
Session # 8

Overview of the Books of the Bible - Apostles

Acts of the Apostles

Author: Luke

Time: 30-60 A.D.

Summary: Acts records the foundation, growth, and activities of the first century church. It illustrates the struggles and problems that they faced as well as the solutions to overcome the problems. It describes the power that was given to a select number of men by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to promote the Gospel. The book also traces the missionary journeys of Paul as he helped form Churches throughout Asia Minor and Rome.

The Witness to Christ and the persecution of the Jews

Key Verse:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

PREPARATION FOR PREACHING - Chapter 1:1 - 2:4

IN JERUSALEM - Chapter 2:5 - 7:60

IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA - Chapter 8:1-25

THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH - Chapter 8:26 - 28:31

1. Towards Africa- Ch. 8:26-40
2. Towards Asia- Ch. 9:1 - 16:5
3. Towards Europe - Ch. 16:6 - 18:17
4. In Asia- Ch. 18:18 - 26:32
5. In Europe - Ch. 27:1- 28:31

Romans

Author: Paul

Time: 58 - 60 A.D.

Summary: Paul was instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ to be a Minister to the Gentile people. Paul begins the letter by showing how all men are sinners in the eyes of God and therefore worthy of death. However, Paul explains that Jesus Christ was the "second Adam" in whom no sin was found, and is able to provide an acceptable covering for men's sin if they accept all that Jesus said and follow after

him in their own lives. With this in mind, Paul explains the distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles and the final outcome of all things when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God.

Christ: The Power of God to Us

Key Verse:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:16-17)

INTRODUCTION - Ch. 1:1-15

DOCTRINAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO SALVATION - Ch. 1:16 - 8:39

1. Condemnation- Ch. 1:16 - 3:20
2. Justification- Ch. 3:21-5:21
3. Sanctification - Ch. 6:1-8:17
4. Glorification- Ch. 8:18-39

NATIONAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO ISRAEL - Chapter 9:1-11:36

1. Selection- Ch. 9:1-33
2. Rejection - Ch. 10:1-21
3. Restoration- Ch. 11:1-36

PRACTICAL: HOW THE GOSPEL RELATES TO CONDUCT- Ch. 12:1 - 15:13

1. Social Responsibilities - Ch. 12:1-21
2. Civil Responsibilities- Ch. 13:-1-14
3. Congregational Responsibilities - Ch. 14:1-15:13

EPILOGUE: PERSONAL MATTERS - Chapter 15:14 -16:27

I Corinthians

Author: Paul

Time: 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary: Written to the church at Corinth by the apostle Paul. He deals with a series of problems, sins and false teachings that were present in the newly formed church. Most members were from a promiscuous pagan background and were exhorted to put away their previous ways. There also were problems with those who tried to "blend" the teachings of Christ with the Levitical law.

Christ: The Wisdom of God to Us

Key Verses:

"Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." (1 Cor. 1:17)

"Unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)

"We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (1 Cor. 2:7-8)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-9

REPROOF: CONCERNING SCHISMS - Chapter 1:10 - 4:21

CORRECTION: CONCERNING INCONSISTENCIES - Chapter 5:1 - 6:20

INSTRUCTION: ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS - Chapter 7:1 -15:58

1. Concerning the Marriage State - Ch. 7:1-17
2. Regarding Circumcision and Slavery - Ch. 7:18-24
3. Regarding Virgins and Marriage - Ch. 7:25-40
4. Regarding Meat Offered to Idols- Ch. 8:1-11:1
5. Regarding Sisters in the Ecclesia - Ch. 11:2-16
6. Regarding the Lord's Supper- Ch. 11:17-34
7. Regarding Spirit Gifts - Ch. 12:1 -14:40
8. Regarding the Resurrection - Ch. 15:1-58

GENERAL MATTERS - Chapter 16:1-24

II Corinthians

Author: Paul

Time: 55 - 57 A.D.

Summary: This second letter to the church at Corinth was penned by Paul also. It was written after he made a "painful" and unsuccessful visit to the small church in an attempt to give instruction and guidance on several divisive issues. Upon learning that a majority of members had repented, he wrote the letter of 2nd Corinthians. It gives encouragement, yet teaches of the suffering that each member must face for the Lord Jesus' sake. He concludes by surmising when he is weakest, then God is able to work through him most powerfully. This letter was, in all likelihood, written about six months after the first letter to the Corinthians.

Christ: The Comfort of God to Us

Key Verse:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor. 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION: THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE - Chapter 1:1-11

EXPLANATION: PAUL THE MINISTER - Chapter 1:12 - 5:21

1. Concerning His Motives - Ch. 1:12- 2:11
2. Concerning the Ministry- Ch. 2:12 - 5:21

EXHORTATION: PAUL THE FATHER - Chapter 6:1 - 9:15

1. Concerning Things Spiritual - Ch. 6:1 - 7:16
2. Concerning Things Material - Ch. 8:1 - 9:15

VINDICATION: PAUL THE APOSTLE - Chapter 10:1 -12:18

1. The Critics and their Pretensions - Ch. 10:1 - 11:15
2. The Apostle and His Credentials - Ch. 11:16 - 12:18

CONCLUSION: FUTURE INTENTIONS - Chapter 12:19 -13:14

Galatians

Author: Paul

Time: 48 - 50 A.D.

Summary: The letter to the church in Galatia focuses on the divisions that Jewish-Christians were causing among new Gentile converts. These Judaizers were trying to convince the Gentiles that Paul's authority was given by men and not by God, and that they needed to be circumcised and to keep the ritual law in order to be saved. Paul argued that both Jew and Gentile alike enjoy in Christ complete salvation. They are justified, adopted, renewed, and made heirs according to the promises of the Abrahamic covenant. Reliance on the Law was only a bondage to death and could not produce life-giving freedom, as only Christ could grant that freedom. Paul was showing that all

legalistic variations of the Gospel are perversions of it and should be shown as such.

Christ: The Righteousness of God for Us

Key Verses:

"If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Gal. 2:21)

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Gal. 3:6)

"If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law." (Gal. 3:21)

"We ... wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Gal. 5:5)

INTRODUCTION AND SALUTATION - Chapter 1:1-5

THE PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE - Chapter 1:6-9

NARRATION: PERSONAL DETAILS - ILLUSTRATING THE AUTHENTICITY OF PAUL'S GOSPEL
-Chapter 1:10- 2:21

EXPOSITION: DOCTRINAL - A DECLARATION OF THE GOSPEL - Chapter 3:1 - 4:31

1. Justification by Faith - Ch. 3:1-14
2. Faith's Relation to the Law - Ch. 3:15-29
3. Relationship of Faith to the Law Illustrated - Ch. 4:1-31

EXHORTATION: PRACTICAL - THE DEMANDS OF THE GOSPEL - Chapter 5:1 - 6:10

1. The Call Unto Liberty- Ch. 5:1-12
2. Liberty in Reality - Ch. 5:13-26
3. Freedom in Christ Must be Mutually Enjoyed - Ch. 6:1-10

CONCLUDING REVIEW- Chapter 6:11-18

Ephesians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary: The letter is divided into two sections. The first outlines the blessings and spiritual riches in Christ; the second the walk in imitation of Christ. The intent was to illustrate the abundance of spiritual riches that Christ himself received or would receive, namely grace, glory, mercy, immortality, and to foster the incentive to walk as Christ himself did. By doing so, the believer would learn to walk worthy of his vocation; not as Gentiles which know not God, but as children of light who show forth love and walk correctly in all manner of conversation and action until the return of the Lord Jesus. It is thought that this letter was one of several letters which were circulated to the different churches in Asia.

Christ: The Riches of God to Us

Key Verse:

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places." (Eph. 1:18-20)

OUR WEALTH IN CHRIST- Chapter 1: - 3:21

1. Salutation- Ch. 1:1-2
2. Predestination, or the Origin of the Church - Ch. 1:3-23
3. Edification, Or the Construction of the Church - Ch. 2:1-22
4. Vocation, Or the Function of the Church - Ch. 3:1-21

OUR WALK IN CHRIST- Chapter 4:1- 6:20

1. Church Responsibilities - Ch. 4:1-16
2. Individual Conduct- Ch. 4:17 - 6:9
3. Faith's Warfare - Ch. 6:10-20

Philippians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 A.D.

Summary: The tone of this letter is very personal in nature. Paul outlines his own beliefs and relates the attitude that all believers must not be self centered in their own lives. Each believer must look to Christ for an example of self-sacrifice and unity in purpose. He further contrasts enemies of the cross with those who are friends of the Lord Jesus and the cross. It is thought that Paul wrote this epistle while he was in prison.

Christ: The Sufficiency of God to Us

Key Verses:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil. 3: 7-8)

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." (Ch. 3:13-15)

CHRIST OUR LIFE - Chapter 1:1-30

CHRIST OUR MIND - Chapter 2:1-30

CHRIST OUR GOAL- Chapter 3:1 - 4:1

CHRIST OUR STRENGTH - Chapter 4:2-23

Colossians

Author: Paul

Time: 62 - 63 A.D.

Summary: The letter to Colossae was written in response to the Judaizing that was brought to Paul's attention. Paul states that this philosophy was based on human tradition and therefore worthless. He teaches love, humility, submission to authority, and finally prayer to establish a believer in the wisdom of God.

Christ the Fullness of God to Us

Key Verse:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: in

whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." (Col. 2:8-12)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-14

DOCTRINAL - 'That you may be filled' - Ch. 1:15 - 2:23

PRACTICAL - 'Seek those things above' - Ch. 3:1 - 4:6

PERSONAL - 'That you may know our estate' - Ch. 4:7-18

I & II Thessalonians

Author: Paul

Time: 50 A.D.

Summary: The main focus in these letters is an exhortation to continued good works and faith. He also discusses the state of the dead in Christ. It deals with their resurrection and the future of the Kingdom of God. Paul appears to have written these letters due to the large amount of newly baptized believers in Thessalonica. He was forced out of the city by jealous Jews. The occurrence of "you know" in the letters indicates that the teachings were begun but were interrupted and therefore Paul wishes to solidify the subject matter. Further encouragement is given in the second letter regarding the punishment of those wicked men who were persecuting them.

I Thessalonians

Christ as Our Hope

Key Verse:

"Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thess. 1:9-10)

LOOKING BACK: HOW THEY WERE CALLED - Chapter 1:1 - 3:13

1. Through Conversion - Ch. 1:1-10

2. Through Preaching - Ch. 2:1-20

3. Through After-care - Ch. 3:1-13

LOOKING ON: HOW THEY SHOULD LIVE - Chapter 4:1-18

LOOKING FORWARD: WATCHING AND WAITING - Chapter 5:1-28

II Thessalonians

Christ As Our Victory

Key Verse:

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe in that day (II Thess. 1:7-10)."

CONSOLATION - FROM THE FACT OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 1:1-12

CAUTION: INSTRUCTION ON THE TIME OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 2:1-17

COMMAND: INJUNCTIONS IN VIEW OF CHRIST'S COMING - Chapter 3:1-18

I & II Timothy

Author: Paul

Time: 67 A.D.

Summary: Both letters were written by Paul from Rome during his imprisonments. Paul gives Timothy encouragement and reminds him of the work at hand. He reveals his fears to Timothy of the dangers within the church and lends advice for godly conduct of all individuals. The two letters to Timothy along with that to Titus are often called the Pastoral letters due to the nature of their material.

The Charge: Guard That Which Has Been Committed Unto Thee

Key Verses:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy . . . that thou mightest war a good warfare." (1 Tim. 1:18)

"O Timothy, guard that which is committed unto thee." (1 Tim. 6:20 - RV)

INTRODUCTION - Chapter 1:1-20

CHURCH CONDUCT- Chapter 2:1 - 3:16

CHURCH PROBLEMS - Chapter 4:1-16

PERSONAL ADMONITION - Chapter 6:11-21

II Timothy

The Challenge: Stir Up the Gift of God

Key Verses:

*"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee."
(II Tim. 1:6)*

"The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (II Tim. 2:2)

"Perilous times shall come." (II Tim. 3:1)

"The time of my departure is at hand." (II Tim. 4:6)

HOLD ON TO THE CHARGE - Chapter 1:1-18

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TAKE UP THE CHARGE - Chapter 2:1-26

GUARD THE CHARGE IN FACE OF APATHY - Chapter 3:1-17

PREACH THE CHARGE IN ALL SEASONS - Chapter 4:1-8

PAUL'S FINAL WORDS - Chapter 4:9-22

Titus

Author: Paul

Time: 67 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written by Paul from Rome to Titus who was teaching the churches on the island of Crete. The letter provides Titus with instruction and advice for his conduct as well as guidance for dealing with the believers in Crete.

The Caution: What a Church Must Aim For

Key Verse:

"That thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting." (Tit. 1:5)

AN ORDERLY CHURCH - Chapter 1:1-16

A SOUND CHURCH- Chapter 2:1-15

A PRACTICAL CHURCH - Chapter 3:1-15

Philemon

Author: Paul

Time: 61-62 A.D.

Summary: Paul writes to Philemon whose slave, Onesimus, had run away to Rome where he met Paul and became a Christian. Paul sends him back to his rightful owner with his personal letter of recommendation to accept him back with love and charity.

Responsibilities in Christ

Salutation - vv. 1-3

Paul's Praise of Philemon - vv. 4-7

Paul's Plea for Onesimus - vv 8-17

Paul's Pledge of Repayment- vv. 18-22

Final Greetings - vv. 23-25

Hebrews

Author: Probably Paul

Time: 63 A.D.

Summary: This letter persuasively presents the distinctiveness of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The letter is primarily written to Jewish Christians who were wavering between Judaism and Christianity. Its primary message was to prove that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of all O.T. prophecy and symbol. With Christ as the fulfillment, there was no longer a need to make the animal sacrifices, etc. required under the Mosaic Law. Christ is the High Priest and mediator of all believers in all ages who look for the Redemption of God.

Christ: The New and Living Way

Key Verse:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a

new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his

flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised); and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:19-25)

CHRIST THE SON: BETTER THAN HIS PREDECESSORS - Chapter 1:1 - 7:28

A Better Voice Than the Prophets - Ch. 1:1-3

A Better Name Than the Angels - Ch. 1:4 - 2:18
A Better Apostle Than Moses - Ch. 3:1-19
A Better Leader Than Joshua - Ch. 4:1-13
A Better Priest Than Aaron - Ch. 4:14 - 7:28
A Better Priestly Order Than the Levitical - Ch. 7:1-28

CHRIST THE SACRIFICE: CONFIRMING THE BETTER COVENANT - Chapter 8:1 -10:18

1. Christ the antitype of the Mosaic Order - Ch. 8:1-5
2. Christ the mediator of a better covenant - Ch. 8:6-13
3. The Mosaic Tabernacle - Ch. 9:1-5
4. The lessons it taught - Ch. 9:6-10
5. Christ Provided a better Sanctuary- Ch. 9:11-14
6. Christ Provided a better Sacrifice - Ch. 9:15-28
7. The limitations of animal sacrifices - Ch. 10:1-4
8. The effectiveness of Christ's offering - Ch. 10:5-10
9. The completeness of his offering- Ch. 10:11-18

CHRIST AND FAITH: THE TRUE AND BETTER WAY-
Chapter 10:19 -13:25

1. Faith - The True Response - Ch. 10:19-39
2. Faith - The Moving Power of the Ages - Ch. 11:1-40
3. Faith Leads Unto Christ- Ch. 12:1-13
4. Faith Expresses Itself in Practical Morality- Ch. 12:14- 13:21

FINAL WORDS - Chapter 13:22-25

James

Author: James

Time: A.D. 43-50

Summary: The letter of James contains practical information pertaining to every day life as a Christian. It is not directed at any Church in particular, but rather to Jewish believers, revealing their responsibilities to the principles of the Law as manifested in Christ. It focuses on real Faith and shows that there is a need to develop faith as an energizing power that would find its

outworking in a changed life; therefore, the epistle dwells on practice and not doctrine.

Faith in Action

Key Verse:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (Jas. 2:26)

HOW FAITH CAN TRIUMPH OVER TRIALS - Chapter 1:1-27

HOW FAITH CAN GOVERN ACTIONS TOWARDS OTHERS - Chapter 2:1-26

HOW FAITH CAN DISCIPLINE THE TONGUE - Chapter 3:1-18

HOW FAITH CAN PURIFY CHARACTER - Chapter 4:1-17

HOW FAITH CAN CREATE CONFIDENCE IN GOD - Chapter 5:1-20

I Peter

Author: Peter

Time: 60 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written to Christians in Asia Minor to help establish a joyful hope in the face of coming persecution. Peter sternly warns that persecution would come and that each individual must stand fast against it. He also illustrates man's relation to God as well as to mankind.

Triumph in Tribulation

INTRODUCTION- Chapter 1:1-2

THE CALL AND WHAT IT INVOLVES - Chapter 1:3 - 2:10

THE PILGRIM LIFE AND HOW TO LIVE IT - Chapter 2:11 - 4:11

THE FIERY TRIAL AND HOW TO BEAR IT - Chapter 4:12 - 5:11

FINAL WORDS - Chapter 5:12-14

II Peter

Author: Peter

Time: 66 A.D.

Summary: The theme of this letter is true knowledge. The newly formed church was threatened by false teachers and therefore Peter exhorts the Christians to be aware of this danger. Peter explains that false teachers had crept in and were secretly subverting the true doctrine of the Gospel.

The True Knowledge and the Sure Hope

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO MORAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 1:1-21

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO DOCTRINAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 2:1-22

DIVINE REVELATION: THE ANTIDOTE TO POLITICAL CORRUPTION - Chapter 3:1-18

I John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: This letter was written to a community who faced Judaistic heresy. John teaches how to walk in the light and also to keep in their remembrance the sacrifice which the Lord Jesus Christ made for them.

The Truth and The Ecclesia

INTRODUCTION: WHY THE EPISTLE WAS WRITTEN - Chapter 1:1-4

GOD IS LIGHT- Chapter 1:5- 2:29

GOD IS LOVE - Chapter 3:1 - 4:21

GOD IS LIFE- Chapter 5:1-21

II John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: The letter is addressed to "an elect lady" who is advised to eschew fellowship with legalistic Judaisers. The ideas of love, truth, and obedience are emphasized.

The Truth and the Home

INTRODUCTION - vv. 1-4

EXPOSITION - Love Defined - vv. 5-B

EXHORTATION - vv. 7-9

APPLICATION - False Charity to be Avoided - vv. 10-11

INFORMATION - vv. 12-13

III John

Author: John

Time: 65 A.D.

Summary: The letter commends Gaius for his piety and charity by allowing Christian teachers use of his home and financial means. He is urged to receive only good men which were known by their works and to shun evil men.

The Truth and the Individual

GAIUS: THE SINCERE, DEDICATED, LOVABLE - vv. 1-8

DIOTREPHES: THE DOMINEERING, SELF-ASSERTIVE, ARROGANT- vv. 9-11

DEMETRIUS: OF GOOD REPUTE TO ALL- v. 12

LAST WORDS FROM JOHN - vv. 13-14

Jude

Author: Jude

Time: 65 - 70 A.D.

Summary: The primary message Jude is trying to relate is the danger of the false teachers who have "slipped in" unawares by the newly converted Christians. Jude further outlines the past judgments upon evil men who forsook the Word of God and perverted it into the traditions of men.

Contending Earnestly for the Faith

INTRODUCTION - vv. 1-2

THE NEED TO CONTEND - APOSTATE TEACHERS - vv. 3-16

THE WAY TO CONTEND - AVAILABLE RESOURCES - vv. 17-25

Revelation

Author: John

Time: 65-70 A.D.

Summary: This is the final book of the N.T. and the Bible as a whole. John, one of the apostles, is given the Revelation of Jesus Christ pertaining to the events of the return of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The vision is highly symbolic and signifies the apostasy of the church as well as the judgments of those who are held accountable.

The Unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ

Key Verse:

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John." (Rev. 1:1)

JESUS CHRIST AND THE REDEEMED - Chapter 1:1-20

JESUS CHRIST AND THE ECCLESIA - Chapter 2:1 - 3:22

JESUS CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM - Chapter 4:1 - 22:21

1. Introduction- Ch. 4:1 - 5:14

2. The Seven Seals - Ch. 6:1 - 7:17

3. The Seven Angelic Trumpeters - Ch. 8:1 - 11:19

4. The Development and Destruction of the Beast, His Image and Organization - Ch. 12:1 -14:20

5. The Seven Vials of Divine Wrath- Ch. 15:1 -16:21

6. The Judgment of the Great Whore and Triumph of the Lamb - Ch 17:1 - 20:15

7. New Heavens and New Earth- Ch. 21:1 - 22:21

Good vs. Evil

ORIGIN OF EVIL

In the Genesis account of creation it says, *"God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. "* (Gen. 1:31) Elsewhere it is written, *"thou (God) didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created. "* (Rev. 4:11, RSV) The Bible is quite clear that evil was not part of creation and present at the beginning, but it soon appeared on the scene, for it came with SIN.

WHAT IS SIN?

In John's first epistle he writes, *"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."* (1 John 3:4 NIV) The Greek word for lawlessness is "anomia." It indicates not merely a transgression of a given law, but involves also an attitude of rebellion. In other words, when one defies God either through thought, word, or deed, it is considered sin.

DOES GOD TEMPT ANYONE OR CAUSE THEM TO SIN?

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:13-15)

THE SOURCE OF SIN: Lust and Pride (I John 2:16)

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. "

Classic Example: Eve's sin in the Garden (Gen. 3:1-7)

Fruit was *"good for food"* - lust of the flesh

"pleasant to the eyes " - lust of the eyes

"ye shall be as gods" - pride of life

RESULT: Enmity Between Man & God
Flesh versus Spirit

Good vs Evil

IS MAN INHERENTLY GOOD or EVIL?

The Bible clearly shows, in each book of the Bible, that man is essentially "evil" by nature. The enmity between man and God has continued throughout the ages.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9)

"That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. " (Mark 7:20-23).

See also: *Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Isaiah 59:1-8; Rom. 3:10-12,23*

BOTTOM LINE: Man is evil and God is good. Evil may prevail for a while, but ultimately good will prevail forever according to God's timetable. Consider the wonderful promise found in Paul's epistle to the Romans:

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.(Rom. 8:18-21, NIV)"

Also, *Revelation 21:3-4* says,

"I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. "

Good vs Evil

WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

Sin and suffering are a part of the present state of things, not caused by the design or purpose of God, but by the folly of mankind in the very beginning of history - and perpetuated, in many cases, by the foolish actions of an ignorant and disobedient world. Man's disobedience has introduced into the arena of God's work the cause of all the suffering, evil, bloodshed, disease, anger, impediments, and inequities that the long and sad history of the world ever since has witnessed. The problems that society faces today - slums, murder, gambling, terrorism, etc. are the products of man's lusts and folly.

People tend to be disinterested in heeding the Word of God, at the same time continuing to wonder at the presence of evil and suffering. Much of the suffering in the world is a direct result of man's actions. Stress, heart disease, cancer, mental illness, respiratory ailments due to pollution, and such curses upon humanity as AIDS, bring trauma and distress even to innocent families and communities.

WHY DOESN'T GOD INTERVENE?

Some say God could remove all these dreadful circumstances. Certainly, He could. But if He did so without reason and purpose, providing sinful mankind with every blessing and benefit without restriction, He would never accomplish His ultimate purpose which is to produce a people "*for His Name* " (Acts 15:14), and to teach mankind the wisdom of His ways.

Without an understanding of God's Word, people do not acknowledge divine instruction, and are not prepared to accept God's teaching. We will not naturally follow the way of righteousness. Our evil characteristics are the cause of much of humanity's suffering. A society that throws off the restraint of the Scriptures causes the glaring injustices against its fellows which are so evident today.

The Bible invites us to separate from such a society; to recognize the evil condition of life about us; to acknowledge that we are no longer "*very good*", but inherently "*desperately wicked*", and therefore to seek for the means to raise ourselves above the hopelessness of sin, and seek for righteousness.

The Bible is the key to such a positive attitude. It clearly shows the way in which men and women can find real satisfaction in life, and obtain answers to the perplexing questions that otherwise seem to have no solution.

Good vs Evil

IS SUFFERING NECESSARY? WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS ALSO SUFFER?

The qualities that Almighty God seeks in His creatures, are summed up in Galatians 5:22-23, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."* These characteristics are not natural to us; they only come by development. Instead, we are born with selfish desires. These are uppermost in our consideration, and in most people remain the prime force of their lives.

But God wants to change that, and the means employed are often trial and suffering. Indeed, the Apostle Paul taught that it is *"through much tribulation"* that believers will *"enter the Kingdom of God"* (Acts 14:22). God does not exempt His servants from suffering and trials, for it is by such means that we are able to prove our courage and our conviction about the things we believe. Not only so, but it is through difficulties that a person is made stronger in character, more understanding and compassionate, and more faithful in disposition. These are characteristics with which God is pleased, and which will bring us peace.

There will be an end of suffering. Those who *"by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality"* will be granted *"eternal life"* (Romans 2: 7), the promise of *"divine nature"* (2 Peter 1:4), and the privilege of reigning as *"kings and priests"* with Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:10) by the grace of God. No more will the weaknesses of human nature be felt; no longer the diseases, distresses and frustrations of life; no longer the realization of increasing age, with all its weaknesses and concerns. The joy of immortality is beautifully expressed in the words of the prophet Isaiah: *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (ch. 40:31).

In the midst of a time of trouble the Psalmist confidently asserted, *"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock"* (Psalm 27:4-5). David knew that whatever trials he was required to face, God would protect him, so that ultimately he might achieve his heart's desire. So he tells us, *"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord"* (verse 14).

Terminology (Part 4)

PRECEPT - Commandment. An order, command, charge

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. " (Mark 10:5)

STATUTE - A commandment, decree, law, or ordinance

"And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. " (Leviticus 23:41)

SABBATH - rest

"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. " (Exodus 20:11)

TONGUE - A language used by a particular people in distinction from that of other nations

"Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. " (Acts 2:11)

SAINT - Holy one

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus. " (Ephesians 1:1)

SATAN - adversary, one who withstands; adversary (in general - personal or national)

"But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. " (Matthew 16:23)

DEVIL - prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6: 70)

Terminology (Part 4)

LUCIFER - means "The morning-star", title given the King of Babylon

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12)

GENTILE - A Greek by nationality, whether a native of the mainland or of the Greek islands or colonies. 2) In a wider sense the name embraces all nations not Jews that made the language, customs, and learning of the Greeks their own.

"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. " (Romans 2:10)

ANGEL - A messenger, envoy, one who is sent, a messenger from God

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." (Acts 8:26)

SERAPHIM - Literally, "Burning, fiery." Specifically, a seraph or symbolic creature.

"Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly." (Isaiah 6:2)

CHERUBIM - The cherubs or symbolic figures. Plural of cherub. Not to be confused with angels.

"So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. " (Genesis 3:24)

Conclusion

After the death of Moses, Joshua was set up as the leader of the nation of Israel by God. God told Joshua to "be strong and of a good courage." He also told him,

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. " (Josh. 1:8)

Joshua heeded those words and led the people successfully into the land. The words proved true, for Joshua's way prospered and he had good success. At the end of his life, he gathered all Israel to him and said these words:

"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. " (Josh. 24:14-15)

These words echoed those of Moses, as he addressed the people of Israel prior to his death. In chapters 28-30 of Deuteronomy, Moses exhorts the people on obedience to God, outlining the blessings and cursing they would receive, whether obedient or disobedient. At the end of this discourse Moses says, *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. " (Deut. 30:19-20)*

As we bring this seminar to a close, we bring to remembrance that we are all created in the image of God, and therefore should be rendering unto God the things which are God's. The Bible contains His plan for mankind and the earth, and it alone contains the keys to salvation. Life is to be found in the Bible, and we have attempted to put you on the path to obtaining it.

As you move forward, you, too, have a choice: life or death. We encourage you to choose life, for both you and your families.

THE CHRISTADELPHIANS