always blew towards the east. They sailed toward Cyprus, in between Cyprus and the mainland of Asia Minor in order to get the best winds available. It was proving to be a difficult trip. Having sailed through the waters off Cilicia and Pamphylia, they came to Myra on the cost of Lycia. There the centurion found a grain ship that was headed towards Rome from Egypt. It was a larger ship, able to hold cargo and passengers. The prisoners were transferred for their safety. It was slow going.

 The ship hugged the coast around the edge of Asia Minor as long as they could. At Cnidus, they had to set sail towards Crete. They crept along to Fair Havens. The slowness of the trip was putting them into the dangerous winter weather conditions. Paul warned those in charge that it was his opinion that they were at risk of injury or loss. Nevertheless, those in charge decided to continue on. The captain wanted to reach Phoenix to winter there.

 With this decision made to go on, the storm arose too quickly and the ship was blown off course. Very quickly they came to an island named Cauda. Here they were able to secure the life boat, wrap the ship with cables and lower the sails to help keep the ship from coming apart. They were afraid that the storm would drive them into the waters of North Africa. They were afraid of being shipwrecked on a shoal or sandbar. Therefore, they lowered the sails, and were driven by the storm.

 For two weeks they saw neither sun nor star. They were tossed about in this violent storm. All begin to give up hope of surviving. Early on they had lightened they load. They had little food if any. Paul knew that they should have listened to his warning. But he told the people to be of good cheer, no life would be lost on at this time. The ship would be lost, but all aboard would survive. Paul was certain he was to make it to Rome to appear before Caesar.

 The sailors were unwilling to wait to see if what Paul had said would come true. The sailors lowered the lifeboats. They wanted to try to reach the shore. Paul warned that all should stay with the ship. Paul warned that unless everyone remained upon the ship-all would be lost. The centurion cut the ropes to the lifeboats. All were forced to remain upon the ship.

 Paul encouraged all to eat because they would need their strength, but none would parish. Afterwards the grain was thrown into the sea. With daybreak, they drove the ship towards the beach. It hit a reef and stuck tight. The ship began to break up. Everyone grabbed boards and floated to shore. The number on board was 276. No one life was lost.

Lesson 7

1. Why was it important for Paul’s journey to Rome to begin before winter?

2. What is a centurion? What was the name of the one responsible for Paul?

3. Who traveled along with Paul on this trip?

4. Be sure to follow Paul on the map.

5. How did Paul feel about continuing this trip?

6. How did the centurion and ship captain feel about continuing on their journey?

7. The captain wanted to reach \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to spend the winter there.

8. But what happened next?

9. Did the people trust the news that Paul had told?

10. The sailors made an attempt to leave the ship, what happened?

Lesson 8

Paul's Journey to Rome

Acts 28

 The soldiers, sailors, Paul and all the prisoners and everyone on board made it to shore. Not one of the 276 lives was lost, just as God had told Paul. They found themselves to be on the island of Malta. Winter had come. It was cold, rainy and those aboard the ship were tired.

 People from the island met them on the shore. They did not speak Greek, but none the less they were friendly. Paul busied himself by gathering wood for a fire. Roused by the heat from the fire, a viper snake sprang up and bit Paul on the hand. He would certainly die from such a bite. The people felt that this man escaped the sea only to die at the hand of a snake. Justice had prevailed.

 However, the apostle shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm. The natives watched Paul, expecting him to swell or fall down dead. After a long time, when nothing happened to him, they changed their minds and said, “This must be a god.”

 More happens to Paul. The people from the ship were taken in by the island people. Paul was taken to the villa of the First of the island. He was the ruler of the island but in that position by the Romans. His name was Publius. His father was sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul heard of this. He went to the home, prayed and laid his hands on the man. The man was healed. Word spread and many sick were brought to Paul. The people of the island were kind and generous from the beginning, but after the healing that Paul did the people could not do enough for all the shipwreck victims.

 Paul had not planned to come to Malta. Because of the storm the people heard Paul preach about Jesus and see the miracles of God. Paul spent 3 months in Malta.

 When spring came Paul and all 276 of the ship’s company left on a ship named Two Brothers that had wintered docked at the island. They sailed 80 miles to Syracuse on the eastern shore of Sicily. (Continue to follow the journey on your map.) They stayed for 3 days, and then sailed on to the toe of Italy.

 For one day they waited for the south wind to blow and aid them on to Puteoli. They left the ship to go overland to Rome. The brethren in Puteoli urged Paul and his companions to stay with them a week.

 The traffic was constantly going to Rome. The word of Paul’s arriving in Italy did not take long to reach Rome. A delegation of brethren came to meet Paul at Appli Forum about forty miles out of Rome. Another delegation met the company about another 10 miles away at Three Taverns. The brethren of Rome had heard of Paul situation. They were all showing love and concern, which encouraged Paul. Paul thanked God for this.

 When Paul finally reached Rome, the authorities were very lenient to Paul. Even though he was still a prisoner, he was allowed to stay in a private quarter. He only had one Roman guard and was allowed to have visitors.

 After three days, Paul called the Jewish leaders to come to see him. This is what he told them:

* I have done nothing wrong, yet I was delivered a prisoner from the Jews into the hands of the Romans.
* The Jews objected when the Romans wanted to set me free, so I had to appeal to Caesar.
* I have not come to make a complaint against my nation to the emperor.
* I wear these chains for the sake of the hope of Israel.

The Jews told Paul that they had no news from Judea about Paul. They set a day for Paul to come talk to them again about the hope of Israel, Jesus.

 Paul met with them in his house. He reasoned all day long with them. He told them the facts of the kingdom of God and of Jesus. His evidence was their evidence, the law and the prophets. Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10. God told Isaiah to teach the people until they closed their eyes and stopped their ears. This is why God sent Paul to the Gentiles. This was the message of salvation. There would be no other. Some believed and many did not. They left that day disagreeing and discussing among the things that they had heard.

 For two years Paul lived in his rented house in Rome as a prisoner, awaiting trial before the Emperor Nero. He was allowed to receive people. He continued to teach the facts of the kingdom of God and of Jesus. He wrote many letters to the brethren. No one sought to hinder him.

Lesson 8

1. What had God told Paul about the storm and their safety?

2. Where did the people aboard the ship end up?

3. How were they received by the inhabitants?

4. What happened to Paul?

5. The people thought Paul being a prisoner got what he deserved. What changed their mind?

6. Tell of the things that Paul did for the islanders who were kind to him.

7. Paul sailed on in the spring. Tell of his arrival to Italy.

8. How was Paul received by the brethren of Rome?

9. How did the Romans treat Paul as a prisoner?

10. Tell of Paul’s meetings with the Jews.

11. What was the reaction to the gospel? What is always the reaction?

Bonus:

Remember you memory verses. Why is the word of God so IMPORTANT?

Lesson 9

Philemon

 We have finished the writing of Luke in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter 28, Paul was in prison in Rome during the years A.D. 61-63. He was waiting to see the emperor Nero.

 While he waits, he is staying in his own rented house. He is allowed to receive visitors. He continues to teach in person and through letters written to different congregation of brethren and individuals. The first letter we will look at is written to an individual, a friend of Paul’s, named Philemon.

 From the very beginning of the letter, we see the personal relations that Paul had with Philemon. He greets him in love and faith from himself and Timothy. Paul personally knows of the love and encouragement that Philemon has showed to many saints.

 Paul writes to make a request on behalf of Onesimus. Onesimus was a resent convert to the Lord. He had been of great service to Paul in his chains. Paul knew that Onesimus , in his former life, was a slave to Philemon. Paul writes to Philemon with these requests,

* I am sending Onesimus back to you.
* He is now part of my own heart.
* Receive him in love as a brother in the Lord.
* Even though he is your slave who has been of great service to you and to me, he is even more so now that he is in the Lord.
* If he owes you a debt, I will gladly pay that debt for him.

PaulI could have kept him with him for his comfort and Philemon would have consented. But because of Paul’s love for both of the men, Paul sends Onesimus back to his owner so that he could be right with Philemon and with God.

 This is a sweet letter of love and faith. As brothers and sisters in the Lord, we should be able to trust one another in love to respond as a servant of God and each other.

 Paul never addresses the right or wrong of slavery. We will see in future studies that not matter whether we are in bondage or free, we can serve God as His children.

Lesson 9

True or False

1. Paul is all by himself in Rome.
2. Paul writes to Philemon in order to rebuke him for his lack of faith.
3. Paul takes comfort and joy in the love of Philemon.
4. Philemon encouraged many saints.
5. Onesimus was Paul’s slave.
6. Onesimus was a recent convert.
7. Paul loved Philemon and Onesimus.
8. You could not be a slave and a Christian.
9. As a slave, Onesimus had to answer to his owner and God.
10. All must answer to God.

Bonus:

The scriptures says we too were slaves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, now we are free in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness. Our freedom was bought with a price, the precious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 10

Colossians1-2

 Paul is still in prison waiting to see the Emperor Nero. Paul reminded us in an earlier study that he had been through a lot to be a servant of God. One thing he said was, that he had daily concerns for the Saints of the Lord Jesus. While in prison himself, he took the time to write to encourage different congregations. Then the letters would be passed from one congregation to another.

 The letter we begin to look at today is written to the brethren at Colossae. (Find is on your map.) Right from the beginning of this letter, we see that Paul is not alone. Timothy is with Paul and both send greetings. Keep your eyes and ears open for others that may visit Paul during the writing of this letter.

 We also see that Paul did not start the work at Colossae. He tells the brethren that he prays for them because of their faith in Jesus Christ and because of their love toward the brethren. They all had a common hope which they had heard from Epaphras. Epaphras was with Paul and indeed would bring this letter to them along with others that we see towards the end of the letter. Paul said that Epaphras had told him of his work with the Colossians, and Paul prayed for their further growth in Christ.

 Paul tells the brethren of the “glories of Christ”. He is:

1. The image of God
2. Ranked first in all creation
3. The Creator and Sustainer of all things
4. Head of the church
5. Fullness of the Father
6. The One who reconciles

Though they were once and enemy of God, they have been reconciled through the blood of Christ, shed on the cross, that they may be presented holy without blemish, if they remain faithful. Paul rejoices in his part of making know the mystery of Christ. Christ in us is the hope of glory”.

 Even though Paul had never seen their face (nor our either), he worked hard that all men could be comforted by the reconciliation of man to God through His beloved Son, Jesus. He warned them not to be carried away by the smooth talking false teachers. He warned them to walk in the path of Jesus that they had learned from the beginning.

 Beware of the philosophies of the Jews. (Remember the hatred of the Jews is why Paul was in that very prison). The Jews did not believe that this Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah that they had longed for. They would have them under restrictions of the law.

1. Let no one condemn you in regard to food and drink
2. Do not be enticed by those who devise their own worship to impress people with their piety
3. Do not subject yourselves to the commandments men make up to impress others with their holiness

The law given to Moses was just a shadow of things to come.

Christ is the substance.

Lesson 10

 Paul is no longer traveling. He is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ waiting to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At the beginning of the letter to the Colossians, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is with Paul. Paul did not start the work at Colossae. It was started by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Yet Paul had a love and concern for all the brethren. At that time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was with Paul and had told him of all that they were doing. Because of the great love that Paul had for “all” saints, this letter has been saved for \_\_\_\_, to encourage the church today. So the prayers that Paul offered for others are the prayer that he offers for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Paul warns us today not to fall for the strange philosophies of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the path that Christ taught.

Tell of the glories of Christ.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Following Christ is all about what He wants and not about what we want.

Remember your memory verse.

Lesson 11

Colossians 3-4

 Paul continues to write to the brethren in Colossae. He has warned the Christians about false teachers who would ruin what they had in Jesus Christ. Do not let anyone spoil what you have. Christ is all you need.

A true Christian will do these things:

* Concentrate on heavenly things
* Put away sinful attitudes of the world
* Put on positive characteristics of a Christian

Paul gives characteristics of a Christian in every relationship:

* Wives be in subjection to your husband
* Husband love your wife
* Children obey you parents
* Parents do not provoke your children
* Servants obey your masters
* Masters deal fairly with your servants

 Finally Paul instructs the brethren to continue in prayer. Walk wisely among those who know not the Lord. Let our speech always be appropriate. Be ready to give an answer for the hope within you. Paul’s message to the Colossians is if you have the gospel, you have salvation; you have life and everything you need.

 Paul ends the letter with love and greetings just as you or I would. Here is where he mentions Tychicus, Onesimus and Archippus.

Lesson 11

Write a letter and tell your friend about how it is better to be in Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 12

Ephesians 1-2

 The letters written by Paul are personal. They are addressed to the needs of an individual Christian on how to walk closer to God in step with other brethren. The letters all have certain similarities because the object of each letter is to help us all get to heaven through Jesus Christ.

 When you think about the letter to the Galatians- remember “G” is for “grace”. We are all save by the Grace of God. When you think about the letter to the Colossians- remember “C” is for “Christ” is all we need. And you will see this next letter to the Ephesians-remember “E” is for “every spiritual blessing is in Jesus Christ. After this we will study Philippians and we will see- “P” is for the peace we have in Jesus Christ.

 The letter to the Ephesians is written to the brethren at that congregation. Paul knew this church. He spent time working with them. The letter is a reminder.

 Paul begins the letter with praise to God for every spiritual blessing in which we had been blessed. All things were done in the fullness of time just as God had planned.

* God has chosen us
* God has adopted us
* God has redeemed us in Jesus
* God chose Christ to be the one through whom all these blessings would come.

Paul truly wanted all to understand the richness of their inheritance. They could now be a son of God and live with Him in heaven. God did all this for us when we were sinners, dead in our sins and totally separated from God. God blessed us by His love and grace. We were headed straight for the wrath of God, and God who is rich in mercy, saved us because He loved us.

 The promise that was made so long ago to Eve in the garden was now possible. The promise made to Abraham could now come to fullness. All men could now have this close relationship to God. Jews and Gentiles, the promise was for all men. This was the mystery, the “good news”-the gospel. The gospel, reconciliation is for ALL. That means them, you and me.

Lesson 12

1. The letters of Paul are for the individual. How do you think they are meant for you?

2. What are we to remember about the letters?

“G” is for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“C” is for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“E” is for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“P” is for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Out of the goodness from the heart of God made a plan by which we could receive every spiritual blessing. By whom would that come?

4. What is the richness of the inheritance?

5. When did God decide to do this?

6. All the blessing would come through whom?

7. Are we saved and blessed through the same message today?

This is why the words of the Lord are so important. Remember your memory verse!

Lesson 13

Ephesians 3-4

 Paul breaks from his prayer for the church in Ephesus to tell of his work for them. The promise of God was made so many years before to our father in the faith, Abraham. There would come a time when all nations of the world would be blessed. How this would happen was held as a mystery. In ages past this was not revealed, but now has been revealed to the Lord’s apostles and prophets and to Paul. Paul was the very one to be called out of time to bring this mystery to the Gentiles. The mystery is that the Jews and the Gentiles would be fellow-heirs and fellow-members of the body, and fellow-partakers of the promise through the gospel.

 Paul says that it was a privilege to him to help bring men to the wisdom of God and His plan. God had purposed this plan, His eternal plan before the foundation of the world. This plan would be achieved through Jesus Christ, Son of God and son of man.

 Paul returns back to his prayer for them. Paul would that everyone may receive all the spiritual blessings that God had made available. He would that we all should know the breadth and length, the height and depth of the love of God that passes understanding. God’s love for man is so much greater than man can know or understand. As Christ becomes rooted and firmly planted in our heart, the more we will understand the love that He and the Father has for us. When Christ dwells in you, the more you will have His power working in you. Paul recognizes just how awesome this is. We do not deserve, we did earn, and we could not achieve this relationship without the aid of Jesus Christ. Paul then praises God, “To Him be Glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. This is exactly how we today have a chance at salvation. We too should praise God-Praise God!!!!!!!!!!!!

 So that you will not miss all the spiritual blessing from God, all men must continue to walk with God. To help us do that, God gave men in different position to help build up the church. They were to continue to grow. They were not to walk in the ways of those without the Lord. They were to put away the old man that they were, and but on the new character that God had made possible for them. And they were to no longer walk in the ways of sin.

Lesson 13

1. The mystery is that Jews and Gentiles would now be what three things through the gospel?

a. b. c.

2. All the spiritual blessing will come through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and will only come to those who are in Christ.

3. What was Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians and all men?

4. Think-what is the “love that passes understanding”?

5. What kind of provisions did God leave to help the church? Chapter 4

a. b. c.

d. e.

6. At the end of chapter 4, Paul tells them many things to do away with, name as many as you can.

Lesson 14

Ephesians 5-6

 Ephesians is such a practical book. As all the other epistles, Paul’s works are strong warnings and encouraging instructions. The Ephesian brethren were now children of God. They were to imitate God and walk in the same love as Christ.

 Paul warns them not only to not practice, but to not even discuss fornication, immorality or covetousness. Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. You are light in the Lord; walk as children of light. Walk carefully lest you fall. Use your time wisely. Be filled with the Spirit and not with strong drink.

 Just as Paul instructed the Colossians, he also instructs the Ephesians in their relationships with others.

Be subject to one another as the situation requires:

* Wives, be in subjection to your husbands
* Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for it
* Children, obey and honor your parents
* Fathers, bring your children up in the instructions and corrections of the Lord
* Servants, obey your master as unto the Lord
* Masters, treat your fairly as you too have a Master in heaven

 And finally, be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God. It will give your power to fight the wiles of the devil.

Lesson 14

1. What 3 things does Paul say will keep someone from any inheritance in the kingdom of God?

2. Once again Paul has instructions for our relationships. How were they similar to Colossians? Col. 3:18-25

Describe the armor of God. Eph. 6:10-20

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Lesson 15

Philippians 1-2

 Early in A.D. 63, a man name Epaphroditus brought a gift from the church in Philippi to Paul while he was being held in prison in Rome. Paul sent a return letter expressing his appreciation for the gift and for all the brethren at Philippi. It was almost time for Paul’s trial before Nero. He was hoping to be released soon and hoped he could visit Philippi again.

 In the very beginning, Paul and Timothy, address all the saints at Philippi. Paul is grateful to God for the brethren at Philippi and their gift that would help further the spread the gospel. He commends them for their love and good works. Their actions toward Paul were ways to share God’s grace in his trials and labors. Just like all the churches, Paul prayed for them that their love, knowledge and discernment would abound. In that way they could learn to distinguish between good and evil, so that they may be pure and without offense at the day of Judgment.

 Paul’s true joy was to spread the gospel. The journeys, the trails and the bondage where he found himself had proven to aid him in spreading the gospel. My example has given boldness to speak the word of God. No matter how or why the word is spread, the most important thing is that the word continues to be spread.

 Paul is coming to the end of his work here on earth. He knows that it would be good to go to heaven and be with God. But Paul understands that he still has work yet to do. We too should desire to go and live with God to the point that we would do everything that we can while we live to be pleasing to God.

 Paul’s prayer continued for them, no matter what became of him, was that they would remain faithful. Stand fast, in perfect unity, working together for the faith of the gospel. Take courage and continue to be strong in the face of the enemy. Can you see how this letter is written to us today?

 Paul also prays that they should love one another and deal with each other with the same disposition as Christ. Christ was the ultimate example of humility. He was equal with God, but he gave it up to rescue us. He came as a man that he might humble Himself on earth, even to death on the cross. He suffered death that we might have eternal life. Just how humble should we be?

God exalted Christ above a names, above all men and above all things. Because of His humility every knee will bow to Christ, and confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God.

 The generation that the Philippians walk in was crooked and perverse. So is the generation where we walk. So Paul begs that we all:

* Obey the word
* Live blameless and harmless
* Be children of God, without flaw
* Be lights in the dark world
* Hold forth the words of life

 Paul closes here in chapter 2 with words of encouragement. Just as soon as he sees how things will go for him in Rome, he will send Timothy to them to encourage and care about their situation. But for now he would send Epaphroditus back to them with this letter. He has been a brother and fellow worker to me, of much comfort. He has been homesick and indeed very sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him and us all by sparing his life. Receive your brother in love and joy because he was close to death.

Lesson 15

1. If Paul could pray for the brethren of the Mt. View congregation, He would pray that we would continue to grow in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. We at Mt. View need to be able to distinguish between \_\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so we too will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and with offense at the judgment.

3. We should find our true joy in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel. Because of the courage that Paul displayed, it should cause us to bold when we speak the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

4. The most important thing he told them, he too would tell us, is to remain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until death.

5. Tell how this letter is written to us today.

6. How did Christ show humility?

7. In this generation how should we walk?

We should remember to thank God whenever he gives health back to our loved ones. God is merciful.

Lesson 16

Philippians 3-4

 I know that you have been able to see that this is a personal letter to brethren that Pau loved. They have taken part in his work. He was the one who taught them the gospel. His prayer was that they should go to heaven, be with God, be with Christ and spend eternity in with them.

 So here in chapter 3, Paul warns them of those who would steal their joy, their salvation by leading them astray. Christ had been dead somewhere around 30 years. There were those who were holding to the teaching of circumcision. These Judaizers still wanted a fleshly sign of fellowship. Christ did not require this. Now they were to be circumcised in the heart. Their true discipleship would come from their hearts.

 These Judaizers would boost of their fleshly attainments. Paul could boost even more if that was how things were to be counted. Paul listed many things that he personally had accomplished. But Paul had cast all these things behind him. He counted all such things as worthless for the excellency of Christ.

 He told the brethren to imitate him as he imitates Christ. Look for others who walk the same. Our citizenship is in heaven. We must look to Jesus Christ our Savior. When Christ comes again He will transform our body of humility into a body of His glory. Stand fast in Jesus until he comes.

 Paul gives a personal encouragement to two women who had helped him in his work, but currently were not of the same attitude or working together. He called on Syzygus to help these women.

 The main theme of the letter to the Philippians is “*Joy in the Lord”*. This is why Paul was so concerned that they walked at peace and in love with one another. He did not want them to be anxious for the Lord is at hand. If you become anxious, take your concerns in prayer to God.

 Paul was truly grateful to the Philippians. When they could they had helped him in his work. Paul told them that in whatever state he was in he learned to be content, content and joyful.

Four things that Paul had (so does everyone in Christ),

1. Love- of Christ the Son, God the Father and the brethren
2. Peace- that passes understanding
3. Contentment- not matter how good or how bad you circumstances
4. Joy- because our names are written in the Book of Life

 Paul closes with his goodbyes, from himself, the brethren- especially those of Caesar’s household.

Lesson 16

True or False

\_\_\_\_ 1. Paul had a personal attachment with these brethren.

\_\_\_\_ 2. The Philippians were the only church that had trouble with the subject of circumcision.

\_\_\_\_ 3. Christ requires that people would worship from the heart.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Paul once was a Jew even more faithful than the Judaizers.

\_\_\_\_ 5. Now Paul could only boost in Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_\_ 6. Our citizenship is in Georgia.

\_\_\_\_ 7. We will have a new body in heaven.

\_\_\_\_ 8. Paul had work before with two women named Euodia and Syntyche.

\_\_\_\_ 9. These two women worked hard together in the church here at Philippi.

Thought questions

What do you think it means to have joy in the Lord?

In chapter 4:8-9, Paul tells them to think on these things. Just what things were they?

In what ways was Paul “content”?

We too should embrace the four things that Paul embraced.

Love- of Christ the Son, God the Father and the brethren

Peace- that passes understanding

Contentment- not matter how good or how bad you circumstances

Joy- because our names are written in the Book of Life

Lesson 17

Paul Released from Prison

 As you may remember, at the end of the book of Acts Paul is in prison in Rome. He was on house arrest, with a few privileges. He wrote the several letters from prison. He received visitors and continued to teach the Gospel.

 Paul writes in Philippians 2:24 and Philemon 22, that he anticipates seeing the brethren at these two locations soon. It is apparent, even though we do not have a specific statement to the fact, that Paul has his audience with Caesar and is released. The outcome was not certain, only that Paul writes 3 more letters after this time and he is on the move. They mention places that he has gone or plans to go to.

 It is possible that Paul was held under guard for 2 years. Paul had learned wherever he found himself in life, to be content. We have already seen that he held love, joy, peace and contentment out to the brethren as attitudes of *“FAITH”.*

If our timing is correct, Paul’s trial is early in A.D.63, before the great persecutions of Nero in A.D. 64. Paul takes a short trip, not exactly a journey before his death. Here is Paul’s possible itinerary (look up the word itinerary.):

* From Rome to Crete, where he left Titus to finish the task of teaching and “setting in order” what he had begun.
* To Ephesus to Colossae to visit Philemon, back to Ephesus where he left Timothy.
* On to Macedonia, and probably to Greece. About this time he wrote 1st Timothy and Titus. It is not yet winter, because he wants Titus to join him in Nicopolis for the winter.
* He expected to be executed soon by the time he wrote 2nd Timothy.
* He was in Miletus and left Trophimus there sick.
* He was also in Troas at some point for he asked that Timothy bring a cloak and some books that he left there, when he came.
* By the time he writes 2nd Timothy, only Luke is with him as his immediate companion.

These facts cited are the most valuable and specific scriptural evidence that Paul was released from Prison the first time and that he traveled extensively, continuing his work in the gospel. To these Biblical facts, we add the witness of the early church historian Eusebius who says of Paul: “After pleading his cause, he is said to have been sent again upon the ministry of preaching, and after a second visit to the city [Rome] he finished his life with martyrdom.”

We will finish this quarter by studying the three letters Paul wrote during this period.

Lesson 17

Where was Paul at the end of Acts?

Explain was Paul in a prison cell?

Who send Paul money to pay the rent for the house he stayed in in Rome? (Phil. 4:10, 18)

What kinds of things did Paul do while under arrest?

In Phil1:12-13 and 4:22, who does Paul, have opportunity to teach the gospel?

What were some of Paul attitudes of faith?

The great persecutions of Nero occurred around when?

Paul takes a short trip, not exactly a journey before he dies, use a map to look at the places where he went and list some of the people he saw.

Lesson 18

1 Timothy 1-2

 Paul has been in prison for two years. He has been let go. We don’t exactly follow where he goes afterward, but we see that recorded in the scriptures are three more letters.

 Timothy has been a close companion of Paul’s. He refers to Timothy as his faithful child in the faith. In the letter, he writes as a father wanting to leave things that he concerned about for Timothy in the future-should he not be around.

 Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus so he could charge certain ones not to teach false doctrine and not to waste their time on fiction and fables. Paul’s teaching had stressed love:

* From a pure heart
* From a good conscience
* From true faith

But now many were turning aside from these things and were teaching the law. The law had its time and place. But now was the time for the gospel that had been entrusted to Paul, which was entrusted to Timothy.

 Paul was grateful to the Lord for calling him to His service. Paul found mercy in Jesus Christ, as we all do. He praised the Lord God in many terms:

* The King eternal
* Immortal
* Invisible
* The only God
* To Him be Glory and Honor for ever and ever.

 Paul passes the job of spreading the gospel on to Timothy and faithful men. He was to carry on as the prophets before him. He was to conduct the good warfare, maintain the faith and have a good conscience. To make the way easier Paul encouraged Timothy to pray for all men: for rulers and men in authority that we can live peaceful lives, godly and sober.

 I desire that men everywhere pray in holy conduct. I likewise desire that women dress themselves in a meek and sober way fitting for women professing reverence for God.

 Men are to pray in public, let women be in quietness. She is not to have dominion over a man, because Adam was made first then Eve. Also Eve was beguiled by the serpent and thereby fell into transgression. Nevertheless women will be saved if she continues in faith and love and sanctification, as will men. Paul continues to leave instructions to help us all get to heaven.

Lesson 18

1. Paul treated Timothy as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

2. The Gentiles had been known for wasting their time on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Like what?

3. Paul said that love came from three things

 1.

 2.

 3.

4. Do you remember where Paul found grace in the eyes of the Lord? Acts 9

5. When God called Paul, what had Paul been doing?

6. Was Paul thankful to God?

7. Paul would leave the work of the Lord in Timothy’s hands. What did he want Timothy to do?

8. Paul reminds Timothy of the line of authority. Do you remember it from 1Cor. 11:3?

Lesson 19

1 Timothy 3-4

 Paul has had a very close relationship with Timothy. Timothy’s father was a Greek. Paul had been a father in the Lord to Timothy. Paul wanted to remind Timothy of the responsibilities of a young evangelist. Indeed this is the theme of I Timothy.

 Once the apostles were gone, there would be a need for someone to look among the brethren in a local congregation to appoint qualified workers. Paul gives Timothy guidelines for this task. These people should have these qualifications:

An elder, bishop or pastor:

* One who desires the office
* No charge of wrong doings
* Husband of one wife
* A mature man
* A seasoned Christian
* Not- given to wine, violence, greed, quarrels or covetousness
* One who manages his household well
* One who life has been above reproach

A deacon:

* They should be like wise (as above)
* Good men of proven character, Reverent, holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience
* Not- double-tongued, greedy, given to wine
* Husband of one wife
* Found blameless

Likewise their wives:

* Reverent, temperate, faithful in all things
* Not slanderers

 This is a grave work that would ensure the purity and faithfulness of the church. These things were written so that men may know how to conduct themselves in the church.

The gospel can be summed up in this verse, ***I Timothy 3:16.***

***The mystery of godliness is great:***

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.

 Paul then warns Timothy that deceiving spirits would come after him perverting the truth. They would come speaking lies. He told Timothy he must instruct and warn the brethren against such ones. If Timothy continued to inform the brethren you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished by the good doctrine you have followed till now. Take heed to matter in your own life:

Avoid fables

Practice godliness – that is what is of true value

Continue teaching, reading and exhorting

Be an example

Do not neglect the gift you were given

Finally, guard yourself and your teaching. In this way you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Be ready to talk about the elders here at Mt. View,.

1. Steve Huff
2. Ross Statham

And the deacons.

1. Sam Adams
2. Mark Bowman
3. Michael Burke
4. Cecil Douthitt
5. Ken Gay
6. Roger Pink

Lesson 19

Paul helped Timothy in his work as evangelist. What positions in the church did he give Timothy guidelines to follow?

What kind of work are these men to do?

What kind of men are elders and deacons at Mt. View?

Were these same guidelines use to appoint these men?

Paul also gave advice to Timothy, Like what.

Lesson 20

1 Timothy 5-6

 Paul continues with advice to Timothy to make his life as an evangelist more successful. Timothy was still a young man. He was to learn respect and to be careful how he dealt with the various people in the church. This was directed at Timothy, but is good for us all.

* Show respect for older men-exhort as a father
* Young men –as brothers
* Older women-as mothers
* Younger women –as sisters
* Honor those who are widows-support the older widows-encourage the younger widows to re-marry

In showing respect for the Elders among the church, they were entitled to double honor. They should be respected for the service and guide that they are responsible for. Plus, they are deserving of pay if needed. Elders are not to be accused of wrong unless it is at the witness of two or more. Then if he is found guilty, he is to repent. If even an Elder can be guilty of sin, be careful that we who may not be as strong do not sin.

 Paul has some personal advice to Timothy.

1. Watch your health
2. You can judge a man by his deeds
3. Beware of false teacher motivated by greed
4. True godliness is great gain and brings true contentment
5. Fight the good fight of faith-pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and steadfastness
6. Keep the faith until Christ comes again

Finally he tells Timothy to warn rich not to be high-minded, but to be full of good works.

*O Timothy, guard what has been placed in your care.*

Lesson 20

True or False

1.\_\_\_\_ It is important to show respect for the older people in a congregation.

2.\_\_\_\_ There is nothing to be learned from older people.

3.\_\_\_\_ Timothy was to treat everyone different. (Tricky)

4.\_\_\_\_ An Elder can do no wrong.

5.\_\_\_\_ All men can sin.

6.---- The rich cannot be a Christian.

1. In showing respect for the Elders among the church, they were entitled to double honor. What does that mean?

2. What does greed mean?

3. Why can the rich be high-minded?

4. What had been placed in Timothy’s care?

Lesson 21

Titus 1

 There is not much doubt that Paul knows that his days as an apostle are numbered. That is very clear in his first letter to Timothy. Here he writes a similar letter to the young preacher, Titus. Like Timothy, Paul was very close to Titus. They both had been of great service to Paul in his work.

 Paul had left Titus, whom he considered a son in the Lord, in Crete to appoint Elders. He pointed out the same qualities that these men should have as he did to Timothy. These men would be needed to deal with false teachers that were sure to come. The false teachers would be very destructive. They would need to be dealt with them swiftly and sharply so as not to cause any to lose their way. Exhort them to be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish fables.

Lesson 21

What qualities did Paul instruct Titus to look for in men that would serve as elders?

Talk about the false teachers, why are they SO bad?

Lesson 22

Titus 2-3

 Titus, like Timothy, was told by Paul how to teach all to be faithful. Chapter 2 deals with that subject. He was to encourage various classes of individuals. Each individual has their own vital functions to fulfill in the church if they are to be examples of the doctrine they profess in Jesus Christ. He speaks of all groups.

* Aged men
* Aged women
* Younger women
* Younger men
* Himself
* Servants

For the grace of God has appeared, teaching us so that, denying irreverence and worldly lust, we may be able to live seriously, and righteously, and godly in this present age while we look for the coming of the Lord. These things you need to speak and teach and reprove with all authority. Let no man despise you.

 Throughout his letter to Titus, Paul stresses the practical working out of their salvation in their daily lives. Good works are desirable and profitable for all believers. Chapter 3 addresses those things. He reminds them to:

* Be subject to rulers and authorities
* To obey
* Be ready for every good work
* Speak evil of no one
* Be peaceable, gentle, humble to all men

Once we were all sinners. But the kindness and love of God appeared. He sent is Son, that through Him we could be saved, by his grace and mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing.

 He warns Titus of those who would cause strife. Exhort them once and then twice. Then reject them if they would not realize they were on the wrong path. They could discourage other and cause them to forget their good works.

 Paul would have all saints remember that they are justified by His grace, heirs of the hope of eternal life. Titus, as well as Timothy or any preacher young or old, would do well to read the books of I Timothy and Titus frequently.

Lesson 22

Look in Chapter 2 and tell what instructions are given for these different people.

* Aged men
* Aged women
* Younger women
* Younger men
* Himself
* Servants

Paul was certainly concerned that believers would keep their faith in Christ. How did he encourage Titus to help them in good works?

Lesson 23

2 Timothy 1-2

 Due to the close nature of the relationship of Paul to Timothy, it is no wander why Paul writes this final recorded letter to Timothy. Paul calls Timothy “my beloved child”. Paul remembers Timothy in tears. His prayer was for Timothy to come to him. He is thankful for the genuine faith that was in Timothy, which he learned at the feet of his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois. His faithfulness was stir up by the gifts given by the laying on of Paul’s hands.

 Paul and Timothy had shared in the work of the Lord. They had been given a spirit of boldness and not of fear. They had shared in suffering. But the cause of the Lord was worth the suffering. They had preached the purpose and grace of God, which was shown in the coming of Jesus Christ. Christ had abolished death brought to light life and immortality through the gospel. Of this Paul said, “Nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” Therefore to Timothy Paul told him to protect, defend and hold fast the gospel which had been placed in his care.

 Paul recalls that many in Asia had turned away from him. Yet, Onesiphorus came to his aid and was not ashamed of Paul chains. Therefore know that you may have to stand alone, but be strong in the grace which is in Jesus Christ. Entrust the words of the Lord to faithful men, who in turn will be able to teach them to others.

 Paul reminds Timothy that they are in a battle with the devil for the souls of men. We should be faithful as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Do not become so involved with the things of this world that you are not prepared for the battle. We should endure all things that they may share with Christ the ultimate glory. For Paul said, 11 *this is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.13 If we are faithless,
He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”*

 Remind the brethren not to strive about things of no consequence that detract them. Work hard. Correct those that oppose the truth. Keep yourselves honorable. Flee youthful lusts. Develop the characteristics of our Lord.

Lesson 23

How important is our family to our faithfulness? Where did Timothy’s faithful begin?

Paul called Timothy’s faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Timothy was given special gifts by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The grace of God through Jesus Christ has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ death and brought to light life and immortality through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In 1:12, Paul says one of the most encouraging statements in all his writing. Can you figure out what it is and why it is so important?

Even until this day we are to take special care to protect, defend and hold fast the gospel for only by it can we be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How does the gospel come to us today?

Why are the promises of 2:11-13 so important?

Lesson 24

2 Timothy 3-4:5

 Again here in final words of Paul to Timothy, he warns him of the grievous times that are coming. Paul has deep concern that these false teachers may lead the faithful astray. He says this about them:

* Men will be selfish
* Lovers of money
* Boastful
* Ranting and raving
* Without natural affection
* Unreasonable
* Put on a front of being godly, but are not
* Turn people away from the truth
* Troublemakers, leading people away

Paul warns Timothy to be a contract to these ones.

Follow my:

* Teachings
* Conduct
* Purpose
* Faith
* Love
* Long-suffering
* Steadfastness

Remain in the things which you have learned. Trusting in the scripture which are able to make you wise unto salvation. Paul says “*16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*.”

 With the scripture be ready to preach the word and to be faithful.

Lesson 24

 The final lessons for Timothy from Paul are the same lessons for us today.

What lessons have you learned from II Timothy 3-4:5?

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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5.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 25

2 Timothy 4:6-22

Review

 Here at the end Paul says, 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

 He has encouraged the brethren for what was to come. He was desirous to see Timothy and Mark again. Only Luke was with him at this time. At his trail only the Lord had been with him. Paul trust was in the Lord and he said, “And *the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen!”* The message to Timothy and us all was, no matter what happens, or if others are unfaithful, please remain faithful.

 It is likely that Paul died around 65 or 66 AD. That date is not known to us. Because he was a Roman citizen, Paul could not be crucified. He was beheaded. Though dreadful, it was not as cruel as many other forms of death.

 With the death of Paul, we say goodbye to the man who, next to Christ, did more to build and strengthen the church. Through the Holy Spirit, the books Paul left behind have been a great source of information and strength to all Christians for the generations since.

 His incredible life, full of suffering and fruitful labor, was over. It was a day of grief for the saints, but a day of victory for him- a day of relief from suffering. At last he could depart and be with Christ, which was “*very far better*” (Phil 1:23).

Lesson 26

Review

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Dear Father:

Thank you for the love that you have for us. Thank you for the words left by Paul so that we too might have a home in Heaven with You. As Paul, we pray that we too shall be faithful unto death. In your Son Jesus we pray, Amen.