

The Epistle of James was probably written by the half-brother of Jesus. I say half-brother, because Jesus' mother was Mary and His Father was God. James' mother was Mary and his father was probably Joseph. Paul called him the Lord's brother in Galatians 1:19 "But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."

There are a number of different men named James in the Bible. Here are a few possibilities of who this James could be. James, the brother of John, but he was killed soon after the resurrection of Jesus. James, the son of Mary, possibly James the Little. James, the son of Alphaeus, and James the father of Jude. All of these are possibilities, but I believe the author to be the half-brother of Jesus.

This same James was not won to Christianity, until after the resurrection of Jesus. He became the head of the church in Jerusalem, possibly because he was the brother of Jesus. Paul and James had a different view of Christianity. Paul looked at it from the mystical view, and James looked at it from the standpoint of the law. The primary difference was; Paul preached justification by faith in Jesus Christ, and James taught that we will show good works in our daily walk, if we are saved. In truth, there was no difference at all. James was just ministering to Jewish Christians, and Paul was ministering to Gentiles.

James would have been trained in the Jewish religion, because his parents were Hebrews. He would have been perfect to lead the Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Saviour. The letter was actually written to Jewish Christians, which is still in character for this to be the half-brother of Jesus. The letter is even addressed to the twelve tribes of Israel. It is, however, useful to all Christians, as well as Jews.

It was written before 62 A.D. which is the year believed to be the year of death for St. James.

Now we will begin the verse by verse study of the book of James in James 1:1 "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."

We see in this very first verse, that James did not mention the fact that he was the half-brother of Jesus in the flesh. He was so humbled by the fact that, he had not immediately realized who Jesus was. He, like Mary, was the family of Jesus in the flesh, but he fully realized that Jesus was his Lord. He calls himself servant, in the verse above, to show his total submission to the service of the Lord. At the time James wrote this, the twelve tribes had not returned to Israel. James, at the resurrection of the Lord, had submitted himself to not only salvation through Jesus, but had dedicated his life to His service. It is easy to understand why James did not believe Jesus to be the Messiah at first, because they were raised together as children.

James 1:2 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;"

James gets right to the subject of his letter in this verse. There was much persecution in the church in this day. James just says, to face the problems that arise and grow from those problems. James speaks

to them as brothers in Christ. It is difficult to see when we are facing temptations, but there is a lesson to be learned in each of them. Jesus faced every temptation when he went to the mountain and fasted forty days and nights. The main lesson to be learned in the temptation, is that God will help us face the problem. He will see us through, if we will place our trust in Him. I Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]." Knowing that we are to grow through this temptation should bring us joy.

James 1:3 "Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

Now we are looking at one of the benefits of temptations. Most of us are not patient at all, before we are saved. If we are to take on the likeness of Christ, then we must, also, become patient. We see a very good example of this in Job in the Old Testament. He faced great temptation and patiently waited for an answer from God. The end of the temptation was victory for him.

James 1:4 "But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

When we pray, we usually want to see an instant answer to our prayer. We are not instantly transformed into that perfect Christian that we all desire to be, and our prayers are many times not answered immediately either. There is a growing process to become the person we want to be. Ephesians 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" When we are saved, we have just entered the path that leads to righteousness. We grow in the Lord and His righteousness as we are instructed in His Word. We then must apply the instructions that we have learned to practical living to become that full Christian. The Bible says that we must be fed milk and honey, until we grow into the mature Christian who can handle the meat of the Word. We will see the victory, if we patiently wait for it.

James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Wisdom is a gift from God. Knowledge is accumulated learning. The best way to grow in the Lord, then, would be to pray that God will give you the gift of wisdom and understanding. Ask God for the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher and Guide. Then study the Word of God, and grow in the Word, and in experience. God is very willing to give good gifts to His children who ask. When we ask, we must believe that we receive, and we shall have what we ask. God does not just indiscriminately pour out wisdom on everyone. We must pray and ask, and then we will receive it. God is not like man, that would remind you constantly that he had given you a gift. God attaches no strings to the things He gives us. He gives them to us, because He loves us.

James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

It is useless to pray and ask for something, if you do not believe you will get an answer to that prayer. Faith is what causes

the prayer to be answered. When Jesus healed the sick, He said, your faith has made you whole. Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them]."

James 1:7 "For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

This is speaking of the man that wavereth. His faith is not constant. His faith is like the tree that falls over when the slightest wind comes. He says he believes, but he does not believe in his heart. The following is what Jesus said to the man who came to him for help for his son. Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth." Now we see the correct thing to do, if we see that our faith is wavering. Mark 9:24 "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He believed, but he wanted Jesus to help him believe even more. This type of faith is honored by the Father, because the desire of our heart is to believe.

James 1:8 "A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways."

This is speaking of an unstable person, who cannot make up his mind. He really does not truly believe anything. His heart is not right with God.

James 1:9 "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:"

You do not have to be rich, or even thought of highly in the community, to come to Christ. Christianity is for whosoever will. Brother means that he is a believer in Christ. He may have a lowly task to do here on the earth, but that has nothing to do with his position with Christ. Brothers in Christ are all the same in the sight of God. They all have the same Father. Christians are sons of God. There are no class distinctions in Christ.

James 1:10 "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away."

This is really speaking of those who trust in riches. When we die, we do not take earthly riches to heaven with us. The only wealth we have in heaven, is the wealth we stored there while we were yet on the earth. The rich man and the poor man came into the world naked, and they shall not carry anything with them when they leave this world. The poor man will be brought up to the level of the rich, and the rich will be brought down to the level of the poor. Our body, that we live in here on the earth, is not our eternal body. This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. We will be changed, made suitable for heaven. Our earthly body is like the grass; here today and gone tomorrow.

James 1:11 "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways."

It is best not to put your trust in earthly possessions that pass away. We just use them for a little while on the earth, and then they pass on to someone else. Our earthly body is not made for eternity. It is just a house we dwell in here on the earth. This is not speaking of the Godly rich, but of those who have ways that cause them to be rich.

This is speaking of those who are thinking, not of life eternal, but life in the here and now. The rich, who put their trust in their wealth, have no future with God.

James 1:12 "Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

In this life we have temptations, trials, and tribulation. It is not the temptation that ruins the man, but his attitude toward the temptation. We should willingly endure whatever temptation comes our way, like the good soldier of Christ that we profess to be. Those who live, overcoming the temptations that come, have awaiting them a crown of life. Revelation 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." If we love Him, we will keep His commandments. We will stay firmly rooted in Jesus Christ our Redeemer. We will be built on the Rock that cannot be moved. I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

James 1 Questions

1. Who was the probable writer of James?
2. Why did the author speak of him as half-brother?
3. Quote Galatians chapter 1 verse 19.
4. Name some of the men called James in the Bible.
5. Which James was killed soon after the resurrection of Jesus?
6. When did James, the brother of Jesus, become a Christian?
7. Why was James chosen to be the head of the church in Jerusalem?
8. What was different about the way Paul looked at Christianity, and the way James looked at it?
9. Why was there this difference, really?
10. Why was James taught the Jewish law?
11. Who was this letter addressed to?
12. Can the Christians value from it?
13. When was it written approximately?
14. Who does James call himself in the first verse?
15. Even though James was Jesus' half-brother, James still accepted Him as his _____.
16. Why had James not accepted Jesus as Messiah immediately?
17. Quote James chapter 1 verse 2.
18. What advice did James give these believers about their problems?
19. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 13.
20. Why should we joy in temptations?
21. The trying of your faith worketh _____.
22. Quote Ephesians chapter 4 verse 13.
23. How do we become a full Christian?
24. How can we get wisdom?
25. What is knowledge?
26. Who should be our Teacher and Guide?
27. What two things should we grow in?
28. How are we to ask for wisdom?
29. Those that waver are like what?
30. Quote Mark chapter 11 verse 24.
31. If thou canst believe, _____ _____ _____.
32. What is double-minded speaking of?
33. How are Christian brothers, rich are poor, alike?
34. What is our shortness of physical life compared to in verse 10?
35. Quote James chapter 1 verse 12.

We will begin this lesson in James 1:13 "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:"

We had been discussing in the last lesson the tribulations and temptations of man. Temptations come to make us strong in the Lord. God allows the devil to tempt us. He does not bring the temptation Himself. It is actually the lust of the flesh which tempts mankind. We discovered in the last lesson that to withstand temptation of the flesh from the devil, brings us a crown of life. Not only does it bring us a crown of life, but it makes us stronger with each temptation that we overcome.

James 1:14 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

We know this to be true, with the example of Adam and Eve. The first mistake she made, was to listen to that old deceiver Satan. Then she looked upon that which was forbidden. The lust of mankind has always been the thing that causes man to sin. We have said it over and over in these lessons. We must get our flesh under the control of the spirit to avoid sin in our life. The temptation is sometimes very great, but our will to do God's will must be greater than the temptation. It is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to fall to the temptation.

James 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

The wages of sin is death. The only reason Christians do not have to pay those wages, is because Jesus paid it for us. "Conceived" in the verse above, means catch, help, or take. Then when lust has taken control, the person sins. We must get the flesh under control. Paul spoke of even whipping his body into line daily. This probably did not mean a physical whipping, but a taming of his flesh. The flesh of man is sinful. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We must receive forgiveness for our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and then go and sin no more.

James 1:16 "Do not err, my beloved brethren."

This is just saying, walk in the salvation you have received.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

God is the same, today, yesterday, and forever. God does not change. God is the source of all Light. Jesus called Himself the Light of the world. The Light is so bright there is no shadow where God is. Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." These gifts that Jesus gave the believers are spiritual gifts. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 11:29 "For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance." Romans 12:6 "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, [let us prophesy] according to the proportion of faith;" Romans 12:7 "Or

ministry, [let us wait] on [our] ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;" Romans 12:8 "Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, [let him do it] with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

James 1:18 "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

In the first chapter of John, we read that the Word was God. We, also, read that all things that were made, were made, by that same Word. On the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit fell on the 120 Christians, they became first-fruit offerings to the Lord. Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," Ephesians 1:14 "Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." We see in the verse following that those who follow the Lamb {Jesus Christ} are spoken of as firstfruits. Revelation 14:4 "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

James 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

In view of the things he has already mentioned, James says, listen and don't talk too much. Usually if we listen carefully to what someone is saying, before we speak, we will not get angry. It is just a misunderstanding that causes wrath. Let the other person explain, so you can avoid problems. We are cautioned in Proverbs to listen and not talk so much. It even says, if you listen more than you talk, they will believe you are smart, whether you actually are or not.

James 1:20 "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Jesus was slow to anger. In fact, He was a very patient person. If we are to be like our Leader, Jesus Christ, then we must be of a quiet nature, as well. The Bible calls it longsuffering.

James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

"Superfluity", in the verse above, means abundance. To lay aside the naughtiness in our life, would be to crucify this old man of flesh and let our spirit rule over the flesh. "Engrafted" means implanted. It is the Word of God {Jesus Christ} who saves our soul. This is speaking of being so full of Jesus and His Word {Bible} that we will have His Word implanted in our inner-most being. Our heart will be stayed upon God and His Word, and that will cause us to live the way we should.

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Even the scribes and Pharisees were hearers of the Word of God. The devil spirits even heard and believed, but they were not doers. James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." They believe, but they decided to follow Lucifer instead of God. We may say we are Christians, but the

real test is do we live what we profess? Are we just saying and not doing?

James 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:" James 1:24 "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

This really is speaking of someone who professes Christianity, but lives like the world. This is like people who get baptized and then go back to their old way of life. When we repent, are saved, and baptized, we are to become a brand new creature. Old desires to sin should be gone. We are not the image we were before we are in Christ. What manner of man are you? Are you Christ-like, or worldly?

James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Jesus said, if you love me, you will keep my commandments. The key word is continueth. He not only professes Christianity, but walks continuously in the salvation he has received. No one has to ask him, if he is a Christian. His way of life shows the world that he is a Christian. Everything we do should be done as unto the Lord. We are to work the work of an evangelist, until the Lord comes back. Even minutes before His return, we should be trying to win one more soul to Christianity.

James 1:26 "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion [is] vain."

This is speaking of someone who is a Christian in form only. The world may even look on him and think of him as a Christian, but his heart is not right with God. We have discussed before, that the words that come out of the mouth, spoken by the tongue, are what we are inside. Out of the heart, the mouth speaketh. You can not curse and bless with the same tongue. Evil words come from an evil heart. The heart of man reveals what relationship he has with God. Religion is something we do systematically. We can be religious about most anything. To be a true Christian, our heart must be washed in the blood of the Lamb. We must speak healing, peaceful words from a heart stayed upon God.

James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world."

The two things Jesus said were the important commandments were to love God above all else, and to love our neighbor as ourself. You can not be involved in the ways of the world and belong to God. Christians are in the world, but are not of the world. We must not get involved with the world. We are to be a separated people. The neighbors that we are most responsible for are the neighbors that cannot help themselves. The widows and orphans are the responsibility of the Christians. Keep yourself stayed upon good things, and you will not have time to get involved with the bad. When you do for those who cannot help themselves, you are doing it unto God.

James 2 Questions

1. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of _____.
2. What do tribulations come for?
3. Who, or what, actually tempts us?
4. What brings us a crown of life?
5. Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own _____.
6. What was Eve's first mistake?
7. How can we avoid sin in our life?
8. Sin bringeth forth _____.
9. Why do the Christians not have to die for their sins?
10. What is chapter 1 verse 16 really saying?
11. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from _____, and cometh down from the _____ of _____.
12. Quote Ephesians chapter 4 verse 8.
13. What is the gift of God?
14. The gifts and calling of God are without _____.
15. What are some of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the 12th chapter of Romans.
16. Who are the firstfruits of His creatures?
17. Who made all things?
18. What is the earnest of the inheritance?
19. Let every man be _____ to hear, _____ to speak, _____ to wrath.
20. What can usually stop an argument, before it gets started?
21. If we are to be like Jesus, what should our nature be like?
22. What does "superfluity" mean?
23. What does "engrafted" mean?
24. What is the Word?
25. Be ye _____ of the Word, and not _____ only.
26. Quote James chapter 2 verse 19.
27. Jesus said, if you love me you will _____ my commandments.
28. What shows the world that you are a Christian without you telling them?
29. Quote James chapter 1 verse 26.
30. Describe pure religion, undefiled before God and the Father.

We will begin this lesson in James 2:1 "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons."

I believe what James is trying to say here, is that being a respecter of a person because of his station in life is not consistent with Christianity. Jesus taught that we are not to be a respecter of persons, if we are Christians. Luke 20:21 "And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person [of any], but teachest the way of God truly:" We see the same teaching from Peter in the following Scripture. Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"

James 2:2 "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;"

We can easily see from this, that the church is not for just one class of people. This, also, shows that just because a man was rich, did not mean that he could not be saved. The fact that a person was very poor, did not keep him from joining the church either.

James 2:3 "And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:"

James is showing them, in this, that they had been showing preference to the rich. In God's sight, the rich should be given no more privileges than the poor. There are many churches today that would turn away the poor man in this instance. Vile raiment might be just enough to keep them not only at the back, but completely out of the church. The outward appearance of a man does not reveal what is in his heart. The heart determines whether you are a Christian, or not.

James 2:4 "Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

Church is not for the privileged few, but for all who seek God. We are not to judge man at all, but if we did, we would not judge fairly. We would be thinking of the flesh of man, and God looks at the heart of man.

James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

In the following Scripture Jesus says, that it is hard for a rich man to enter heaven. He did not say it was impossible, just difficult. The reason for that, is because the rich man has a hard time putting anything ahead of his riches. God will not take second place. Matthew 19:23 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:24 "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." For a person to come to Christ, he must humble himself before God. The humbling is much easier for the poor, because they are already in practice being humble.

James 2:6 "But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"

James is explaining that poor men seldom oppress anyone, but it is generally the rich who oppress the poor, not the other way around. The rich sometimes hold important offices in government, and have more opportunity to oppress.

James 2:7 "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"

Notice in the following Scripture, the holiness of the LORD. Jeremiah 23:6 "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." The name that we are called is Christian, which means we are followers of and believers in Christ. Ephesians 3:15 "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," The family is made up of the sons of God. Those who choose to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are the sons of God. John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:"

James 2:8 "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

Jesus explained that loving God and loving your neighbor fulfilled all of your obligations, if you were a Christian. Look, with me, at the following Scriptures on this. Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment." Matthew 22:39 "And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:40 "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

James 2:9 "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

If you respect someone because of their wealth or position in society, you have not kept the two laws Jesus said covered all the laws.

James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all."

This is speaking to those specifically who have not accepted the sacrifice that Jesus made as being sufficient for all sin, and are trying to keep the Mosaic law. The keeping of the law saves no one, because they cannot keep it in its entirety. The forgiveness through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ saves you.

James 2:11 "For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law."

James is trying to show, in this, that by the keeping of the law, no man is saved. The penalty for sin is death. Jesus took our sin upon His body on the cross, if we are believers, we are not guilty of sin. We have been pardoned by His great act of mercy. The keepers of the law are not Christians, because they have not accepted the full pardon through the shed blood of Jesus for their sins.

James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

The law of liberty in Jesus Christ is what Christians are under. We are not perfect, just forgiven. We are righteous in the sight of the Father, because we have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ and made righteous. We have taken on His righteousness in exchange for our sin.

James 2:13 "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

This is so similar to what the Lord Jesus taught. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven. If you will not forgive, then you shall not be forgiven. Matthew 5:7 "Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 6:15 "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." I John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." I John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." I John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." I John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

James 2:14 "What [doth it] profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

We all know the answer to this is, that we are saved by faith and faith alone, but if we are saved, we will have works showing our faith. The works are a manifestation of our faith. Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." The works of a Christian speak to the world of the faith he has.

James 3 Questions

1. What does the author believe James is saying in verse 1 here?
2. Quote Luke chapter 20 verse 21.
3. What did Peter have to say about the same thing?
4. How was the rich man described in verse 2?
5. What type of raiment did the poor have?
6. What lesson can the church today learn from James chapter 2 verse 2?
7. What did they say to the person in gay clothing?
8. Where did they tell the poor person to stand?
9. Church is not for the _____ few, but for all who seek God.
10. What is the difference in the way God looks at man, and the way man looks at man?
11. Why is it difficult for the rich man to be saved?
12. Quote Matthew chapter 19 verse 24.
13. Who are the oppressors in this world, usually?
14. What name of God is in Jeremiah chapter 23 verse 6?
15. What does the name Christian tell about us?
16. Quote John chapter 1 verse 12.
17. What is the royal law?
18. On what two commandments, did Jesus say hang all the law and prophets?
19. What are you doing when you respect someone more than others, because of their wealth, or position?
20. Who is verse 10 really speaking of?
21. By the keeping of the law is ____ saved.
22. Why are the keepers of the law not Christians?
23. Who is under the law of liberty?
24. Quote Matthew chapter 5 verse 7.
25. Quote 1 John chapter 4 verse 8.
26. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love _____.
27. What is the answer to verse 14?

We will begin this lesson in James 2:15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,"

In the last lesson, we learned that works do not save you, but you will have good works, if you are saved. The brother and sister, here, are not brothers and sisters in the flesh, but in the faith. This is speaking of those who are Christians. This is not speaking of wants in their lives, this is speaking of their needs.

James 2:16 "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit?"

James is saying, in this, that just telling them to be filled will not fill that empty place in their stomach. To wish them well, without giving them a coat to warm with will not keep them warm. We must put action to our wishes. Feed them and clothe them, and then wish them well, and you will have done something. Matthew 25:42 "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:" Matthew 25:43 "I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." Be doers of the Word, and not just hearers. Be a sermon by the actions you take toward others.

James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

We can say we have faith, but we will not be believed, unless we have works to match up with our faith. The faith of Abraham was put into action when Abraham was about to offer his son, Isaac, as sacrifice to God. Faith brings results. Faith causes us to step out and do things we would not think of trying otherwise.

James 2:18 "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

Look, with me, at faith in action. Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Hebrews 11:29 "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry [land]: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned." All of these Scriptures show faith in action, or faith acted upon. We must do the things of God, if we are of faith. One of the very best examples of this is the parable about the 3 men who received talents from the Lord. Two of them acted in faith and earned more for the master. The third was afraid and hid his talent. His Lord was angry and took it away from him. Fear is the opposite of faith. To be truly faithful, we must act upon our faith. Just to sit down and say you have faith, without doing something about it, actually shows lack of faith.

James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

Many believe that just to say you believe in God is enough, but without trust in God to act upon the faith, it becomes very questionable about whether you really have faith in God, or are just saying you do. The devils believe, because they have seen God in heaven. It takes no faith at all to believe something you have seen with your own eyes. The true faith is believing in your heart in something you have not seen. "Devils", here, is speaking of the angels that followed Lucifer out of heaven. They tremble, because they know the terrible fate that awaits them.

James 2:20 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Faith that is not acted upon brings no fruit. Mark 4:8 "And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred." Mark 4:20 "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive [it], and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." Those who profess faith must be like this fruitful tree. Silent Christians are not fulfilling the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. It is not our obligation for them to listen, but it is our obligation to tell them, if we have faith. To have faith and do absolutely nothing about it, is no faith at all.

James 2:21 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?"

Abraham's faith was tested to see if it was really faith, or just talk. He acted upon his faith, and God saved his son Isaac. Abraham had great faith. His faith had grown into complete trust in God. He knew in his heart, God could raise him from the dead. Hebrews 11:17 "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten [son]," Hebrews 11:18 "Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:" Hebrews 11:19 "Accounting that God [was] able to raise [him] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." Abraham's faith was strong enough to stand the test.

James 2:22 "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?"

The faith of Abraham was made perfect in the action he took. He proclaimed his perfect faith and trust in God by his actions. Had the test of offering his son for sacrifice to God never arisen, we would not have realized how great faith Abraham had in God. His act of faith helps us in difficult situations to act upon our faith. We might be like the man who brought his son to Jesus for healing. He said he believed, but help his unbelief. Each person has a portion of faith, but to let it grow, we must use it. Our faith grows with every use.

James 2:23 "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

"Imputed", in the usage here, means counted. The belief of Abraham was counted unto him for righteousness. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Without acting upon the faith that we have, it is not faith at all. To be the Friend of God would be the highest honor we could be paid. God had great regard for Abraham.

James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and

not by faith only."

The works, spoken of here, are an evidence of the faith the person has. Faith saves us, but the works are a by-product of our faith. When we stand before Jesus on judgement day, He will say to His own, well done, thy good and faithful servant. Servants serve.

James 2:25 "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way?"

The actions that Rahab took revealed that she had faith in God. She helped the messengers, because her faith in God was greater than her fear of men.

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

The spirit within the body is the real you. It is the spirit that is alive, quickened by the Lord Jesus Christ. The body is just the house that the spirit lives in here on the earth. When a person's spirit leaves the body, the body is dead. Jesus dismissed His Spirit from His body, and the body died on the cross. The spiritual body that lives within this body of flesh is the part of us that will live on. When the spirit leaves the body, the life is gone. Faith that is not acted upon, is like this empty shell of the body. Faith is not real, until the actions show the faith of the person.

James 4 Questions

1. What, in verse 15, lets us know these are Christians?
2. This is not speaking of _____ in their lives, but _____.
3. What had they said to the needy in verse 16?
4. Quote Matthew chapter 25 verses 42 and 43.
5. Faith, without works, is _____.
6. What proves our faith?
7. Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my _____ by my _____.
8. Quote Hebrews chapter 11 verse 7.
9. Who were some others who showed their faith by their actions?
10. What parable does the author think is a very good example of faith at work?
11. Thou believest that there is One God; thou doest well: the _____ also believe, and tremble.
12. Why do the devils believe?
13. Who are these "devils", spoken of here?
14. What is the parable of the fruit, in Mark, about?
15. What is wrong with silent Christians?
16. What does verse 21 say, that Abraham was justified by?
17. What did Abraham believe God would do, if he sacrificed Isaac?
18. By _____ was faith made perfect.
19. How can we have more faith?
20. Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for _____.
21. Abraham was called the _____ of God.
22. What does "imputed", in verse 23, mean?
23. What is a by-product of faith?
24. What harlot is mentioned as being justified by works?
25. What did the actions Rahab took show?
26. The body without the _____ is dead.
27. Faith without _____ is dead.
28. What are the two bodies that we have?

We will begin this lesson in James 3:1 "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

This is a possible reminder to those who take authority upon themselves that has not been ordered of God. This is James speaking to, possibly, the Jews who wanted to teach the newcomers to the faith. James includes himself in the last part of this, where he says that the teachers, who should know more, are in greater condemnation for the sins they commit, because they are operating in full knowledge. This is a warning to all teachers to not think of themselves above those they teach. The true Teacher of all of us is the Holy Spirit of God. He will teach us all truth.

James 3:2 "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body."

We have spoken in other lessons of the tongue being the most evil part of the body. This is why it is so important to allow God to control your tongue. The words that proceed out of a man's mouth reveals what he really is. I Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:" The tongue can do a great deal of harm, if it is not controlled of God. The tongue, controlled of God can do great good. When the tongue is controlled by God, the whole body is under the control of God. The words of the tongue originate in the heart of man. The heart is either, stayed upon God, or desperately wicked.

James 3:3 "Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body."

This is just showing that the tongue, controlled of God, is part of a body controlled by God. When the bit is in the horse's mouth, the rider can turn him with just a gentle pull on the reins. This is saying, then, that a tongue controlled by God can cause the whole body to follow God.

James 3:4 "Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth."

We see, a very large ship is guided by a very small part of the entire ship. This is true of us, as well. The heart is what we really are. The mouth, speaking from that heart, reveals to the world where we stand with God.

James 3:5 "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

Words we speak effect those around us. If we speak evil, we will stir up strife among others. If we speak soothing words, the fire of hate and anger will be extinguished.

James 3:6 "And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

James is speaking of a tongue which has not been dedicated to

God. Cutting words can destroy people. Before we are saved, we all have a wicked tongue. I have always said, the reason it is so important to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, is because in so doing we turn the most evil part of our body over to the control of the Spirit of God. When He has your tongue, He has you. Verse 6, above, is speaking of the tongue, before we turn it over to the Spirit of God.

James 3:7 "For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:" James 3:8 "But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

In the verses above, we see that the tongue is the most difficult thing in the world to tame. In fact, man can not tame the tongue. Only God can tame the tongue. Here are a few verses on the evil of the tongue and what we are to do about it. Psalms 34:13 "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Psalms 50:19 "Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit." I Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:" The only way that any of us can speak pure words is with a heart, mouth, and tongue dedicated to God. Let Jesus wash your heart in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus Christ} and speak pure words from a pure heart.

James 3:9 "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."

How can this be? We know that a pure heart speaks beauty to all, not just to God. In our society, we would call this two-faced. Jesus gave two commandments that covered all. Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Matthew 22:40 "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." It is an impossibility to love God and hate His creation.

James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

To say we are a Christian, is not enough. We must become Christlike, to truly be a Christian. When He was persecuted, He blessed. If our heart is truly stayed upon God, there would be no evil proceed from our mouth.

James 3:11 "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet [water] and bitter?"

A well does not produce both bitter and sweet water at the same time. The well spoken of here, is the heart of man. Look at what Jesus said about this. Matthew 12:34 "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." It is more than obvious in all this, a tongue that speaks evil comes from an impure heart.

James 3:12 "Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so [can] no fountain both yield salt water and

fresh."

There are many who profess Christianity who are not truly sold out to Christ. We are what we are in our inner man. The heart of man is the determining factor. This is one of the main reasons why I believe a person who is sold out to God can not be possessed of a devil. Light and darkness can not dwell in the same place, the darkness is overcome by the Light. We must decide whether we will follow God, or whether we will follow Lucifer. We can not do both. The Light of God, within us, does away with all darkness. The Light represents the sweet water. Darkness and salt water go hand in hand.

James 3:13 "Who [is] a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

Wisdom is a gift from God. Those who have wisdom, and the Holy Spirit has given them knowledge of God's Word, show the world by their actions and their speech, they are believers. This is just saying, your life and your speech will reveal to those around you, who you are in Christ. Bragging of your position with Christ has no place. Those who truly have a wonderful relation with Christ do not need to brag. They are generally humble people who just love God.

James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

Each of us has his own special place with Christ. He has not called us to the same job as someone else. We should never look at someone else and be jealous, or want what they have. To want something someone else has, even if it is their relation with Christ, is coveting. God called each of us to do a job for Him that He could entrust us with.

James 3:15 "This wisdom descendeth not from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish."

Bitterness and strife of all kinds come from the devil. All things that please the flesh are earthy, or of this earth. The spiritual things are not based on things of the earth. Lucifer was jealous and wanted to be God. You can see that this type of earthly wisdom and power is not spiritual. We must come out of the world {Egypt}, before we can go to the promised land {heaven}. We must do away with all desires of the flesh to be of God.

James 3:16 "For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work."

The natural man does not receive the things of God. Envy and strife are of the flesh. We must crucify the flesh to live with Christ. Envy causes many other sins. Christians are in this world, but we should not be controlled by earthly desires.

James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Notice the word "but" in the verse above. It shows a direct contrast to the earthly man. This has jumped to those who are sold out to God. The wisdom from above comes to the believers. This wisdom is stored in a heart that is pure. Knowing of the security that is in Christ brings peace. When we are at peace with God and man, we are

gentle. If we expect God to be merciful to us, we must be merciful to others. Christians should bear good fruit. You cannot be a Christian and a hypocrite at the same time. A true Christian is 100% the Lord's.

James 3:18 "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." John 4:36 "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

James 5 Questions

1. Why does it say in verse 1, they shall receive greater condemnation?
2. What is this a possible reminder of?
3. Who is the true Teacher of all?
4. If any man offend not in word, the same is a _____ man.
5. What is the most evil part of the body?
6. Quote 1 Peter chapter 3 verse 10.
7. The tongue can do a great deal of harm, if it is not controlled of _____.
8. The words of the tongue originate in the _____.
9. Why do we put bits in the horses' mouths?
10. What changes the direction of a ship?
11. What reveals to the world where we are with God?
12. The tongue is a _____, a world of iniquity.
13. What is wrong with the tongue in verse 6?
14. What difficult things, to be tamed, were tamed in verse 7?
15. What is the unruly, evil tongue full of?
16. Quote Psalms chapter 34 verse 13.
17. How is the only way any of us can speak pure words?
18. Therewith bless we the Father, and _____ men.
19. What were the 2 commandments that Jesus gave that covered all?
20. It is an impossibility to love God and hate His _____.
21. In verse 10, what did James say, ought not to be so?
22. To say we are a Christian is not enough. We must be _____.
23. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place _____ water and _____?
24. What is the well, spoken of in verse 11?
25. Quote Matthew chapter 12 verse 34.
26. Quote Luke chapter 6 verse 45.
27. Why does the author believe that a true Christian can not be possessed of a devil?
28. Wisdom is a _____ from _____.
29. What 2 things reveal to the world what you are in Christ?
30. What one word describes what wanting something that belongs to someone else is?
31. Where does bitterness and strife come from?
32. Quote James chapter 3 verse 17.
33. Quote John chapter 4 verse 36.

James 4:1 "From whence [come] wars and fightings among you? [come they] not hence, [even] of your lusts that war in your members?"

The strongest statement someone can make is usually in the form of a question. It gets us to thinking about figuring out what the problem is. James is speaking to them about the fightings being caused, because of the worldliness they still have in their lives and their walks. If we are dead in Christ, there should be no reason to fight the brethren.

James 4:2 "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

James is speaking here, supposedly to believers in Christ. It is unbelievable that Christians would be this caught up in the flesh. Lust is of the flesh, and not of God. It seems they want things so badly that are not their own, that they even kill to get them. The real truth here, is these people may profess Christianity, but they really are not Christians. They have not crucified the flesh and its lust. He gives them the secret in the last few words of the verse. Christians, do not fight to get the things you want, pray for them instead. If they are good for you, the Lord will give them to you. The answer is prayer. They do not have these things, because they have not asked in prayer.

James 4:3 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts."

Sometimes we, like these Christians, pray for things that would not be for our own good, or the good of those around us. God will not answer a prayer to fill our greed. He will, however, answer a prayer for our needs.

James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Adultery is one of the worst sins a Christian could commit, because it is a sin of the body. The Christian, filled with the Holy Spirit, would be involving the Holy Spirit in the sin. A person who is still involved in adultery, is not a friend of God. They have chosen the way of the flesh. The flesh, or the spirit, rules over our will. If the flesh rules over your will, you are of the flesh.

James 4:5 "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"

God will not share you with any other. You are either 100% His, or you are not His at all. To lust with envy would not be Godly. We must choose today whom we will serve. Is it God, or the fleshly lust, that we serve? II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ." If we are God's we will not lust with envy.

James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

When we humble ourselves before God, we are in a place to receive from Him. I Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" We are saved by the grace of God, and we have nothing to be proud about. Salvation for us is a free gift. His grace is sufficient for me.

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

This is just saying that it is within the willpower of every man to resist the devil and the temptations that he puts before him. We have been given the power of attorney to use the name of Jesus to defeat the devil. The temptations that the devil brings before us are really temptations of the flesh. The temptation will leave, if we say no to it. God will not over-rule our will. He gives us the power to choose. We must decide right, or wrong, for ourselves. The minute you emphatically say no to the devil and his temptations, he will go on to someone else and leave you alone. Flee means leave in a hurry. A heart and will controlled by God, will have no difficulty in saying no to the devil and his temptations.

James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded."

To be double minded, means you cannot make up your mind just what you want to do. We see from the following verse, that we cannot ride the fence. We must decide who we will serve. God or man. Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Cleansing of the hands means the work you put your hands to must be clean, as well as your heart being pure, stayed upon God. When we make a step toward God, we will find that He has been there to help us all along. He just wanted us to reach out to Him.

James 4:9 "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and [your] joy to heaviness."

This is speaking of true repentance from the heart. Worldly laughter and worldly joy must change into a true repentance for sin. The joy that comes later is from God, not worldly pleasures. To be a sinner and truly sorry for the sin, means a grieving, and mourning, and even crying for forgiveness. The new life that true repentance brings is not a life of worldly pleasures, but of godly joy.

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

When we are down, as far as we can go, we look up and see Jesus who gave His body on the cross that we might be lifted up. He will lift us up from the depths of despair. Psalms 147:6 "The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground."

James 4:11 "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of [his] brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge."

Thank goodness, we are not the judge, Jesus is. How can we judge another? We are free from sin ourselves, only because we are forgiven.

Judge not, that you be not judged. The very best thing we can do, is live our own life as free from sin as we can, and leave the judgement up to Jesus. We do not fully understand the law, or grace, how could we judge fairly?

James 4:12 "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"

When we pass judgement on someone else, it is as if we think we are perfect ourselves, and we are not. I love what Jesus did when the accusers had the woman caught in adultery, and were about to stone her to death. I truly believe that Jesus wrote their sins in the sand, and that is why they left. He had said, you without sin cast the first stone. They all had to leave, because they were not without sin. I John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." We, Christians, are justified {just as if we had never sinned} in Jesus. Jesus, as Judge, decides who are saved and who are lost. He is the just Judge.

James 4:13 "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:" James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

We see, from this, that we do not even know whether we will be alive tomorrow or not. Our life is of God. We are born when and to whom the Lord has planned for us to be. Our death is the same. There is an allotted time for each of us to die. We leave this house of flesh when the breath of life, that God put in it, leaves. We leave at the time that God has chosen, and not at our own choosing. We leave not one second before our allotted time. Man's days are numbered as the hair on his head. Let me share what Jesus had to say about this very thing. This is about a rich man, who had no idea he was about to die. He had a very big harvest, and we will see what he did with his abundance. Luke 12:17 "And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?" Luke 12:18 "And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods." Luke 12:19 "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry." Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" We do not have control of how long we live, God does. Make good of today, it may be the only day you have.

James 4:15 "For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

It is a very rash statement on our part to say what we will do tomorrow. Only God knows if we will be alive tomorrow. The only truthful statement we can make is, if it is the Lord's will, I will do it.

James 4:16 "But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."

Why should we boast? We know that God has control over everything and everyone. Then where is there room for boasting. We do not control even our own life and death. Knowing this, we should be humble above all men. To think of ourself too highly is sin. In fact, it is the same sin that got Lucifer thrown out of heaven.

James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin."

This is saying that not only the bad things we do are sin, but we can sin by omitting to do good. Sin is anything displeasing to God. When we know to do good and do not do it, it is displeasing to God. Then, it is sin. The sin, here, is in full knowledge, so that would make it worse.

James 6 Questions

1. What caused the fightings among them?
2. What is one of the strongest ways to make a point?
3. If we are _____ in _____, there should be no reason to fight.
4. Ye have not, because ye _____.
5. Who is James speaking to in this book?
6. Lust is of the _____, and not of God.
7. What is the extreme that they will go to, to fill their lust?
8. Instead of fighting for what we want, we should do what?
9. In verse 3, they ask _____.
10. God will not answer a prayer to fill our _____.
11. Friendship of the world is _____ with God.
12. Why is adultery such a terrible sin for a Christian.
13. The _____, or the _____, rules over the will.
14. What percentage of you must the Lord have?
15. God resisteth the _____, but giveth grace to the _____.
16. Quote 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 6.
17. _____ the devil and he will flee from you.
18. What have we been given power of attorney to do?
19. What will cause the devil to leave you alone?
20. What does being doubleminded mean?
21. What is the mourning in verse 9?
22. Quote James chapter 4 verse 10.
23. Who is the Judge of the world?
24. What did Jesus do when the woman caught in adultery was brought before Him?
25. Why should we not say for sure what we are going to do tomorrow?
26. What happened to the rich man, in chapter 12 of Luke, who thought he would live forever?
27. What should we say regarding the things we are going to do?
28. What got Lucifer thrown out of heaven?
29. What, besides the commission of sin, is sin?

We will begin this lesson in James 5:1 "Go to now, [ye] rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon [you]."

The rich man, spoken of here, is the rich man who has no regard for others. This would be a rich man that would be cruel to his employees. This would be, also, a man who would push any of his fellowmen down to acquire his riches. The only problem this man has, is not just that he is rich, but is the fact of what he is doing with his wealth. The miseries that will come upon him is for the way he has treated his fellowman.

James 5:2 "Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten."

We know that the rich man, here, must have attained the riches in a corrupt manner. This would be a man who put his wealth ahead of everyone and everything. It is not the riches that are evil, but the use of the riches by this corrupt man.

James 5:3 "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

Look, with me, at the following Scriptures and see what Jesus had to say about this very thing. Matthew 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" Matthew 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We do know that there is nothing wrong with silver and gold in themselves. God established them as blessings from God, back in Genesis. He established gold, silver, and cattle as true value. Even the fact that silver means redemption and gold symbolizes the purity of God, tells us that the metal is not bad. It is our use, or rather misuse, that is bad. We see in verse 3 above, that this rich man, spoken of here, is putting his faith in the gold and silver, rather than in God. All of the gold and silver in the world will not save a person from the wrath of God. It is not wrong, however, to own silver and gold. In fact, they are the only true money. Paper money, from all governments, is just a promissory note. Read my little book on "GOD'S MONEY, SILVER AND GOLD" to get the full picture.

James 5:4 "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."

Now, we see where the sin comes in. This man is so greedy that he has not even paid the wages to the people who harvested his fields. God will not let this go unnoticed. In our society today, this is the first thing a person must pay.

James 5:5 "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

We see the character of this rich man is under attack here. "Wanton" means to live in pleasure. You can see that this is extreme,

because it is expressed twice in the verse above. This means that this man throws extravagant parties and lives extravagantly, as well. He has no regard for the feeling of others. His earthly pleasure is all that interests him. This day of slaughter, reminds us of the Scripture speaking of the days of Noah. They were eating, and drinking, not having any regard for God. This seems to be the life style here, as well. This is a very fleshly man who pleases only his own flesh.

James 5:6 "Ye have condemned [and] killed the just; [and] he doth not resist you."

This is just how bad this man's sin has become. Of course, this could be not only saying that this man killed to get his money, but also he helped nail Jesus to the cross for his sin. In the case of Jesus {the Just One}, we all nailed him to the cross with our sin.

James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

We see from this an encouragement to wait patiently on the coming of the Lord. It seems in this part of the world that James is writing to, the rain came early in planting time and then the rains came again at harvest time. Many believe the early and latter rain, spoken of here, is speaking of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God. In the Spiritual sense, this could certainly be. The fruit of the Spirit goes along with the outpouring of the Spirit of God. It is the rain {Spirit} which makes the beautiful fruit. We, also, know that those you win to Christ, many times are spoken of as the fruit of the harvest. We should not get impatient, when we plant the seed {Word of God}. It takes time for it to take hold and produce fruit.

James 5:8 "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

James, as many other of the penmen, realizes that the great work of salvation takes place in the heart. It is the heart that must be stayed upon God. II Thessalonians 3:5 "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

James 5:9 "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door."

"Grudge", in the verse above, means to murmur. God does not like murmuring. He does not like anyone holding a grudge either. He says, when you come to the altar, forgive others first, and then come to the altar. Judge not, that ye be not judged. Whatever judgement you make on others, is the same judgement God will use on you. The Lord Jesus is the Judge that standeth at the door. He is the True Judge.

James 5:10 "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience."

Job is the best example I can think of for patience and enduring suffering. He kept the faith in terrible suffering in the loss of his children, and even unto the pain and suffering in his own body. His suffering was not in vain. God rewarded him greatly for keeping the faith. Most of the prophets were martyred for their belief. The historians tell us that Isaiah was sawed in two. All of the prophets before us are examples to us, that we can wait with patience. The

following is what Jesus said about this very thing. Matthew 5:11
"Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and
shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."
Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your
reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were
before you."

James 7 Questions

1. Why will the rich man in verse 1 weep and howl?
2. What kind of man is this rich man of verse 1?
3. Why will these miseries come upon him?
4. Your riches are _____, and your garments are _____.
5. It is not the riches that are evil, but what?
6. He had heaped treasure up for when?
7. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verses 19 and 20.
8. Where your treasure is, there will your _____ be also.
9. What does silver mean spiritually?
10. What does gold symbolize?
11. What is paper money?
12. What had reached the ears of the Lord of sabaoth?
13. What is the man's real sin?
14. What does "wanton" mean?
15. The fact that something is said twice in one Scripture indicates what?
16. Describe this rich man's life style.
17. What is the only thing this man is interested in pleasing?
18. How bad had his sin become?
19. Who really nailed Jesus to the cross?
20. _____ therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.
21. What do many believe the early and latter rain are speaking of?
22. What does the fruit of the Spirit go along with?
23. What could the rain be speaking of here?
24. James told them to stablish their _____.
25. Why were they to do this?
26. Why should you not grudge against another?
27. What does the word "grudge" mean here?
28. What are we to do, if we have anything against someone, before we come to the altar?
29. How will we be judged?
30. Who, in the Old Testament, is a very good example of waiting patiently and of overcoming suffering?

We will begin this lesson in James 5:11 "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

In the last lesson, we spoke of the patience of Job. He was, perhaps, the most patient person in persecution in all the Bible. "Endure" has a meaning which means continuance. To endure means to last until the end. We do know that the Lord is full of mercy and grace. It is by His mercy that any of us are given the opportunity of salvation. Over, and over, in the Bible, we see statements where the Lord has heard the cries of His people and answered them. He is there in time of need for all of us.

James 5:12 "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and [your] nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation."

We know of the warning in the sermon on the mount about swearing. Matthew 5:34 "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:" Matthew 5:36 "Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black." Anything more than a simple yes or no is presuming that we have more power than we do. We do not want to be condemned of God for thinking too highly of ourselves.

James 5:13 "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."

"Afflicted", in the verse above, means to undergo hardship. We see, then, if we are undergoing hardship, we are to pray. I love to sing the Psalms. It is exciting to sing the Scriptures. So much of the music today is influencing our children in the wrong things. Music influences the lives of the people listening. If you listen to songs that promote drugs, alcohol, homosexuality, and other sin: you will soon find yourself involved in one, or more, of these activities. On the other hand, if you listen to beautiful Scriptures, set to music, it will cause you to draw closer to God. There is a joy in the Lord that is far greater than any happiness from worldly things.

James 5:14 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

All believers in Christ have been given authority to use the name of Jesus to heal the sick. John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:14 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it]." It is the name of Jesus that heals the sick. It is very important for the person who is sick to call for prayer. This shows that he believes he can receive healing. Jesus said, when he healed, Your faith has made you whole. The anointing with oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit of God. This cannot be just any oil in your cabinet. This must be pure olive oil. Olive oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit of God.

James 5:15 "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Not only must the elder who is praying believe, but the person being healed, as well. In some instances, a member of the person's family can stand in for them. If they are not available, it is permissible to have a believer stand in for them. Whoever is being prayed over must believe to receive the healing. There are exceptions to this, but this is generally speaking. Sometimes a non-believer will be healed as a sign from God. Some people believe everyone who is sick has sin that caused the sickness. That is true in some cases, but not always. Notice the word "if" in the verse above. We, also, know that people like Paul had an illness not caused by lingering sin in his life. We will see in the next few verses the explanation of this very thing by Jesus. John 9:1 "And as [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man which was blind from [his] birth." John 9:2 "And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:3 "Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." I love the statement, "His sins shall be forgiven him". God does a perfect work, when He heals. He heals the Spirit, as well as the body.

James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

This answers many questions about prayer. To be truly forgiven for our sins, we must express a sorrow for committing them. This is what the confessing one to another is all about. This is not confession to a minister, but to a friend in Christ. This helps us get it out in the open and deal with it. We are to pray for each other. We must not just pray for ourselves, but for others. Many times, God takes care of the needs in our lives as we pray for someone else. This healing is body, mind, soul, and spirit. We are not just to pray, but to pray over and over, until we get an answer. This effectual fervent prayer just means that we are earnestly seeking God. It means that we are to continue in this prayer for an answer. Notice, also, that the person doing the praying is righteous {in right standing with God}. He, or she, is righteous, because they have taken on the righteousness of Christ and been made sons of God. God hears the prayers of His children, and answers them.

James 5:17 "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months."

This is speaking of Elijah. This just explains that Elijah was a human being as we are. We do know that he had great faith and was a righteous man in the sight of God. You can find the Scriptures covering this in 1 Kings chapter 17 and 18. It is very interesting to me that this covers a period of 3 and 1/2 years. This is another Scripture that indicates to me that the believers in Christ will be upon the earth for 3 and 1/2 years of the 7 years of tribulation. The mentioning of this here, is in explanation of just how powerful the prayers of a righteous person are.

James 5:18 "And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

This withholding of the rain was for a very good purpose. After

the purpose was fulfilled, Elijah prayed and it rained. Notice, the fruit comes after the rain. As I said earlier, this rain could, also, symbolize the Spirit of God, which brings forth fruit, as well.

James 5:19 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;"

This is speaking of someone who is believing in error. "Err", means go astray. Perhaps, this is speaking of the backslidden Christian, as well as the one who has never known the Truth.

James 5:20 "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

This is speaking to the brethren of verse 19. Those who lead others to the Lord, will have great rewards in heaven. I Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." It is enough reward to know that someone you have ministered to will be saved, but God has more reward for you than that. We will be judged according to the way we have dealt with our fellowman. If we lead someone to the Lord, it is because we love them. We have put ourselves behind, and are thinking more of their needs than our own. To the world, ministering to others is foolishness, but to God it is the tool to lead them to salvation. I Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." If you care enough for others to help them find God, God will forgive you of your sins.

James 8 Lesson

1. Who is mentioned in verse 11 who had great patience?
2. The Lord is very _____, and of _____.
3. What does endure mean?
4. It is by God's _____ that we are given the opportunity of salvation.
5. What did James say, was above all?
6. What might happen, if you swore?
7. Where do we find the warning about swearing {Sermon on the Mount}?
8. What are we really saying, when we answer with more than a yes or no?
9. What should we do when we are afflicted?
10. What should we do when we are merry?
11. What does afflicted, in verse 13, mean?
12. Music _____ the lives of the people listening.
13. What should the sick do?
14. Quote John chapter 14 verse 12.
15. What should the elder do, before praying for you?
16. Who has the authority to pray in Jesus' name?
17. What is the only oil permissible to use for anointing?
18. What does olive oil symbolize?
19. What saves the sick?
20. What other wonderful blessing comes from this prayer?
21. Name some things that must happen for a prayer to be answered.
22. Is everyone who is sick, sick because of a sin in their life?
23. What did Jesus have to say about this in the 9th chapter of John?
24. Quote James chapter 5 verse 16.
25. What does "effectual fervent prayer" mean?
26. Who are the righteous?
27. Why does God pay more attention to these prayers?
28. Who prayed and caused it not to rain for 3 and 1/2 years?
29. What did the author relate this 3 1/2 year period to?
30. Quote James chapter 5 verses 19 and 20.

The books of Peter were written a little over 60 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter was called by many different names. He was Simon, Peter, Cephas, and Bar-jonah. His name Peter {Petros} means a rock. Peter was the son of Jonas. He was from Bethsaida.

Peter was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee, when he was called to follow Jesus. His brother, Andrew, was a fisherman, as well. Peter was married and had a home in Capernaum. When Jesus called Peter, he left his nets and followed Jesus.

There are many outstanding things about Peter. This is the same Peter, who was chosen with James and John to carry out special tasks for the Lord Jesus. This is the same Peter, who walked on the water. He is the same Peter, who saw the transfiguration. He is the same Peter, who told Jesus who He was, when people were guessing who Jesus was. He said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

This is one of the pernan that we all relate to better than to most. Peter was actually two men. Peter, before the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and Peter after the baptism. The Peter, before the baptism of the Holy Ghost denied Jesus as the Christ 3 times. The Peter after the baptism, historians tell us, was pleased to be crucified like his Lord. We can relate the weakness in all of us to Peter's weakness and restoration.

Jesus chose Peter to head His church. Jesus said, in Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Peter saw most of the miracles Jesus did. Peter's mother-in-law had been healed of Jesus. Peter was there when John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. Peter had been an eye-witness of the Lord.

We will go into a great deal more as we study this book. For now, this is enough to allow us to know which Peter is the penman of the book.

We will begin in I Peter 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,"

This is addressed primarily to the Jews that were scattered in these places. Peter's calling was primarily to the Jew. He had been taught of God not to call any man unclean, when the Lord let the sheet full of unclean animals down three times to him. It was, also, Peter who saw the first Gentiles baptized in the Holy Spirit. Read about it in Acts chapters 10 and 11. "Apostle", in this instance, means an ambassador for Christ. Peter is bringing the message of Christ, and not his own. Notice, that Peter did not say he was the apostle, but an apostle, which recognizes the other apostles.

I Peter 1:2 "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

This is a very controversial Scripture. The "elect" are those

chosen from the foundation of the earth to receive salvation. The elect are the elect, because they activate their free will and accept the Lord as their Saviour. God is not controlled by time, as we are. He is eternal. He lives in eternity. It is no problem for Him to look a few thousand years into the future {by our time}. God dwells where there is one eternal day. There is no separation of time into days, and weeks, and months where God the Father dwells. He foreknew, from the foundation of the earth, what decision you and I would make pertaining to salvation. He wrote our name into the Lamb's book of life at the foundation of the earth. He did not make us like puppets where we would not have a choice, He just knew ahead of time, how we would choose. God chose all who would believe to be His sons, from the beginning of time. The plan of salvation was worked out from the very beginning. God knew our weakness and made provision for it. We are sanctified in the Spirit by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is in the Holy Spirit that we are "sanctified" {made holy}. It is the Holy Spirit of God which keeps us. Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and be our Teacher and our Guide. He would teach us all Truth. It is the sprinkled blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us and makes us acceptable to the Father. To be filled with God's Spirit, brings grace and peace, multiplied.

I Peter 1:3 "Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

The hope for the Christian is the resurrection. The word "blessed", in the Scripture above is from the word, eulogetos. This word translated blessed, is only used in regard to God. When blessed is said of the Christians, it is taken from another root word. The Lord Jesus Christ is the first of the first fruit harvest. He was the first to be begotten at resurrection. The hope of the believer is that our Leader, Jesus Christ, arose and so all who put their faith in Him, shall rise, also. The Christian's new life is in Christ.

I Peter 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"

The New Testament is the last will and testament for those who choose to believe in and follow Jesus. Our inheritance in Jesus is incorruptible, because He is incorruptible. Since Jesus is the Beginning and the Ending, the inheritance is forever, as well. What a wonderful promise to the believer, that we will be joint-heirs with Jesus. This inheritance is not of this world. It is not an earthly inheritance which is corruptible. We are told in John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also."

I Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

We must have faith to receive this great inheritance that God has for us in heaven. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It takes no faith to believe in things on this earth that we can see with our physical eyes. It takes faith to believe in the things in heaven that we cannot see. It is our faith that activates the power of God within us. By faith are we saved. Faith in Jesus Christ and His resurrection is what brings salvation to us. Read Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10. The revealing

will take place when we have shed this house of flesh and are in heaven with Jesus. Some revealing of the Scriptures are taking place now, because the coming of Christ is so near.

I Peter 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:"

There is anticipation looking forward to that wonderful day, when we will be with Jesus for all of eternity. Christians are in the world, but not of the world. This earth is not our home, we are just passing through. Since we are still housed in a body of flesh, we have problems originating from that flesh. We age, we get sick, we get tired, etc. Some of the temptations we experience are no more than just being tempted to eat too much. Praise God! I will have a new body. Temptations are earthly in nature. I will no longer experience temptations, when I get my new body and dwell in heaven.

I Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

Gold, tried in the fire, just becomes more and more pure. Some of the fiery trials that come on us, are to purify us and make us better Christians. Sometimes that is very hard to see, but usually a great problem that we overcome, makes us stronger in the Lord. Job, in the Bible, is a very good example of overcoming in dire circumstances. Gold will perish, when the earth is destroyed. Gold may be changed, now, but it is still around in some form or other after it is melted. We are the same. We are still around after the testing, but the question is, are we a vessel of honor or dishonor, after the trial?

1 Peter 1 Questions

1. Approximately when were the books of Peter written?
2. What were some of the names Peter was called by?
3. What does the name Peter mean?
4. What area was Peter from?
5. What occupation did Peter have, and where was it located?
6. Name some of the outstanding things about Peter.
7. What statement had Peter made that let Jesus know Peter knew who He was?
8. Why can all Christians relate to Peter?
9. The author believe Peter's life was divided by two. What was the difference noted here?
10. Quote Matthew chapter 16 verse 18.
11. What relative of Peter did Jesus heal?
12. Who called Jesus "The Lamb of God"?
13. Who was this book addressed to?
14. Who did Peter call himself in the first verse?
15. Peter's calling was primarily to the _____.
16. When had God taught Peter to call no man unclean?
17. What does "apostle", in this instance, mean?
18. Who are the elect?
19. Why are they the elect?
20. Why is it no problem for God to look ahead a few thousand years?
21. When was the plan for our salvation figured out?
22. What does "sanctified" mean?
23. Quote 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 3.
24. What is the hope for the Christian?
25. What is unusual about the word "blessed" in verse 3?
26. The Christian's new life is in _____.
27. What is the New Testament to the believer in Christ?
28. Why is our inheritance incorruptible?
29. Quote John chapter 14 verses 1-3.
30. How do we receive this great inheritance?
31. Quote Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1.
32. What is one way our new body will be different?
33. What happens to gold that is heated really hot?
34. How does that compare to Christian's trials?
35. The question is, after the trial, are we a vessel of _____ or _____?

We will begin this lesson by repeating the last verse of the last lesson. I Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

At the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will hear Him say, well done thy good and faithful servant, or get away from me I never knew you. If the fiery trials of this earth make us more strong in the Lord, we will be counted faithful. We will inherit eternal life. If, on the other hand, we are found unfaithful to Him, we will spend eternity in hell.

I Peter 1:8 "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see [him] not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"

Jesus says that those who believe, who have not seen, are greatly blessed. John 20:29 "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed [are] they that have not seen, and [yet] have believed." This is speaking of true faith. Abraham believed, and it was counted unto him as righteousness. When we have faith like Abraham, we are counted righteous in God's sight, as well. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." It is our faith in Jesus Christ that saves us.

I Peter 1:9 "Receiving the end of your faith, [even] the salvation of [your] souls."

This is just saying that the reward for believing is salvation in Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:10 "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [that should come] unto you:"

The prophets of old could prophesy about this salvation in Jesus, but they had no first-hand knowledge. Matthew 13:17 "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear [those things] which ye hear, and have not heard [them]." We know they were aware that they were to happen in the future, but they did not have the opportunity of seeing Jesus, because He had not come. They believed that it would happen, as we see in the following verse. Zechariah 6:12 "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name [is] The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:" All of the true prophets of old told similar things. They knew that He would come, and they hoped for His coming, but He did not come in their lifetimes.

I Peter 1:11 "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

This is saying that the Spirit of Christ dwelt within these prophets. "Signify", in the verse above, means to make plain or real.

They had visions from God that revealed to them the things that would occur at a later date. God revealed to them about the Messiah {Jesus Christ}. They knew of his birth, life, ministry, death of His flesh, and of His resurrection. They knew it, because God had revealed it to them.

I Peter 1:12 "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

The prophet's ministry is not just for his generation of people. Prophecy is given to make known unto all generations the wisdom of God. Even the angels, in heaven, do not know the things revealed to these prophets through the Holy Ghost of God.

I Peter 1:13 "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

"To gird up the loins of your mind", means they would not allow their mind to wander. God is saying, through Peter, do not let your mind run stray. Keep your thoughts close on the things of God. "Sober", here, means to not be fickle. Be serious about the things of God. We must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. We must guard against worldly thoughts. We must walk in the grace the Lord has provided for us. We must be still walking the path of righteousness even up until the moment the Lord Jesus Christ is revealed to us.

I Peter 1:14 "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:"

We read in the book of Samuel that to obey is better than sacrifice. The Father wants His children to be obedient to our Saviour Jesus. In fact, He must be our Lord, as well as our Saviour. We must crucify our flesh and its desires, and live a life separated unto the Lord. Lust of the flesh is not for the believer in Christ. We should overcome the lust of the flesh and live for Jesus.

I Peter 1:15 "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"

Cursing and blasphemy is not the conversation of the godly. Our conversation reveals what we are in our heart. Christianity is of the heart. Out of the issue of the heart, the mouth speaketh.

I Peter 1:16 "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
Christians are to be Christ-like. If we are like Christ, we should be holy, because He is holy.

I Peter 1:17 "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning [here] in fear:"

Fear of the Father is showing great respect. If we are judging others, we are saying, we are judge. God is no respecter of persons. To be like Him we must not be a respecter of persons either. Jesus is the Judge of all the earth, who judges the works whether they be of God, or not. We should spend our time on this earth doing good.

I Peter 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with

corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers;"

Silver and gold are of the earth. All things of the earth are not thought of as being godly. It is really the improper use of silver and gold that is corruptible. Mankind's desire for excess gold and silver has made sin out of it. The father, spoken of in the verse above, is speaking of earthly fathers. This is saying, most earthly fathers teach their children that holding gold and silver is very important. The tradition of men is to get great wealth, if possible. God teaches being humble and loving to your fellow man. Gold or silver cannot save us from the wrath of God. Gold or silver cannot redeem our souls.

I Peter 1:19 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

Only the blood of the Lamb of God can do away with sin. The blood of man is not without sin and could not do away with sin. Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh. The blood of a child comes from his father. God the Holy Spirit, hovered over Mary, and she conceived of God. God was the Father of Jesus Christ. It was the blood of sinless God that paid the price for sin. Hebrews 10:4 "For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." We see from the Scripture above, that animal's blood could not do away with sin either, even if it were the animal sacrifice for the sin. The blood of an animal could cover the sin for a year. It did not clear the conscience of the sinner, nor do away with his sin. The blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, was pure. Only the blood of God manifest in the flesh of man can do away with sin. The blood of Jesus abolished sin for all who believe in Him.

I Peter 1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"

The plan of salvation was planned from the foundation of the world. Jesus Christ was the one to do this, because we are His creation. Jesus was known as the Word of God in heaven. He was made real to us, when He took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. "Manifest", means made real.

I Peter 1:21 "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

Jesus paid the penalty for sin for all mankind on the cross. I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." Salvation is provided for all, but not all receive the salvation He has provided. Simple faith in Jesus as our Saviour and believing He rose from the grave brings salvation. For some, this is too simple and they do not believe. His atonement for our sin brings us forgiveness, His resurrection from the grave brings us hope of eternal life. Our faith in Jesus Christ justifies us before the Father.

I Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

Purified, in the verse above means consecrated to God's service. This means then that we have changed into an obedient servant to do the will of God. The Holy Spirit teaches us all Truth. If we truly

love God, we will love his children. The only way we can show love to God is by showing love to His children here on earth. This is not an outward love for show, but a true love from the heart.

I Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

The new birth mentioned here, is a birth of the spirit man. The old flesh man must be buried and the new spirit man takes his place. We bury that man of flesh in water baptism and rise a new creature in Christ. The next 2 Scriptures can say it better than I can. John 1:13 "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Our spirit is born in Jesus Christ {the Word of God}.

I Peter 1:24 "For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:"

Life is like the grass mentioned here. It is here and all of a sudden it is gone. The flesh of man will return to the earth from which it came. It is the spirit of man that lives on.

I Peter 1:25 "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

The Word of God is eternal. Jesus is the Word of God. The Word of God is also the Bible. The spoken and the written Word of God are the most powerful forces on the earth. The Word is Eternal. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the focal point of the Bible. This Word of God that is preached is the power unto salvation.

1 Peter 2 Questions

1. The trial of our faith is compared to what in verse 7?
2. What are the two things possible for us to hear, when we stand before the Lord?
3. Quote John chapter 20 verse 29.
4. Abraham _____, and it was counted unto him as righteousness.
5. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
6. What is the end of your faith?
7. Who does verse 10 say searched diligently for salvation?
8. Who is the Branch?
9. What is verse 11 saying?
10. Who is Messiah?
11. Why did the prophets of old know of Jesus, before He came to earth?
12. What is prophecy for?
13. What does "gird up the loins of your mind" mean?
14. What does "sober" in verse 13 mean?
15. What are the Christians called in verse 14?
16. What book in the Bible tells us "to obey is better than sacrifice"?
17. What does our conversation reveal about us?
18. Quote 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 16.
19. How does the Father judge?
20. We should spend our time on this earth _____ .
21. What are silver and gold called in verse 18?
22. Why are they called corruptible?
23. What are we redeemed by?
24. What lets us know that Jesus was not just a man?
25. Quote Hebrews chapter 10 verse 4.
26. What was the only thing the blood of the animal could do?
27. The blood of Jesus abolished sin for whom?
28. When was it decided that the blood of Jesus would abolish sin for the believers?
29. Why was Jesus chosen for the sacrifice?
30. What does "manifest" mean?
31. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.
32. What brings salvation?
33. See that ye love one another with a pure heart _____ .
34. Being born again by the _____ of _____ .
35. What is flesh compared to in verse 24?
36. The Word of the Lord endureth _____ .
37. Who is the Word?
38. What is the Word?

We will begin this lesson in I Peter 2:1 "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,"

This is actually a continuation of chapter 1. We see that Peter is still giving instructions on how to live the Christian life. We must shed the old self that was worldly, and take on the garment of righteousness provided for us by Jesus. "Malice" means badness, depravity, malignity, or trouble. "Guile", in the verse above, means trick, craft, or deceit. We all know a few hypocrites, and pray that we will not be among their number. They pretend to be believers, but have not really given up their worldly ways. All of these things, spoken of here, including envies and evil speakings, are ways unbecoming a Christian. Those, who have truly dedicated all of themselves to Christ, will not have these things in their lives.

I Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

We all know that new-born babies get their nourishment from milk. Christians should get their nourishment from the Word of God {Bible}. It should be the desire of our hearts to fellowship with God in His Word each day. A baby cannot live long without milk, and a Christian cannot remain a Christian without studying the Word of God.

I Peter 2:3 "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious."

This, again, is speaking of feeding on the Word of God. Just as the milk for the baby is sweet, so is the Word of God. The study of the Word of God will bring peace to your soul. The grace of the Lord is sufficient for me.

I Peter 2:4 "To whom coming, [as unto] a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, [and] precious,"

The ever living Stone is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We know that Peter brings this up, because it was the Jews, who rejected Jesus. If we build upon the Rock {Jesus Christ}, we shall not be moved by trials and temptations. It, of course, was not just the Jews that rejected Jesus, but mankind in general. We know that salvation is Jesus is the most precious thing we can receive.

I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Jesus is the Cornerstone, and we are the building blocks. The word translated lively here, could better have been translated living. He {Jesus} is living, and we are living, as well. Together we build the house. God will tabernacle with men. We are, in a sense, His dwelling place. Jesus is the High Priest, and all believers in Christ are priests unto God. The sacrifice that we offer up unto God is praise.

There is no more physical sacrifice. Jesus fulfilled all of the sacrifice for us. This is speaking of the spiritual, and not the physical sacrifice. This is not a sacrifice of obligation. It is a

sacrifice of love.

I Peter 2:6 "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."

You can see from the following Scripture that Sion is Zion, which is symbolic of the church. Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [stone], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." This is speaking of Jesus as Cornerstone and all believers in Christ who make up the church. "Confounded", in the verse above, means that these Christians will not be confused about what they believe. They will be established in Jesus.

I Peter 2:7 "Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

Jesus is the cornerstone that keeps the church together. There is nothing more precious than knowing you are saved. To know beyond a shadow of doubt that you will spend eternity with Him, is precious indeed. To not believe causes you to be left out.

I Peter 2:8 "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [even to them] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

The same Stone that the Christian leans upon for strength, is the same stone that those who reject Him stumble over and fall. The verse above seems to indicate, that even some who profess to know Jesus become disobedient and fall on the Stone. To stumble at the Word, means they do not have an understanding of the Word. The Holy Spirit of God teaches us the meaning of the Scriptures. If we do not receive help from the Spirit, we will not understand fully the Word. It seems God had appointed them to be part of His spiritual house, but through disobedience, they have missed the mark of being lively stones for Christ.

I Peter 2:9 "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

This is one of the most encouraging Scriptures in all of the Bible. God has chosen us to become His sons. This generation of people upon whom the end has come, are chosen of God to be priests unto Him. We are His family. Jesus is High Priest, and we are priests. All believers in Christ are of the house of Israel. Christians are the spiritual house of Israel. Jews are the physical house of Israel. Christians are this holy nation. We are a peculiar people as far as the world is concerned. We are separated unto God. The marvellous Light is Jesus. Before we come to Christ, we are walking in darkness. When Jesus takes up habitation inside of us, we are filled with His Light. He is the Light of the world. When we are filled with Jesus, we have all Light dwelling within us.

I Peter 2:10 "Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

All Gentiles were thought of as dogs by the Jewish people, before

Christ came and made them a people. This, then, is speaking of Gentiles who have become spiritual Israel. The law was not given to Gentiles. They were not considered God's people. Jesus Christ is available to all mankind. His mercy, not only endures forever, but endures to all mankind.

I Peter 2:11 "Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"

The warfare a Christian is in is between the spirit and the flesh. Galatians 5:17 "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Strangers, in the verse above, is speaking of people who are not native to the land. He is probably speaking to Jews about the Gentile believers in this instance. Galatians 5:16 "[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

I Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by [your] good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

We see from this verse, that he is speaking definitely to the Jews about the Gentile believers. The Jews who are Christians should set an example for the Gentile believers since they were familiar with the law of God and had more background in serving God than the Gentiles had. Peter is telling them to live good wholesome lives with good works following, so that the Gentiles could see their good work and praise God for their works. There seemed to be a little feuding between the Gentile believers and the Jewish believers. Peter was trying to make them realize how important it was to get along with each other.

1 Peter 3 Questions

1. What were believers to lay aside in verse 1?
2. What are these instructions for?
3. What does "malice" mean?
4. What does "guile" mean?
5. What is a hypocrite?
6. What do new-born babies get their nourishment from?
7. What do Christians get their nourishment from?
8. Who is the living Stone in verse 4?
9. What is the most precious gift we can have?
10. As lively stones, are built up a _____ house.
11. Who is the priesthood in verse 5?
12. What is the sacrifice the Christian offers God?
13. The sacrifice the Christian makes is not of _____.
14. What is Sion, in verse 6, speaking of?
15. What does "confounded" mean in verse 6?
16. To the disobedient, what is the Cornerstone?
17. What does verse 8 seem to indicate about Christians who stumble at the Word?
18. What helps us understand the meaning of the Scriptures?
19. Quote 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 9.
20. All believers in Christ are the house of _____.
21. What is the difference in a believer and a Jew?
22. Who is the marvellous Light?
23. What were all Gentiles thought to be {by the Jews}, before they received Jesus?
24. What are two things to remember about the mercy of God?
25. Quote Galatians chapter 5 verse 17?
26. The warfare a Christian is in is between the _____ and the _____.
27. Quote Galatians chapter 5 verse 16.
28. Why should the Jews set an example for the Gentile believers?
29. What shall they behold that will cause them to glorify God?

We will begin this lesson in I Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;"

"The ordinance of man", here, is speaking of laws passed by the local, regional, or national government. "Submit yourselves", in this instance, means to keep the laws of the land. We have discussed before, the only time it is correct not to keep the law of the land, is when it is in opposition to the higher laws of God. We keep the laws of the land because God told us to. It is, also, so God will not be ridiculed for the actions of His people. God is the one who makes someone ruler or king. When we go against those in authority, we are actually questioning the judgement of God.

I Peter 2:14 "Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

There is no law against doing good. God orders all things in heaven and in earth. In that sense, God put the governor in office. These ruling authorities have within their power to punish those who do evil. The only thing that could come from doing well is praise.

I Peter 2:15 "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"

Christians are instructed of God to not take vengeance on their enemies. In fact, they are to do good to those who persecute them. We see in the following Scripture, in Jesus' own words, just what we are to do. Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" The argument will stop, if the Christian refuses to speak evil or take vengeance. Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Foolish men have no way to continue, when you refuse to answer back.

I Peter 2:16 "As free, and not using [your] liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

"Maliciousness" means badness, depravity, malignity, or trouble. The "liberty", spoken of above is, is the fact that the sin of the Christian died on the cross. We should not use that to mistreat others. If we are servants of God, we will do the will of God and not our own will.

I Peter 2:17 "Honour all [men]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

Christians must not be elevated up because of the knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God has given them. Honour all men, just means that because someone is not a Christian, you should not be disrespectful to him. Notice, the difference in the brotherhood. Brothers in Christ are all part of the family of God. They are to love each other as members of a family. The message changes even more speaking of God. We are not only to love God as the Father, but to have reverent fear of Him, as well. Honour is to be shown for the office of the king. All who are in office are not to our liking, but we are commanded of God to honour

the office.

I Peter 2:18 "Servants, [be] subject to [your] masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward."

Servants, in the verse above, actually means household servants and is not speaking of slaves that the master owns. The master, in this case, would be the employer. It seems from this, even if the boss is not a good boss, you still must do what he asks, without grumbling, if you continue to work for him. Your option would be to get another job, if you could not live with the requirements. There would never be a time when it would be right to be disloyal to the boss. Every job we do, even a lowly one, must be done the best we can as unto the Lord, if we are Christians.

I Peter 2:19 "For this [is] thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully."

To endure hardship of any kind, in the name of the Lord, is to be praised. Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."

I Peter 2:20 "For what glory [is it], if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer [for it], ye take it patiently, this [is] acceptable with God."

"Buffet", here, means to rap with the fist. Whatever the punishment was, if it is for something the servant has done wrong, he should not be glorified for facing the punishment. He deserved whatever it was for his own bad behavior. On the other hand, it is glory to the person receiving the punishment and to God, if the punishment is not for a misdeed, but for the name of the Lord. Jesus suffered the pain and the humiliation of the cross. He was not guilty of any sin, but took the punishment for our sin. He said, it brought glory to the Father and to Himself. We know that many of the early apostles suffered greatly for the name of the Lord. Both men and women were martyred in the name of the Lord. Their reward in heaven will be great.

I Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"

The following is what Jesus said about this very thing. Luke 9:23 "And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:24 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Not many of us can follow in the steps of Jesus. The road is too difficult. II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

I Peter 2:22 "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:"

The perfect Lamb of God {Jesus Christ} was totally free from sin. Not only did he not sin by commission, but He did not sin by speaking, as well. He took our sin upon His body on the cross, and clothed us in His righteousness. His Words were Truth. He spoke no evil Words. He is the Word of God.

I Peter 2:23 "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed [himself] to him that judgeth righteously:"

Jesus did not look forward to the pain and humiliation of the cross, but submitted to the will of the Father. Look with me at the following Scriptures, where He submits to the will of the Father. Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak." Matthew 26:42 "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Jesus did not speak in His own defense. He could have destroyed all of them, with one Word from Him, but He didn't. He submitted to the cruelty of the cross to save His people.

I Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

We have been seeing, in the verses above, that we are to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We are to patiently endure hardships and sufferings that come from following Him. This is where the similarity ends. No Christian, regardless of how good he is, can suffer for the sin of the people. Their blood is not pure, and will not do away with sin. Jesus had no sin of His own. He was pure in every way. He was the unleavened Bread. He was free from sin, yet He took our sin upon His body on the cross, so that our sin would die. Sin, for the Christians, died on the cross. We are no longer servant to sin. Jesus defeated sin on the cross. We are no longer under the curse of the law. In return, Jesus gave us His righteousness. We are clothed in the white linen garment, washed in the blood of the Lamb. We are righteous in the sight of the Father, because we have taken on the righteousness of Christ. These stripes, were much more than just a whipping. The whip used, literally tore the flesh from His body. His suffering was for our healing. Isaiah 53:5 "But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

I Peter 2:25 "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

The great Shepherd {Jesus Christ} lay down his life for His sheep. He would have done it, if only one had been lost. We remember the parable about the 99 sheep who were still in the fold, and the one lost sheep. The Shepherd left the 99 and went and found the one lost. Three times Jesus had asked Peter, "Lovest thou me?" Three times, Peter had told Him he did love Him. Three times, He told Peter, "Feed my sheep". Jesus is the chief Shepherd. All other shepherds are subordinate to Him. He is the great Bishop {overseer} of our soul. He is our Advocate with the Father. Like any good Shepherd, His first concern is for His sheep. He is the guardian of our soul.

1 Peter 4 Questions

1. Submit yourselves to every _____.
2. What is meant by "ordinance of man"?
3. What does, "submit yourselves", mean?
4. When is the only time it is alright to go against government authority?
5. When we go against government officials, it is as if we are saying what?
6. Who instructed the Christians not to take vengeance on their enemies?
7. Quote Matthew chapter 5 verse 44.
8. Quote Romans chapter 12 verse 20.
9. What does "maliciousness" mean?
10. What is the "liberty" of the Christian speaking of?
11. Honour all _____.
12. Love the _____.
13. Fear _____.
14. _____ the king.
15. Why is the brotherhood treated differently than all men?
16. We may not have respect for the officeholder, but we must respect the _____.
17. Which of the masters are the servants to be subject to?
18. Every job we do, even a lowly one, is to be done as unto the _____.
19. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 17.
20. What does "buffet" mean?
21. Jesus was not _____ of any sin, yet He endured the cross.
22. Who were martyred for Christ?
23. Quote Luke chapter 9 verse 23.
24. All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall _____.
25. Who was the Lamb of God?
26. Jesus submitted to the will of the _____ for the suffering on the cross.
27. Why did He submit to the cruelty of the cross?
28. Quote 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 24.
29. Why can not a good Christian die for your sin?
30. What are the Christians clothed in?
31. Why are we righteous in the sight of the Father?
32. Quote Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5.
33. What 2 names is Jesus called by in verse 25?
34. What question had Jesus asked Peter 3 times?
35. When Peter said yes, what did Jesus tell him to do?
36. What is the concern of the good Shepherd?

We will begin this lesson in I Peter 3:1 "Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;"

We have discussed in previous lessons that the husband is the head of the family. The husband and the wife are one flesh, not spirit. We see a very good example of that very thing here. The husband, in the verse above, is not a believer. The wife who lives a godly life before an unbelieving husband will probably win him to Christ. Women who are Christians have a major role in the winning of their households to Christ. At the time this was written, the customs of the people had the wife in a very subordinate roll. It was not the intention of Peter to go against the customs of the people. Wives who are peacemakers, hold the family together. The husband is the head of the family, but the wife is the heart. The husband builds the house, the wife makes it a home. Women, do not nag your husband to become a Christian, that will run him off. Show him the love that is in you that was placed there when you became a Christian. He will almost certainly come to Christ, if he can see Christ in you.

I Peter 3:2 "While they behold your chaste conversation [coupled] with fear."

Just because the wife is a Christian, and perhaps her husband is not, does not give her the right to rule over him. Show him that you respect his authority in the home. Christians respect authority, as we have been reading about.

I Peter 3:3 "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;"

The beauty of woman should not be an outward beauty, but the beauty of Christ within her. All of these things spoken of above, draw attention to the flesh of the woman. True beauty comes from within.

I Peter 3:4 "But [let it be] the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, [even the ornament] of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Notice the use of the word man above. You see, most of the time when the word "man" is used, it means mankind, not someone of the male gender. Christianity is having a brand new heart. The heart of the Christian has been washed in the blood of Jesus. Beautiful actions and words come from a heart stayed upon God. Women and men are saved the same way. They must confess with their mouths the Lord Jesus and believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the grave.

I Peter 3:5 "For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:"

Again, we see the example of the role of women in the home in regard to their husbands. We, also, know there were several women who changed the course of their society by their stand for God. Esther, risked her life to save her people. Deborah was one of the more prominent judges in the Old Testament. Judges 4:4 "And Deborah, a

prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time." She led her people [with her general] to victory over their enemies. Judges 4:9 "And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh." Deborah, who was married to Lapidoth, was in great authority in the land. Her authority, in God, did not alter the fact that her husband was in authority over her flesh. Her husband was not a weakling, by any means. "Lapidoth" means lightning strikes. Huldah was a very prominent prophetess in the land who sent the message of God to her king and saved her people. The role of a woman and her husband is one thing, but the role of a woman with her God is entirely different. The spiritual calling always takes precedent over the flesh calling. The woman's role pertaining to her husband has to do with the customs of the land. Her relationship to God is spiritual in nature. There is no problem with women subjecting themselves to their husbands in the flesh. It is the same thing as women and men {who are Christians} subjecting themselves to Christ in the spirit.

I Peter 3:6 "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement."

Notice lord is not capitalized in the verse above. Sara's Lord is God. This, again, is speaking of the authority the husband has over the wife in the family. Women, we took their names. They did not take our names. Sara obeyed Abraham, because he was her husband.

I Peter 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

We now see that in the things of God they are the same. The woman is heir with faithful Abraham, because of her belief in Christ. The same is true of the husband. The wife, as the weaker vessel, is in the stature of the woman. She is generally of smaller stature than her husband. Marriage, in the sense of the world, is a contract to live together and raise a family. It is a contract to be physically one. They two are one flesh. In the sense of the believers, marriage is a holy union. The marriage symbolizes the relationship with Christ and His church. One of the very important aspects of prayer is the prayer of agreement. If husband and wife agree and are in harmony, this activates the prayer. Look what Jesus said about this. Matthew 18:19 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." God wants husbands and wives {on the earth} to act as a single unit. Pulling apart gets you nowhere. Working together gets the job done.

I Peter 3:8 "Finally, [be ye] all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, [be] pitiful, [be] courteous:"

This has jumped from husband and wife to the relations of brothers in the church. The power on the day of Pentecost was the fact that they were of one accord. A church body should be a family. They should be more concerned with the needs of their brothers and sisters than they are with their own needs. The song "Family of God" says it so well. The love that God puts in the heart of the Christian, overlooks the faults of others. That kind of love is unconditional. Christians should be quick to forgive, knowing that God forgave them.

Forgive that you might be forgiven.

I Peter 3:9 "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."

Look, with me, at what Jesus said about this. Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." The fact that we do not take vengeance on those who abuse us, is what separates us as being a Christian.

I Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:"

The world's idea of good days, and the Christian's view of good days are totally different. The world thinks to gain great wealth at any cost is the good life. The Christian is storing up his treasures in heaven. The tongue can kill, or make alive. It is a forceful weapon. The truly good life is the life where you have no regrets. There are no evil cutting words to take back. Usually that sort of regret comes when a person has had too much to drink, and has said things he did not intend to say. Speak healing words from a heart of love.

I Peter 3:11 "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."

The word "eschew" means avoid, in the verse above. The Christian should be searching for peace. Jesus {our Leader} is King of Peace. To be filled with Jesus is to be filled with peace.

1 Peter 5 Questions

1. Wives be in subjection to your own _____.
2. What good will this do, if you have an unbelieving husband?
3. The husband and the wife are one _____, not one _____.
4. The husband builds the house, and the wife makes it a _____.
5. What is wrong with outward adorning of the body?
6. True beauty comes from _____.
7. What does the word "man" generally mean?
8. How are women saved?
9. Where do beautiful words and actions come from?
10. Name several of the women who changed their society?
11. What was Deborah, besides a judge?
12. What does "Lapidoth" mean?
13. The woman's role with her husband is _____, not law.
14. What did Sara call Abraham?
15. Who is Sara's Lord?
16. Why did Sara obey Abraham?
17. What are husbands and wives heirs together of?
18. What does the world believe about marriage?
19. What is marriage in the sight of God?
20. What does marriage symbolize?
21. Quote Matthew chapter 18 verse 19.
22. Finally be ye all of one _____.
23. What was one important factor of day of Pentecost?
24. God's kind of love in _____.
25. Quote Matthew chapter 5 verse 44.
26. He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from _____.
27. What is the truly good life?
28. What does the word "eschew " mean?
29. To be filled with Jesus is to be filled with _____.

We will begin this lesson in I Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil."

The following Scriptures says the feeling of God toward His own and the people of the world. John 9:31 "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." This certainly does not mean that God will not hear a prayer of repentance. God will listen to the prayer of anyone when they repent. He does see the actions of all of us everyday. He listens more to His own than He does to those who have refused Him. There is a Christian song that speaks of the all-seeing eye of God. Not anything escapes His view. God will not force Himself upon anyone. He will wait for us to come to Him.

I Peter 3:13 "And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?"

The devil cannot harm a Christian without first getting permission from the Lord. When persecution comes, it is to make the Christian strong. The blood of Jesus defeated the devil on the cross. Christians are covered in the blood of Jesus. Some translations say "if ye be zealous of that which is good". Both statements mean we have put our trust in the Lord.

I Peter 3:14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are ye]: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;"

In this life Christians have tribulation, or persecution. Tribulation makes them strong. It is a very strange thing to explain, but the church grows the most during the worst persecution. True Christianity will rise above the problems of life and go on.

I Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

This just means to be totally committed to the Lord in your heart. You are what your heart is. The last part of this just means that we must be ready to witness to everyone about what the Lord has done in our lives. The witness of the saved, brings others to the Lord. We should not be arrogant when we are witnessing to others. When we minister to someone, it must be done in love. The following Scriptures tell us exactly what to say to those we minister to. Matthew 10:18 "And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles." Matthew 10:19 "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." Matthew 10:20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Regardless of who we are speaking to, we must put our trust in God that we will say what they need to hear.

I Peter 3:16 "Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

This is saying to me that we Christians should be totally honest in all that we do. When we lie down to sleep at night, we should have lived today with no regrets. We should do good all the days of our lives, regardless of what the world around us is doing. When we continue to speak absolute truth in love, those who have been speaking evil of us, will soon feel guilty and repent. We must set a very high standard of Christianity. When the world looks, we must not even give the appearance of evil.

I Peter 3:17 "For [it is] better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."

Jesus suffered for doing good, not evil. Christians should be followers of Christ. If He suffered, we will suffer. Paul counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ. We learn from history that Peter was even pleased that He would be crucified like Jesus was. If we suffer for evil we have done, we have no reward, we deserve the punishment. If we suffer for Christ, great is our reward in heaven.

I Peter 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

Jesus Christ {who knew no sin} took upon his body, the sin of us all. He had no sin of His own. He was the Righteous One. He gave us in return His righteousness, which justified us before the Father. The Spirit of God dwelled within the flesh of man in the form of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave His flesh on the cross in full payment for our sin. His Spirit went to the Father in heaven. He said "Father, into thy hands, I commend my Spirit." His Spirit, which is eternal, went to the throne of God. Jesus, the Word of God, is alive.

I Peter 3:19 "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;"

The Spirit of Jesus went into the place of imprisonment of the spirits departed from this earth and preached to those who had not had an opportunity to accept, or reject, Him. Every person has his opportunity to accept, or reject, Jesus as their Saviour.

I Peter 3:20 "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

They were disobedient, because they did not know of God. The church had not been established at this time, spoken of as Noah's day. Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord, and God saved Noah and his wife, his three sons, and their wives. These 8 people would repopulate the earth. The "number eight" means new beginnings. God does not leave the slightest detail out.

I Peter 3:21 "The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

"Water baptism" is an outward show of the death of the body and rising from that watery grave to new life in Christ. The real baptism, that saves us, is the transformation that takes place in our heart. We must turn our heart over to Jesus. Water baptism is very important. It confirms to the world, what has gone on in our heart. Jesus defeated sin for the Christian on the cross. He defeated death, when He rose

from the tomb.

I Peter 3:22 "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."

We can see from the following verses the extent to which His authority extends. Ephesians 1:20 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own right hand in the heavenly [places]," Ephesians 1:21 "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:" Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, because He has completed His work of salvation. The only time the Bible mentions Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father, is when he stood to greet His servant Stephen home.

1 Peter 6 Questions

1. Verse 12 says the eyes of the Lord are over who?
2. His ears are open unto their _____.
3. Who is the face of the Lord against?
4. Quote John chapter 9 verse 31.
5. The _____ prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
6. The prayers of the _____ are always heard.
7. Who has the all-seeing eye?
8. What must the devil do, before he attacks a Christian?
9. Why do Christians suffer persecution?
10. What does "if ye be followers of that which is good" mean?
11. When is the church in the greatest growth?
12. Sanctify the Lord God in your _____.
13. Be ready always to give an _____ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is within you.
14. When we minister to someone, it must be done in _____.
15. Quote Matthew chapter 10 verse 19.
16. When we continue to speak absolute truth in love, what will those who have been speaking evil of us do?
17. What was Paul's attitude about suffering for Christ?
18. Christ was put to death in the _____, but quickened in the _____.
19. What did Jesus give to the believers, when He took their sin on His body on the cross?
20. Quote 1 Peter chapter 3 verse 19.
21. Why were the people in Noah's day disobedient?
22. How many souls were saved from the flood in Noah's day?
23. Who were they?
24. What does the "number 8" mean spiritually?
25. What is "water baptism"?
26. What is the baptism that saves us?
27. When did Jesus defeat sin for the Christian?
28. When did Jesus defeat death?
29. Where is Jesus now?
30. What was the only time that Jesus was spoken of as standing at the right hand of God?

I Peter 4:1 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;"

We discussed in the previous lesson that it should be our joy to be willing to suffer for Christ, if it be necessary. Christ suffered the cruelty of the cross of Calvary for us. We can do no less for Him. If it be necessary to suffer for Him, we should be willing. "Arm yourselves with the same mind", means to keep your thoughts stayed upon Him. When we are willing to suffer in the flesh for Christ, we have put Him ahead of all the flesh desires. The desire of the flesh is where sin originates. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Willingly suffering for Christ in our flesh is putting Christ ahead of everything else.

I Peter 4:2 "That he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

My main message, other than the importance of salvation, in these lessons is simple. We must make Jesus Christ, not only our Saviour, but our Lord. When we make Jesus, Lord of our life, we are not living for the flesh. We are controlled by Jesus' Spirit. We have turned our will over to the will of God.

I Peter 4:3 "For the time past of [our] life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:"

Gentiles, in the verse above, is speaking of worldly people who have not received Jesus as Saviour. Everyone was like this, before they received Jesus as their Saviour. The will of the world {Gentiles} is to please the flesh and its lust for sin. All of the sins above are caused by lust of the flesh. Christians are to separate themselves away from this type of life style. We are to be a peculiar people, as far as the world is concerned.

I Peter 4:4 "Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with [them] to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of [you]:"

Christians are in the world, but not of the world. The things the world calls pleasure do not interest the Christian. The world lives to please their own flesh. They cannot understand someone who has ceased to be selfish, and they are always thinking of self. They speak evil about you, because they do not understand why you are not caught up in this sinful way of life.

I Peter 4:5 "Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead."

All of mankind will stand before Jesus to be judged. Each of us, as an individual, will have to give an account of the life he lives here on the earth. The dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which remain shall be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. After that comes the judgement. Those who have not chosen Jesus as Saviour will be sent to eternal damnation. Those who live for Jesus will inherit eternal

life in heaven. It is Jesus Christ who is Judge.

I Peter 4:6 "For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."

In the passage above, the two were separated into the living {those who had heard the gospel and received Jesus as their Saviour}, and the dead {those who had not heard nor received Jesus as Saviour}. To be condemned to hell, they must reject Jesus as their Saviour. That is why it is so important for all to hear the good news of the gospel. They must choose for themselves whether they will be condemned to hell, or live eternally in heaven. Jesus passes the judgement, but actually we make that decision for ourselves. Those who receive Jesus as Saviour must live the godly life, walking in the footprints that Jesus left for us.

I Peter 4:7 "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

Every generation since the time of the crucifixion of Jesus, has felt that the coming of the Lord was near. It is even more apparent today that we are living near the coming of Christ. Peter's instruction, in face of this, is to get serious about God and stay ready. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in every decision you make.

I Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

The word that was translated charity here, is the same word translated charity in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. It means God's kind of love. The kind of love spoken of here is unselfish love. This love is not because of what it might bring in return, but is a love so great that it loves the unlovable. Give, and it shall be given to you. God forgives those who are quick to forgive others. God knows you have love one for another, when you are charitable to others. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it also unto me." You can not do anything directly for God. The only way you can do for God, is by doing for His people.

I Peter 4:9 "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

Hospitality was actually a necessity in those days. The ministers who travelled from town to town had to stay with the people they were ministering to. We find a very good example of that in the following Scriptures. Luke 9:1 "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases." Luke 9:2 "And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." Luke 9:3 "And he said unto them, Take nothing for [your] journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece." Luke 9:4 "And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart." Look at the terrible thing Jesus said to do, if the people the apostle stayed with did not receive them. Luke 9:5 "And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them."

I Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

The abilities that the Lord has given each of us to minister with are not our own ability, but a gift of the Spirit that has been given us of God. This is called gifts of the Spirit. These gifts will be given to us several at a time as we need them to minister with. A steward is someone who is a protector of the owners property. That is really what Christians are today. We are keepers of the grace of God toward man on this earth. I will give just a few Scriptures on the gifts of the Spirit. To get the whole picture, begin with verse 1 and read all of it. I Corinthians 12:4 "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." I Corinthians 12:5 "And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord." I Corinthians 12:6 "And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." I Corinthians 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." I Corinthians 12:8 "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" I Corinthians 12:9 "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;" I Corinthians 12:10 "To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:" I Corinthians 12:11 "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." I have given just a few Scriptures on this, but to get the whole picture, continue reading to the end of the chapter.

I Peter 4:11 "If any man speak, [let him speak] as the oracles of God; if any man minister, [let him do it] as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

The message is not our own. We are speaking for Jesus Christ, if we are Christians. We are like ambassadors for Christ. We represent Him to the unsaved world. We are sent by Him, with His message, to reconcile the world to Jesus Christ. An "ambassador", just represents the one he is sent by. They do not get the glory for the job they do. The glory goes to the person who had the plan that sent them to negotiate. Since it is not our message, that we bring, it is not our glory for that message, but the glory goes to God. The praise should go to Jesus Christ and the Father. He is exalted ruler for all of eternity. The "Amen" means, so be it. It is as if this statement is a prayer.

I Peter 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"

We know there are trials that face us all. It is not how many trials we have or even how bad the trials are that counts, it is how we handle the trials. If you look through the Bible at all of the prophets and men and women of God, you will find they all faced trials. It is not unusual for trying times to come. It rains on the just and on the unjust. It is important how we handle that problem.

I Peter 4:13 "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

These are problems that come from serving the Lord, spoken of here. Paul thought it an honor to suffer for Christ. We should feel the same way. God cannot trust all of us with suffering for Him. Some would fold up under great trials. Others get stronger in that trial. When the suffering is in the name of the Lord, it should thrill us

that God can trust us with that big a problem.

I Peter 4:14 "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy [are ye]; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified."

This is speaking of being persecuted for the fact that you are a Christian, or because you are working for Christ. We find that when we love God enough to be persecuted for Him, He will greatly reward us. The suffering of Job, in the Old Testament, was great. He did not turn against God. He became even more faithful in the midst of the problem. We know there was a time when God said, it is enough. God mightily blessed Job, in so much that his later state was better than it had been before all the troubles came. Read the book of Job to get the full impact of this.

I Peter 4:15 "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or [as] a thief, or [as] an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."

There is no glory or praise in being punished for sins you have committed. That is justice.

I Peter 4:16 "Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

There is no shame in serving God. Even if a person is imprisoned for the cause of Jesus Christ, he should not be ashamed, but count it his duty to uphold Christ. We should count it an honor to be allowed to suffer for Christ.

I Peter 4:17 For the time [is come] that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if [it] first [begin] at us, what shall the end [be] of them that obey not the gospel of God?

The "house of God" is speaking of the believers in Christ, or the church. We know that God expects our lives to be clean. Jesus is coming back for a church that is without spot or wrinkle. God will shake the church, so that those who are playing church will be shaken out. Only the true believers in Christ will remain. We Christians must remember, that to whom much is given, much is required. Christians must separate themselves from the world and its lust. We are to live wholesome lives as an example for the world to follow. God must begin at the church, because we are in full knowledge. God judges his own in the hope they will turn from their evil ways back to Him. The church is the bearer of the Light to the darkened world. If the Light of the world becomes dark, the darkness would become great. We know that the Christians are sons of God. The answer to what the end is for those who do not accept Jesus as Saviour is simple but harsh. They are headed for an eternity in hell.

I Peter 4:18 "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

The word "scarcely" indicates to me that the Christian has more to do than walk the isle of a church and go and be baptized in water to be saved. Salvation is a daily walk through life with Jesus. The temptations of life must be overcome each day of our life. To be the righteous, you must have, at sometime in your life, accepted Jesus as your Saviour. This would cause you to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. The righteous scarcely being saved, indicates to me, it is possible to walk away from God and not be saved. This does not mean just committing a single sin would cause you to be lost. It means to

me turning away from God and choosing to go back into your sinful way of life. The ungodly and the sinner will stand before Jesus to be Judged lost.

I Peter 4:19 "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls [to him] in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

Many believe inflicting suffering upon themselves is pleasing to God. This is not what this Scripture is saying. This says if you suffer from outside causes for the will of God, you are pleasing the God who created you. Mark 13:13 "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." There is a battle to be fought. We must fight for Jesus even until death if we are to be a good soldier fit for the kingdom.

1 Peter 7 Questions

1. Verse 1 says to arm ourselves with what?
2. He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from _____.
3. What does "Arm yourselves with the same mind" mean?
4. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
5. What are we doing when we willingly suffer for Christ?
6. He no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of men, but to the _____ of _____.
7. We must not only make Jesus our Saviour, but our _____.
8. When we make Jesus, Lord of our life we are controlled by what?
9. What is the will of the Gentiles?
10. What are the sins, in verse 3, caused by?
11. Why do the worldly people think Christians to be strange?
12. Christians are _____ the world, but not _____ the world.
13. Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the _____ and the _____.
14. Who is the Judge?
15. Who are the living and the dead in verse 6?
16. What must a person do to be condemned to hell?
17. Have _____ charity among yourselves.
18. _____ shall cover the multitude of sins.
19. What chapter in 1 Corinthians has to do with this kind of charity?
20. How can you do something for Jesus?
21. Why was hospitality even more important about the time this was written than now?
22. Quote Luke chapter 9 verse 1.
23. What were they to do against those who would not receive them?
24. What are the Christians called in verse 10?
25. Whose ability do we minister in?
26. Describe the job of the steward.
27. What are some of the gifts of the Spirit that are possible to receive.
28. If any man speak, let him speak as the _____ of God.
29. We are like _____ for Christ.
30. What does an "ambassador" do?
31. Why should they not think it strange that they will go through a fiery trial?
32. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, what rests upon you?
33. Who, in the Old Testament, became even more faithful with trials he endured?
34. There is no glory or praise in being punished for _____ you have _____.
35. Judgement begins at the _____ of _____.
36. Who is the house of God?
37. Quote 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 18.
38. If we are to be a good soldier fit for the kingdom, what must we do?

We will begin this lesson in I Peter 5:1 "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:"

Peter is speaking to those who have some authority in this verse. He separates them out from the average Christian, because their responsibility is greater. He is aware that they are not only responsible for themselves, but for the Christians in their congregation. Peter related to them because of the great responsibility of the church placed upon him.

I Peter 5:2 "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [thereof], not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;"

He is not speaking of physical food, but the food of the Word of God. They are not to minister because of obligation to do so, but from love of the brethren. The minister must desire to help others. This should be his, or her, motivation for ministering, and not because they are compelled to do it. Ministry is not an occupation, it is a call. Those who minister because of the salary they receive are not in the ministry for the right reason. The call of God on ministers' lives should be so great that they would minister if there was no payment for it at all. We all know they need a salary to live, but it should not be their reason for ministering.

I Peter 5:3 "Neither as being lords over [God's] heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

The high priest and the priest's office in the temple had been used many times to rule over the people. This is not the way Jesus taught the leaders of the Christians to be. The greatest among you should be the servant, is what He taught. The ministers should not glory in their authority, but should live godly lives before the people as an example of how the people were to live. The requirements for those in authority is greater than for the average Christian, because they are operating in knowledge. James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin."

I Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

The Chief Shepherd is Jesus Christ our Lord. Notice, the word "receive" in the verse above. The crown belongs to Jesus, but He puts it on our head. Jesus is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Anything He gave you, would be for all of eternity. When Jesus {Chief Shepherd} appears means at the coming of Christ.

I Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

This is saying that the Christian, who has been one for a long time, has probably studied the Word of God more than one who is a new Christian. It would be best for the new Christian to learn from the elder. Those who believe they already know everything, can not be

helped. They are too proud to receive help. To humble yourself before God is the first step to receiving from God. James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

I Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

Moses was one of the most humble men who ever lived, and we know that God exalted Moses greatly. Moses was the only one God revealed Himself to by bringing Moses to the mountain top for 40 days at a time to fellowship with. Peter remembered the Lord Jesus' statement in Luke 14:11 "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

If the problem is too big for God to handle, it is far too big for me to handle. We see how foolish it is on our part to try to take the cares of the world upon our own shoulders. God is able to take care of you and me. This is a beautiful promise from the Old Testament. Psalms 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." The righteous are His, because they have put on the righteousness of Christ. Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" Matthew 6:26 "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

The roaring lion, here, is speaking of the devil. The devil would love to catch us unaware {not vigilant}. We must be like the 5 wise virgins who stayed ready to meet their master. This does not mean that you must stop living. It means that we must keep our sound mind operating at full capacity. We should not take drugs, or get drunk on alcohol and let our guard down. Be vigilant, ever watchful, lest you be caught unprepared to meet Jesus. Notice, "as a roaring lion". The old devil is not a lion, he is just trying to pretend that he is. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The devil would like to ruin your life. Do not let him.

I Peter 5:9 "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

"Stedfast" in the verse above, means rock-like firmness. We see then, that our strength to withstand the devil must be in the name of Jesus, and in the power of His shed blood. We must stand firmly on the Rock who is Jesus Christ. The problems of the world may be swirling around us, but the knowledge that we are built on the Rock will help us have enough faith to stand. The world is built on the sand, and when the storms come, they fall. Our faith in the power of Jesus will keep us from harm. He {Jesus} fought the devil with the Word of God. We must fight the devil the same way, with the Word of God.

I Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]."

It is by God's grace we are saved, not of our own doing. The grace offered to every person by the crucifixion of Jesus on Calvary, requires nothing to receive, except to believe in Jesus Christ. In this life, we will have tribulation {suffering}. These troubles come to make us strong in the Lord. The trials that we overcome establish us in the faith. We grow in the grace of the Lord every time we face a problem and overcome it by the Word of God.

I Peter 5:11 "To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

The "Him" here, is the Lord Jesus Christ. The glory is not ours, since we did nothing to receive the grace, but believe. The glory is God's. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;"

I Peter 5:12 "By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand."

Silvanus is the same person as Silas in Acts. Paul and Silas were imprisoned together for the gospel. It is believed that he probably was the one who brought this letter. Faithful brother, means that he was a fellow Christian. The last words of Peter, here, explain that the letter was brief, but was to "exhort" {call near} them in the grace of God. Peter knew first-hand that this was the true grace of God, that saves us all.

I Peter 5:13 "The [church that is] at Babylon, elected together with [you], saluteth you; and [so doth] Marcus my son."

"Church" is the assembly of the believers. Babylon, is probably not a literal name, but rather speaking of an evil city, perhaps Rome. This could mean that the people {assembly of believers} are in an alien city. Marcus, here, is probably not a son in the flesh, but is probably Mark that Paul spoke of as well.

I Peter 5:14 "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace [be] with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen."

The kiss, spoken of here, is not a passionate kiss. This was a kiss of fellowship between brothers, or sisters and brothers in Christ. This was a kiss {probably on the cheek} of brotherly love. Notice, who the peace is with. It is with those who are in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the King of Peace. If we have Jesus in us, we are full of peace.

1 Peter 8 Questions

1. What does Peter call himself in verse 1?
2. What had Peter been a witness of?
3. Who is Peter speaking to, in verse 1?
4. Why does Peter separate them from the average Christian?
5. Why could Peter relate to them?
6. What did Peter tell them to do in verse 2?
7. What should be their purpose in doing this?
8. What kind of food is intended here?
9. Ministry is not an _____, it is a call.
10. What should the ministers be to the flock?
11. The greatest among you should be the _____.
12. Quote James chapter 4 verse 17.
13. Who is the Chief Shepherd?
14. When will the Chief Shepherd appear?
15. Younger submit yourselves unto the _____.
16. Be clothed with _____.
17. God resisteth the _____.
18. Quote James chapter 4 verse 10.
19. Quote 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 6.
20. Who was one of the humblest men who ever lived?
21. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
22. Quote Psalms chapter 55 verse 22.
23. What was done for the fowls of the air that we can expect from God, if we are His?
24. Who is the Christian's adversary?
25. Who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah?
26. What does "steadfast" in verse 9 mean?
27. How can we fight the devil?
28. Why do Christians have tribulation?
29. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.
30. Who is Silvanus?
31. What does "exhort" from verse 12 mean?
32. What is the "church" in verse 13?
33. Babylon, in verse 13, is probably speaking of what city?
34. Who is Marcus in verse 13 {probably}?
35. What kind of kiss is verse 14 speaking of?

We will find in this second letter that Peter wrote, a warning against false teachers. Peter wrote the letter probably somewhere between 64 and 70 A.D.

We will begin now with II Peter 1:1 "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:"

Simon was the name he had been known by, before he met and followed Jesus. The name Peter, had been given him by Jesus. "Peter" means a rock. This is a general letter to Jew and Gentile who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Peter was very well aware of the great price the Lord Jesus paid to purchase his salvation. Peter thought of himself as a slave, because Jesus bought and paid for him with His precious blood. "Apostle", as we have said before, means ambassador. Salvation is a free gift from God and Peter makes that statement here, when he says "obtained like precious faith". We receive the righteousness of Christ, when we receive Jesus as our Saviour. We give our sin to Jesus, and He gives us His righteousness. The only way that faith comes after righteousness is when we receive the gift of faith. It takes faith to receive the righteousness of Christ. This is the faith that we activate within ourselves. The faith, here, is the abundance of faith that we receive as a gift of the Spirit.

II Peter 1:2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,"

This is a blessing Peter speaks on those who believe. The more you know of Jesus, the more peace and grace you have. Jesus is King of Peace. When we are full of Jesus, we are full of peace. Knowledge is accumulated learning. The more you learn of the Lord Jesus, the more peace and grace you have.

II Peter 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

There is no need for a Christian to fear. The things of this world are for our benefit, not for our harm. He thought so much of us that He made the world and all that is in it, and on it, for the benefit of man. He prepared the earth for man to inhabit. Then He made man. We have all the goodness of the earth to draw from, if we receive the knowledge of God and use it according to His will. The power to use the blessings come from us knowing the power in the name of Jesus. He gave us the earth to use, not to abuse. Jesus called us to receive His glory and virtue. When we come to the knowledge of God, we receive Jesus as Saviour and all the earth is subject to the name of Jesus. We have been given power to use that name on the earth. The part in this that we play, other than accepting Jesus as our Saviour, is to walk in the salvation He has provided for us. "Virtuous" means we are faithful to Jesus and His teachings.

II Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

The promises God made to Abraham are for all who believe in Jesus. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." It is our faith in Christ that makes us heirs along with faithful Abraham. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto Him as righteousness. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are clothed in His righteousness. The entire New Testament is a list of the promises made to the believer. To inherit the promises, we must prove we are sons of God. Christians are followers of, and believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to become Christ-like. We, in fact, must let Christ live in us and through us. We are His hands upon this earth. When we get to heaven, we will be like Him. I John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." This Scripture just means that we will take on His nature {in our spiritual body}. We have crucified our flesh and the lusts of the flesh, and have taken on Christ. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

II Peter 1:5 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

We should earnestly try to please God in all that we do. "To be diligent in our work" would mean that we are totally dedicated to the task at hand. We should not only be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word, as well. The walk of a Christian must be virtuous. We must walk holy before our Lord. To walk virtuous would mean that we had determined in our heart to do right before our God. To be virtuous, without the knowledge of what God's will is, is impossible. To walk in the will of God, we must know what His will is. We learn what His will is by studying His Word. Knowledge of the Word of God gives us the ability to know what His will is.

II Peter 1:6 "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;"

When we walk in the knowledge of the Word of God, we will be temperate in all things. "Temperance", in this instance, means self-control. It, also, means moderately. The way I like to say this is, "let your spirit control your flesh". Patience is a lesson hard learned. Patience comes through tribulation. Turning your will over to God and allowing Him to have control of your life, leads to godliness.

II Peter 1:7 "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

All of this is explaining the growing in grace that a Christian must do. Jesus said in I John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" "Charity", here, was translated from the word "agape", which means a special love. It is like the love of God. It is love not because of what you can do for me, but love wanting nothing in return.

II Peter 1:8 "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

If these things be in you, you are full of Christ. In the

process, you have taken on the nature of Christ. When you take Christ on in His fulness like is spoken of here, you have taken on the mind of Christ. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you all things. Your knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ will be full, because He dwells within you. The name "Lord Jesus Christ" means that you have accepted Him as your Saviour and your Lord. You, also, realize He is the Anointed One of God, the Messiah.

II Peter 1:9 "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

It is a very dangerous thing not to grow in God. The one-time experience of salvation is not enough. We are either growing in Christ, or we are going backwards. We will never stand still. Notice, the word "old" connected to sins. To live as the world lives, after you are saved, will draw you away from your salvation. Salvation is a daily walk through life, growing each day more like Jesus. To do anything else will not work. We can be blinded by the world, if we are not careful, and forget the forgiveness we received in Christ.

II Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

We must take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." This is just saying, make up your mind to walk with Jesus and never wander away from that walk. If I am in Jesus, and He is in me, I cannot fall.

II Peter 1:11 "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

There is only one way to heaven. It is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Daniel 7:27 "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Jesus opened the way for all who would believe, when He gave His body on the cross. The door to heaven and the throne of God was opened, when the veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom. Jesus opened that door for us. Matthew 27:51 "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"

There is only one thing that will get you to heaven. Look, with me, at the next verses which explains it so well. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2 Peter 1 Questions

1. What is the theme of this second letter?
2. Who wrote this letter?
3. Approximately when was this letter written?
4. When was the name Simon used for Peter?
5. What is the meaning of the name "Peter"?
6. Who was this letter written to?
7. Why did Peter think of himself as a slave?
8. What does "apostle" mean?
9. When do we receive righteousness?
10. What blessing did Peter speak on them?
11. What is knowledge?
12. Why should the Christian not fear?
13. What did God do for man, even before He made man?
14. What does "virtuous" mean?
15. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
16. What must we do to receive the inheritance God has given us?
17. Quote 1 John chapter 3 verse 2.
18. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
19. What are we to add to our faith?
20. What would it mean "to be diligent in our work"?
21. What must we first do to walk in the will of God?
22. How do we know what His will is?
23. What does "temperance" in verse 6 mean?
24. Quote 1 John chapter 4 verse 20.
25. What was the word "charity", in verse 7, translated from?
26. What does "agape" mean?
27. In the process of growth as a Christian, we have taken on the _____ of Christ.
28. How can we be blinded, if we are a Christian?
29. Quote John chapter 8 verse 12.
30. What cleanses us from all sin?
31. Who is our Way to heaven?
32. When was the door to the throne of God opened to us?
33. Quote Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10.

We will begin this lesson in II Peter 1:12 "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth."

In the last lesson, we learned that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Those who are truly saved are taking up their cross daily and walking in the footprints of Jesus here on the earth. We, also, learned some of the character traits of those who follow Jesus. Some of the character traits are faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, kindness, charity, and godliness. Peter is reminding them of these things, so that they will not be negligent in keeping them. He says that they are already aware of this, but he is just reminding them, so they will grow in the Lord. "To be established in the truth", means you are daily studying God's Word and growing in that knowledge. To do otherwise, would make you a basckslider.

II Peter 1:13 "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting [you] in remembrance;"

Peter is speaking of the tabernacle of his body. He knows it is important to not only be saved, but to stay saved. Walk daily in the salvation you have received. Since Christ gave him such authority in the church, he was obligated to keep reminding them how important it is to walk uprightly before the Lord.

II Peter 1:14 "Knowing that shortly I must put off [this] my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."

Peter was aware that not too long hence he would be dead. He was speaking to them while he could. From this, we can assume that the Lord had shown Peter that he would die the martyr's death. History tells us that he was crucified upside down.

II Peter 1:15 "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance."

A written message like this could be read over and over. It was not like a spoken message that just had use for the one message. In fact, even hundreds of years later, until our very time, it is useful to all Christians.

II Peter 1:16 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

Peter is explaining to them that the things he tells them are not things that he has heard, but are things he actually saw. He was one of the three apostles closest to the Lord Jesus. Peter, James, and John were with Jesus at the transfiguration. They had been with Jesus some times when the others were not. They had heard the voice of God the Father, who said this is my beloved Son. They knew even better than the others who Jesus really was and is. They had seen Him in His magnificence at the transfiguration. Peter was trying to warn them to stay strong in the Lord, and not make the mistake he had made when he denied Jesus. Peter's knowledge was first-hand knowledge, he had been there when Jesus taught all of these truths. Peter had seen the miracles Jesus had done. Peter knew first-hand that He rose from death. Peter was there when Jesus walked on the water. He was there

when Jesus calmed the angry sea. He knew that Jesus caused Lazarus to rise from the dead. We could go on and on. All of Peter's knowledge was not hearsay. He was there when it happened.

II Peter 1:17 "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The most outstanding thing to Peter, in all of this, was the moment of transfiguration, when the glory of God appeared on the mount, and Peter, James, and John heard the Father speak of Jesus as His Son, in whom He was well pleased. Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matthew 17:6 "And when the disciples heard [it], they fell on their face, and were sore afraid." Matthew 17:7 "And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid." Matthew 17:8 "And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only." This showed them Jesus in His glory.

II Peter 1:18 "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."

This is just explaining that the voice was an audible voice from heaven, and that all three of them heard it.

II Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

Peter says, here, that the Word of prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ is even greater evidence than the transfiguration. Jesus is the Light of the world. The world was lost before the Light {Jesus Christ} came to save us. Psalms 119:105 {NUN.} "Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The Word of God, both spoken and written, are the light that directs us unto all Truth. When you accept Jesus as your Saviour and He comes to dwell within you, you are filled with the source of all Light. This Light does away with all darkness. Salvation occurs in the heart. This Light shines in the heart of the Christian. Jesus is this Day Star. Without this Light, there is no life. The Light of Jesus gives everything the power to be. Darkness is symbolic of evil and of Lucifer. Lucifer pretends to be the light, but is not. "Day star", in this particular instance, means bearer of the Light.

II Peter 1:20 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

We see from this, that all who are guided by the Holy Spirit of God can get their own message from God from any Scripture. The smallest, uneducated child, who is searching for answers in the Scriptures can have his or her own understanding of any Scripture. The greatest scholar, who is not guided by the great Teacher {Holy Spirit}, however, might not understand the simplest Scripture. The Scriptures are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned."

II Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy

Ghost."

God is the Author of the Bible. God is a Spirit. If a Spirit is the Author of the Bible, then we must understand it by the Spirit of God. Let the Holy Spirit of God be your Teacher and Guide. God moved upon holy men of God, and they were the penmen of God's thoughts. True ministers of God do not bring their own message to the church. They speak the message God has placed into their heart for a particular congregation at a particular time. Luke 12:11 "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and [unto] magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:" Luke 12:12 "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." We are ambassadors for Christ. We do not carry our own message, but the message God has given us. We are messengers. I believe these Bible studies to be what God would have His people to know in this hour. I believe the Holy Spirit of God has moved upon me and the explanations of the Scriptures given are His that I have written down.

2 Peter 2 Questions

1. Who is the only Way to heaven?
2. What are some character traits of Christians?
3. Why is Peter reminding of this?
4. What does being established in the Truth mean?
5. If you are not growing in the Lord, you are a _____.
6. What is the tabernacle Peter is speaking of in verse 13?
7. What is important to do after you are saved?
8. What is indicated that the Lord has revealed to Peter in verse 14?
9. History tells us Peter died how?
10. Why is a written message better than a spoken message?
11. Who is this letter, that Peter wrote, important to?
12. Quote 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 16.
13. What is Peter explaining in verse 16?
14. Who were the three apostles that were closest to Jesus?
15. What had happened that caused them to know beyond any doubt who Jesus was?
16. Peter's knowledge was _____.
17. What were some of the things Peter had been eyewitness of?
18. What did the voice from heaven say about Jesus?
19. What is even greater evidence than the transfiguration?
20. Quote Psalms chapter 119 verse 105.
21. Where does salvation occur?
22. What does day star in verse 19 mean?
23. Quote 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 20.
24. Why can a child sometimes understand a Scripture when an adult cannot?
25. Quote Luke chapter 12 verse 11.
26. Why does the author of this Bible study believe she is able to do this?

We will begin this lesson in II Peter 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

In the last lesson, we saw holy men of God moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God writing to the believers, messages to be taken to heart. In this lesson, we see some who have wandered from the truth, proclaiming themselves to be prophets. Their message is false. We know there is a terrible punishment awaiting those who teach false doctrines. I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." I John 4:2 "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:" I John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." We see, in the above Scriptures, the way to determine whether the message is of God, or not. Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect." We see from this that many will be deceived. The only way not to be deceived is to study the Word of God, and check everything out by that Word. If the message elevates Jesus up to the fulness of the godhead, it is true.

II Peter 2:2 "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

"Pernicious" in the verse above, means spiritual ruin, or loss. It is so strange to me that more people will believe a lie than will believe the Truth. It is so interesting to me that many other religions today, such as the Muslim, believe the Christians are heathen. Those, who do not believe in Jesus, think we are evil for following Him. I Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

II Peter 2:3 "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

"Feigned", in the verse above, means artificial, or fictitious. We should not be amazed that they hang on to the false doctrine and believe it, before they believe the Truth. Jesus was the Truth, and they did not believe Him. His followers should expect no better treatment than our leader got. "Covet" means to desire something that belongs to someone else. They actually seek after these lies. Those who choose a lie over Jesus will find damnation awaiting them. The following is the only reason why He has not already destroyed them. II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"

The judgement had been pronounced upon them. It does not

necessarily mean that it was carried out in its entirety at the time this is spoken. I {as a Christian} am seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus, but my body is still housing my spirit here on the earth. You can see from this, that this does not mean the fallen angels are not the devil spirits which harass us on the earth. The following Scripture is a good example of how the judgement is already made, but not carried out yet. These are devil spirits speaking to Jesus. Matthew 8:29 "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" I believe the third of the angels that followed Lucifer out of heaven are the devil spirits that harass Christians on the earth. Angels are ministering spirits. The angels, who stayed in heaven with God, minister good to the believers. Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" The angels who followed Lucifer are still ministering spirits. They just minister evil, instead of good. The "chains", just mean that they are not free to minister as they will. The devil and his angels, must get permission from God to attack a believer in Christ. They live in hell where the devil lives, until they are sent on an errand. They have been judged and found guilty. They will have their place in the lake of fire. Jude 1:6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

II Peter 2:5 "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

Noah was one of eight people who were saved in the flood. That is possibly what is meant here by the eighth person. You can easily see that Noah was not eighth in line from Adam. Adam: Seth, Enos, Cain, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, then Noah. Genesis 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Noah preached nearly 100 years and had no converts. That should encourage some ministers today. Noah, his wife, his 3 sons, and their wives were saved in the flood. They were not saved from the flood. It rained on them, too. They were saved in the flood. These 8 people were to repopulate the world. "Eight" means new beginnings. The rest of the evil world was destroyed by the flood. The sin was so bad at the time, that God destroyed the world's people with the flood, it is said God was sorry He had ever made man. Genesis 6:6 "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." He destroyed them for the sin in their lives.

II Peter 2:6 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;"

We see again from this, God will not always strive with man. He is patient and kind and forgiving, but He will judge us when He says enough. The judgement on Sodom and Gomorrha came because there was not even 10 righteous in the city. God rained down fire and brimstone on the city, because they were homosexuals and lesbians. This is an abomination to God. You remember, "abomination" means revolting sin. We can look at the destruction of these cities and know what God will do to us, if our nation does not deal with this problem. We must repent and turn to God, before He says enough.

II Peter 2:7 "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:"

Lot was justified in the sight of God, because he was the nephew of Abraham. Abraham pled for the city. God saved Lot, and his 2 daughters because of Abraham. Lot's wife would have been saved, but she looked back at the city and turned to a pillar of salt. These filthy people had even asked to have the 2 male angels so they could rape them. These were really evil people.

II Peter 2:8 "(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)"

Lot should have left this city long before the problem got this bad. He even let his 2 daughters marry homosexuals. They were married, and yet both were virgins. You know, from this, exactly what the problem was. God did not save the girls' husbands. They were destroyed in the city.

II Peter 2:9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"

There is no better example to prove this point, than the fact that God saved Noah in the midst of the flood. Knoweth means continues to know. This statement, then, is not just for their age, but ours, as well. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ protects us from the enemy, even today. Jesus is the Judge of all the people of the world. He will separate the good from the evil. It is Jesus who will give the sentence of either heaven or hell. When we are delivered from the temptation to sin, it is the name of Jesus that delivers us. The best thing parents can do for their children, is to pray the blood of Jesus will cover them and keep them from the temptations of this world. Jesus is the Judge, but He is, also, the Deliverer. Place your trust in Him and you will be protected from fleshly temptations.

II Peter 2:10 "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous [are they], selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."

This is speaking of the punishment coming on those who are controlled by their flesh and its lust. We have discussed in these lessons before, that the person who is in authority {whether in government or in the church} are there because God placed them there for a purpose. To speak evil of them would be questioning God's judgement in putting them there. To speak evil of them would be to speak evil of the One who gave them their authority {God}.

II Peter 2:11 "Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."

When Jesus took on the form of flesh, He was spoken of as being a little lower than the angels. This is speaking of flesh being lower than the spirit. "Angels" are ministering spirits. They are not controlled by the limitations of the flesh. Angels are not accusers. They are ministering spirits to help the believers. They have a specific job, as you will see in the next Scripture. Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Notice in the following Scripture, that the angel did not rebuke the devil. The Lord rebuked the devil. Jude 1:9 "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." This is the same method Christians must use, as well. The name of Jesus rebukes the

evil one. We have no power in our own name. It is the power in His name that succeeds.

II Peter 2:12 "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;"

We must leave the judgement to Jesus. Judge not, that you be not judged. We, many times, do not have all the facts in, before we begin to judge. Notice, the word {natural}. This is speaking of a man who is operating in the flesh. He is not a spirit man. The flesh must die that the spirit might live. Look at the following Scripture with me. Galatians 6:8 "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." It is a dangerous thing to judge others. With the same judgement we judge, we shall be judged.

1. What will be the condition of the teachers spoken of in verse 1?
2. What is the false message that they bring?
3. What will happen to these evil people?
4. Quote 1 John chapter 4 verses 1, 2, and 3.
5. What will these false prophets and false teachers do that will cause many to believe them?
6. How is the only way not to be deceived?
7. What does "pernicious", in verse 2, mean?
8. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 18.
9. In verse 3, what does "feigned" mean?
10. What does "covet" mean?
11. Quote 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9.
12. What happened to the angels who fell?
13. Quote Matthew chapter 8 verse 29.
14. What does the author believe about the fallen angels who followed Lucifer, instead of God?
15. What do the "chains" in verse 4 indicate?
16. Quote Jude chapter 1 verse 6.
17. What is Noah called in verse 5?
18. Noah found _____ in the eyes of the LORD.
19. Who did God bring the flood upon?
20. What does the number "eight" mean?
21. Where do we find the Scripture that says the LORD repented that He made man?
22. What place was so bad that God destroyed it with fire and brimstone?
23. Why did the judgement come on these people?
24. What does "abomination" mean?
25. Who was delivered from the destruction of this evil place?
26. What had vexed Lot daily?
27. What happened to the husbands of Lot's 2 daughters?
28. God saved Noah in the midst of the _____.
29. What protects the Christian from the enemy today?
30. What is the best thing parents can do for their children today?
31. Jesus is the Judge, He is also the _____.
32. Quote 2 Peter chapter 2 verse 10.
33. Who puts people in places of authority, really?
34. When you speak evil of those in authority, what are you really doing?
35. What is meant by being a little lower than the angels?
36. What are "angels"?
37. What is the specific job of the angels?
38. Which of the archangels is spoken of in Jude chapter 1 verse 9?"
39. How can a Christian come against the devil?
40. Judge _____, that ye be not judged.
41. Quote Galatians chapter 6 verse 8.

We will begin this lesson in II Peter 2:13 "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;"

This is speaking of those who profess to know God, but are really not His. Notice the statement {shall receive the reward of unrighteousness}. We have seen this, recently in the churches. Men who are professing to be leaders of the church, living very worldly lives. They are attempting to cover their sins, and deceive the people into believing they are in right standing with God. These false teachers are even worse than the people who have not made any commitment to God. Everything these men do is deceiving. They are not truly sold out to God. They bring a false message and are not only deceived themselves, but deceive others, as well. The church {all true believers} should be without spot or wrinkle. Jesus Christ {our perfect Lamb sacrifice} was without spot or wrinkle. He lighted the way for His followers.

II Peter 2:14 "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"

There are several key words in this, notice "children". Children indicate sonship. This is still speaking of those who profess to know Jesus, and yet are not His at all. They are deceivers. Notice, these children are cursed, because of their evil life-style. The lust of the eyes has drawn them away from God and His Spirit into pleasing their own flesh. These are among those who Jesus will tell to get away from Him, He never knew them, at judgement day. Their argument will be that they did mighty miracles in His name. The problem is not in them doing mighty miracles in His name, but because of their reasoning for doing the miracles. God can see right through a phony. He knows what is in our heart. He knows what we do when it appears that no one is watching. The worst part of all of this is the fact they lead others into sin with them.

II Peter 2:15 "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"

"Following" in the verse above, means follow out to the end. Baalam had drawn the Israelites into a fleshly religion. I believe this is what is spoken of here. Religion which appeals to the flesh is probably Christianity in form only. "True Christianity" has to do with crucifying the flesh and living in the spirit. The flesh must die that the spirit might live. I tell our people, if it is pleasing to the flesh, run as far as you can the other way. Flesh and spirit are mortal enemies. The battle that every Christian faces is the battle between pleasing our flesh, or pleasing the spirit. Notice again "forsaken", which lets us know they were on the right track, they just left that straight and narrow path for a wider path. Again, this is speaking of the apostate in the church. Many times the wages {money} draws us away from the truth.

II Peter 2:16 "But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet."

We will find in the Scriptures the determined Balaam who was stopped of God from doing a very foolish thing. The Lord did not want him to go, and he went anyhow. Look, with me, at what happened. Numbers 22:22 "And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants [were] with him." Numbers 22:23 "And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way." Numbers 22:24 "But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall [being] on this side, and a wall on that side." Numbers 22:25 "And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again." Numbers 22:26 "And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where [was] no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left." Numbers 22:27 "And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff." Numbers 22:28 "And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?" Numbers 22:29 "And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee." Numbers 22:30 "And the ass said unto Balaam, [Am] not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since [I was] thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay." Numbers 22:31 "Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face." Numbers 22:32 "And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because [thy] way is perverse before me:" Numbers 22:33 "And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive." This prophet had gone astray, as these last few lessons have been teaching us about the false prophets. This, Balaam, is determined to follow evil. Some of our ministers are determined to teach a false doctrine. I wonder if it will be necessary for an ass to speak to us, before we will listen?

II Peter 2:17 "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever."

A well that does not provide water is a great disappointment. I think that is what God is saying here. False teachers are a great disappointment to God. Clouds that do not produce rain are speaking of the same thing. "Water" symbolizes the Word of God. This could be speaking of those ministers who do not bring the Word of God, and the great disappointment they are to God.

II Peter 2:18 "For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error."

All of this is speaking of happening within the church. This is not the world, but the church. It is speaking of the devil using false prophets in the church, who appeal to the flesh of man, leading those who have been in right relation with God away from the Truth. Wantonness is speaking of sins of the flesh. It is a very dangerous thing for the church to use things that appeal to the flesh to get people to attend church. The world and the evil desires of the flesh

have no place in the church.

II Peter 2:19 "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

When Christianity becomes too liberal, it has compromised with the world. The liberty to do what they want to do and still be a church member is a very dangerous thing. The way to Jesus is a straight and narrow path. When we start compromising with the world, we become servant to sin. Many of the things being done today in the churches to bring larger crowds in, are nothing more than compromise. When we compromise, we are no longer in right standing with God.

II Peter 2:20 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

Hebrews chapter 6 has a great deal to say about turning from God back into sin, and the danger of that. Hebrews 6:4 "For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost," Hebrews 6:5 "And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come," Hebrews 6:6 "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame." Hebrews 6:7 "For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:" Hebrews 6:8 "But that which beareth thorns and briers [is] rejected, and [is] nigh unto cursing; whose end [is] to be burned." In both Hebrews and 2 Peter, it is speaking of those who were in bondage to sin and received freedom from that sin in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we receive Christ Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are freed from the bondage of sin. We become a new creature in Christ. To turn away from so great salvation back into a life of sin is very dangerous. It would be as if we were crucifying Jesus all over again. The Word of God has helped us become a new creature in Christ. To turn back into a sinful way of life, after having full knowledge of God is very serious. Christianity is a daily walk in the footprints that Jesus left for us. I cannot stress enough how dangerous it is to bring the world in the church. The world is full of sin. Stop trying to be like the rest of the world, Christian. In fact, stop living your life and let Christ live in you.

II Peter 2:21 "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

Righteousness is putting on the righteousness of Christ, putting us in right standing with God. To be full of Christ and His teachings and then turn back into the world, would be choosing the flesh over the spirit. Jesus said: "If you love me, keep my commandments". We must walk daily in the light of Jesus. John 15:22 "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin." Jesus gave His body on the cross for all believers in Christ. His blood washed our sin away. It no longer exists. To boldly choose to go back into a sinful way of life, after we are freed from sin, would require a total turning away from God. It would mean we had chosen the devil and his ways, rather than God's ways. John 8:44 "Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,

because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

II Peter 2:22 "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

This is speaking of Christians who were not 100% committed to the Lord. Proverbs 26:11 "As a dog returneth to his vomit, [so] a fool returneth to his folly." This reminds me so much of the seed that was planted by the wayside that sprang up, and then very soon withered away. The lust of the flesh has allured this person back into the world. In both instances, the dog and the sow have returned to the unregenerate life. They have returned to a sinful way of life.

2 Peter 4 Questions

1. Who is verse 13 speaking of?
2. Why is it worse for a teacher to be corrupt?
3. What should be the condition of the church?
4. Having eyes full of _____.
5. What are these false believers called in verse 14?
6. Why are they cursed?
7. They have forsaken the _____.
8. Who are they compared to in verse 15?
9. What does "following" in verse 15 mean?
10. Baalam had drawn the Israelites into a _____ religion.
11. What is "true Christianity"?
12. What is the great battle that every Christian faces?
13. What was unusual about the ass that Baalam rode?
14. What is a well without water?
15. False teachers are a great _____ to God.
16. What does "water" symbolize?
17. When they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the _____ of the _____.
18. What kind of sin is "wantonness" speaking of?
19. What happens to Christianity when it becomes too liberal?
20. What kind of path leads to Jesus?
21. Verse 20 says they escaped the pollutions of the world through the _____ of the _____ and _____.
22. What chapter in Hebrews deals with the same thing as verse 20 here?
23. What are they both speaking of?
24. For a Christian to turn back into a sinful way of life is a very _____ thing.
25. Christianity is a _____ walk.
26. Stop living your life and let _____ live in you.
27. Jesus said; "If you love me, keep my _____".
28. What washes the sin of the Christian away?
29. Quote John chapter 8 verse 44.
30. The dog is turned to his _____ again.
31. The sow that was washed to her _____ in the _____.
- 32 Both have returned to their _____ life.

We will begin this lesson in II Peter 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in [both] which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:"

The Christian has the blessing of the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." It is the Holy Spirit of God who brings things to our remembrance. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Our mind is like a giant computer. Everything we learn is recorded. The Spirit helps us recall the things which are beneficial to us when we need it.

II Peter 3:2 "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:"

We have spoken in many of the lessons how the apostle is like an ambassador of the Lord. They are a glorified message carrier. The message is not their own, but Christ's message who sent them. These prophets were moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God. The message was placed in their mouths by the Holy Spirit of God. You can easily see the importance of taking notice of the message God sent. The commandments, spoken of by the apostles and prophets, are sent by the Lord to His people.

II Peter 3:3 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,"

We must be aware that the world will not receive this message of God. These "scoffers" are those who make fun of those who believe in salvation through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." These scoffers {those who have hardened their heart against God} will laugh at those who believe. They are so caught up in themselves that they think only of the desires of their own flesh. They do not believe in anything they cannot see with their physical eyes.

II Peter 3:4 "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation."

This is probably the same type of scoffer that laughed at Noah while he was building the ark. Their whole world revolves around the physical. Just as it had never rained in the time of Noah, and they did not believe. They do not believe now, because they have never seen Jesus appear in the sky. Anything that you can see with your eye requires no faith to believe. As I said, they have no faith. They only believe in what they can see. The worldly can give a logical {to them} reason why the Lord is not coming back. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We will see later in this lesson why the Lord has not already come back.

II Peter 3:5 "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:"

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Colossians 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" The spoken Word "Let there be" brought everything into existence from nothing. Being willingly ignorant of something, just means they did not choose to believe.

II Peter 3:6 "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

We have discussed in this series of lessons that God was grieved that He had even made man, because man was so wicked. Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord, and was saved along with his family in the flood. The "world", in the verse above, is not speaking of the physical world, but the people in the world. The flood destroyed all but 8 people. Those 8 people repopulated the world.

II Peter 3:7 "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

Everything and everyone are subject to the wishes of God. Jesus is the Word of God. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" You see, all things are subject to the Word of God. It is the Word of God that keeps the planets in perfect order. With one word, He could destroy it all. After the reign of Jesus on the earth, the earth we know will be destroyed by fire. There will be a new heaven and a new earth.

II Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

There is no separation of time in heaven where God dwells. There is one eternal day. The only place where time is measured is on this earth. God set the measure of time for the earth, Himself. God established the 24 hours we call a day, the 7 day week and so on. This scheduled time is for the use of man on the earth. When we are transported into heaven where God dwells, there is only eternity. Time never ends or divides into time segments. With God, a thousand years could be but a blink of the eye.

II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Every promise the Lord made will be kept; with no exceptions. Whatever He promised, He will do. It may seem to us as if it is a long time coming, but the little time each of us wait is nothing compared to all of eternity. The only reason the Lord has not already come back, is because He wants every single person to be saved. We have only to look at the numerous times God forgave the Israelites {on their way to the promised land} to know just how longsuffering He is.

II Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great

noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

Just as the day of the flood finally came, the time of the end will come, also. There is an appointed time that only the Father knows. The return of the Lord to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords is not to be confused with the end of the planet. The earth will be ruled by the King {Jesus} for a thousand years, then the earth will be destroyed by fire, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. I believe the coming of the Lord and the judgement of fire on the earth itself to be two separate happenings. Revelation 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." We, also, know that the works of man will be tried in the fire, to see if they are pure. The destruction, in verse 10 above, seems to be speaking of the final judgement of God upon the earth. Since God does not count time as anything, the two happenings in verse 10 could easily be thousands of years apart.

II Peter 3:11 "[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,"

All of the worldly goods in your custody today will be gone forever, someday. We are actually just custodians of these things. When we die, we take nothing of this world with us. They are all passed on to someone who has a better use for them. Why should we worry and fret trying to amass great fortunes, if we are going to die and leave it to the next generation? This world and everything in it will pass away. We should be spending our time laying up treasures for heaven.

II Peter 3:12 "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

Christians should not be caught up in the worries the world has. We look around us and see signs of the nearness of the coming of the Lord. The world's hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth. The Christian should not fear, but have faith. In fact, we should see these signs and rejoice that the coming of the Lord is near.

II Peter 3:13 "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Abraham spent his life dwelling in tents looking for that city whose maker is God. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." We should be looking for that same city. This world is not our home. We are strangers in this land waiting for our Deliverer to come and carry us to our promised land. Christians receive the righteousness of Christ when they are saved. In the 21st chapter of Revelation, we read of the new heaven and new earth. This is a place of peace, and rest, and no tears. There will be no one, or nothing evil, in the new heaven and earth. The Light is provided by Jesus. To know the full impact of the wonders of this new heaven and new earth, read all of chapter 21 of Revelation.

II Peter 3:14 "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

If we are truly a new creature in Christ when we are saved, then we should walk in the salvation He has provided for us. We should be dead to the world and alive unto Jesus. He washed us in His blood and clothed us in His righteousness. We should never take the robe of righteousness off. Our walk in life should tell the world our standing with Christ. I Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." He is coming for a church that is without spot or wrinkle. Keep your love for Him pure. If you love Him, you will keep His commandments.

II Peter 3:15 "And account [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;"

This is related to verse 9. The "scoffers", in verse 9, are wondering why the Lord has not already come back, if he is truly coming. In verse 15 we see the reason for the delay. He is waiting patiently for those who will receive Him as Saviour. He gave His body on the cross for all mankind, but we must come to Him to accept His free gift of salvation. He cared enough for our salvation that He endured the humiliation and suffering of the cross to provide it for us. He is now giving ample time for all who will to come to Christ. I appreciate the recognition that Peter gives here, that the message Paul brought was true. Notice, also, that Peter says, the wisdom to bring the message was given to Paul. The Holy Spirit had given it to Paul, when he was in the desert 3 years to be taught of God.

II Peter 3:16 "As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Peter is correct in his statement that Paul is hard to understand sometimes. He even seems to contradict himself, until you realize that he must be all things to all people, that by all means he might save some. Paul stayed within the customs of the people he was ministering to, that is where the difficulty of understanding came in. He did not say the same thing to all people, because he was trying to reach them for Christ at the level of understanding where they were. He, also, tried not to offend them in their customs and traditions, so they would receive the gospel message.

II Peter 3:17 "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know [these things] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."

So much of the confusion in the church over one little Scripture causes people to fall away from the church. I personally believe the fight over denominations is the greatest tool that Satan has. Divide and conquer. I am not saying there should not be different denominations. I am saying we should not argue over denominational things. I Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Hebrews 3:14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;"

II Peter 3:18 "But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen."

We have said so many times that a Christian must grow in the knowledge of the grace of God, or he will backslide. We never stay the same. We are either growing, or going backwards. The very best way to grow in the Lord is to study His Word {Bible}. You could study it every day for the rest of your life and never know all there is in the Word. It is alive and new every time you read it. Knowledge is accumulated learning. It takes effort on our part to gain knowledge of the Word. Seek, and ye shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Pray the Holy Spirit will reveal the meaning of the Word to you as you read it, and it will amaze you what understanding it will bring. To our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be glory both now and forever more. "Now and forever more" is speaking of the eternal day where Jesus {the Light of the world} dwells. We can say with Peter, To God be the glory, now and forever more. Jesus Christ is our Lord forever more.

2 Peter 5 Questions

1. How did Peter stir up their minds?
2. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 16.
3. Who brings things to our remembrance?
4. Who is the Comforter?
5. What are we to be mindful of in verse 2?
6. What is an apostle?
7. Where did the commandments they brought originate?
8. Who will come in the last days and walk after their own lusts?
9. Who are the scoffers?
10. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 18.
11. What are the only things they believe?
12. What are these scoffers saying?
13. If you can see something with your physical eye, it takes _____ faith to believe in it.
14. Without _____, it is impossible to please God.
15. In verse 5, we see the heavens were of old by what?
16. Quote John chapter 1 verses 1 through 3.
17. Quote Colossians chapter 1 verse 16.
18. What 3 Words brought everything into existence?
19. Why did God destroy the world, that then was, by water?
20. Who found favor with God and was spared?
21. What is our world reserved for?
22. Who is the Word of God?
23. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.
24. What keeps the planets in perfect order?
25. When will the earth be destroyed by fire?
26. One day with the Lord can be as a _____.
27. What is the time in heaven?
28. Verse 9 says, the Lord is not slack, but _____.
29. The day of the Lord will come as a _____ in the night.
30. Where, in Revelation, do we read there will be a new heaven and a new earth?
31. Quote 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 12.
32. What reaction should the Christians have when they realize that the end is near?
33. We look for a new _____ and a new _____, wherein dwelleth _____.
34. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
35. Where did Paul receive his wisdom?
36. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 58.
37. Grow in _____ and in the knowledge of our _____ and _____.

This letter could probably be classified as a general letter. It is as current for our church today, as it was for then. The apostle John, who wrote St. John and Revelation, is without doubt the author. The purpose of the letter was probably to help the church avoid error in its teaching.

The letter was probably written from Ephesus, but is really uncertain. The exact date of the writing was uncertain, as well. It was probably written in the late 90's A.D. This letter brings special teaching on Jesus as the Light, Life, and Love.

The letter was full of statements stressing what we know of the Lord and His teachings. It is specifically, or indirectly, mentioned over 30 times. I have said this before in the gospel of John, but John knew Jesus better than any of the other apostles. The love that John had for Jesus, and Jesus for John, was like a great relationship of two brothers.

As we go through these 3 letters of John, notice the closeness he had with Jesus that made him even more aware of the person of Jesus.

We will begin now in I John 1:1 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;"

John was there from the beginning. His knowledge is first-hand. John is not writing from something someone else has told him, He is stating things he knows to be fact. John is aware that Jesus is the Word, which created all things. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John was there when Jesus spoke to evil spirits, and they came out of people. John saw the miracles of those being raised from the dead, and the sick healed. John was there when Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount. John was there when Jesus walked on the water. It is a gross understatement to say that he touched Jesus. John lay with his head on the chest of Jesus. John was called the apostle of love, because of his great love for Jesus. John understood Jesus being the Lamb of God. John knew that Life itself was contained in Jesus. John knew that Jesus was the source of all Light and Life, as we see in the following Scripture. John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." The only life we have is in Jesus, all else brings death.

I John 1:2 "(For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)"

"Manifested" means made real. Jesus is eternal Spirit {the Word}, and yet He took on the body of mortal man to reveal Himself to mankind. He took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us for the purpose of experiencing our difficulties in the flesh. He, also, took on the form of flesh that He might save us from our sin and death. The death of His body on the cross brought salvation to all mankind. He gave the opportunity of salvation to all who would believe. "To bear witness" means to tell of something you have seen with your own eyes. Jesus is the quickening Spirit that brings eternal life to us. John 11:25 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth

in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" John 11:26 "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." I John 5:11 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

I John 1:3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

The reason God made man in the first place, was for fellowship with him. John 14:20 "At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." John 17:21 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." We read so much about man being made in the image of God. This is exactly what this Scripture is stating here. It is our spirit that becomes like the God Spirit. God is a Spirit. If we are to be like Him, it is in our spirit. To fellowship with the Father and Jesus Christ, we would have to become spirit man, not flesh man. Flesh fellowships with other flesh. To fellowship with God, we must crucify our flesh and live in the spirit. John was just such a man. On the Isle of Patmos, when no one else was looking, he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. Let your Spirit rule over your flesh, and you will be like John.

I John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

To realize the relationship we can have with the Father and the Lord Jesus does bring joy unspeakable. Christians have hope of the resurrection that the world does not have. Our fellowship with the Father and Jesus does not have to wait until we are in heaven with them. When we allow Jesus to dwell within us, we can have constant fellowship. This brings peace in the midst of the stormy world.

I John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

Notice, in this, that God is not a Light. He is Light. He is the source of all Light. Light does away with darkness. There is no darkness at all where there is God. Light destroys darkness. We hear some say that Christians can be possessed of devil spirits. This can not be, because Christians have the Light of the world dwelling inside of them. They are possessed of the Light. This Light does away with darkness. Devil spirits are of darkness. You can not be possessed of darkness and Light at the same time. Light does away with darkness. A Christian can be oppressed from without, but not possessed from within. God does not give light, He is Light. We Christians give off His Light. Christ in me is the hope of glory. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. If He is in me, I am consumed with His Light. Christian, let His Light shine forth from you so brightly that the Father will be glorified in your works. To "declare" is more than just tell. It means it is so. He {John} is stating a fact.

I John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"

Walk, in this particular instance, is speaking of the life that we live every day. To fellowship with darkness, means we are away from

the Light. To be part of the dark side of life, makes us a part of the devil. To say we are a Christian, and live in darkness, makes us a liar. The truth is, we have chosen the devil over God. Life in Christ leaves no room for fellowship with the devil.

I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I see in this the need for Christians to have friends who are Christians, too. We must remain in the Light of God. Walk daily with Jesus and other Christians, and the world will get dimmer and dimmer. Notice the blood of Jesus Christ continuing to cleanse us from all sin, when we are in the Light. The more we walk the Christian walk, the easier it gets to stay in the narrow path of Light that leads to Him.

I John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

We are not completely free of sin because we are saved, but the desire of our heart must be not to sin. The sin must be of an outward nature and not part of us. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We walk in His forgiveness.

I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"Confess" means to mention the exact sin. This is the first step to forgiveness. Christians are not righteous in their own right. We have taken on the righteousness of Christ. We are washed in the blood of the Lamb and robed in His white robe.

I John 1:10 "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

All have sinned. When we become a Christian, we must not live in sin. It must not be our way of life. We must not desire to sin in our heart.

1 John 1 Questions

1. How could this letter be classified?
2. Who wrote it?
3. Approximately when was it written?
4. What statement was stressed over and over in this letter?
5. What was the love of Jesus and John like?
6. The closeness of Jesus and John made John more aware of the _____ of Jesus.
7. What is Jesus called in verse 1?
8. Quote John chapter 1 verse 1.
9. Who created all things?
10. Name some of the things that John had first-hand knowledge of about Jesus' ministry.
11. In Him was _____.
12. What does verse 2 say was manifested?
13. What does the word "manifested" mean?
14. Jesus is _____ Spirit {the Word}.
15. Why did Jesus take on the form of flesh?
16. Who did Jesus provide salvation for?
17. Quote John chapter 14 verse 6.
18. The life He has given us is in whom?
19. What brings unspeakable joy to the Christian?
20. What did John declare in verse 5?
21. Why can a Christian not be possessed of a devil spirit?
22. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we _____.
23. When does the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
24. Who have sinned?
25. Quote 1 John chapter 1 verse 9.
26. What does "confess" mean?
27. We must not desire to sin in our _____.

We will begin this lesson in I John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"

Notice, the endearing name he calls the Christians; {my little children}. That is what we really are; {sons of God}. In this, John is expressing the Christians relationship with the Father. The desire of the heart of the Christian must be to sin not. If we commit a sin and confess it, Jesus will represent us to the Father. This does not, however, mean that we continually sin, which would be a sinful way of life. If we live continually in sin, we have chosen darkness over Light. "Advocate" means intercessor, or comforter. This is the only mention of this word.

I John 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world."

"Propitiation", in this verse, means atonement. In other words, He paid our penalty for us. He actually provided forgiveness for the whole world. The problem is, that some will not receive their forgiveness, because they do not believe.

I John 2:3 "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments."

A Christian is a follower of, and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. If we desire in our heart to please Him, because we love Him, we will keep His commandments. It must be the desire of our heart not to sin.

I John 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

There are many who profess to be a Christian who are not living their day to day lives for Christ. This is what this Scripture is about. There will be some who will stand before Jesus on judgement day who will say, didn't I cast out demons in your name? He will say "get away from me, I never knew you". God looks on the heart of man. The face we show the world is not always what we really are. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments".

I John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

Is the Word of God the most important thing you have? When you really love, it is the desire of your heart to please the one you love. To perfect the Love of God within yourself, is to be completely sold out to Him. We are in Him and He in us, if His love is perfected in us. All through the Bible, there are blessings, if we are obedient to God, and curses, if we are not. This is no exception to that.

I John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

Jesus placed His footprints for us. If we are following Him as we should, we will step in those footprints. Walk , in this instance, is speaking of making it a habit to walk in the footprints of Jesus. This is not an occasional encounter with God, but a way of life.

I John 2:7 "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning."

"Brethren", here, is speaking of those who are of a common faith. Jesus did not come to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. The commandment spoken of here has to do with love. We are taught from the beginning to love one another. When we love Him, we walk as He walked. The Word is the commandment of God. Jesus said all the law and the commandments were caught up in loving God first, and then loving your fellowman as yourself. The "commandment", then, is righteous love.

I John 2:8 "Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth."

This is just expressing how much easier it is for us to understand the law of God, since the Light of Jesus has shown on it. This "new commandment" is let Jesus, {the Light of the world} live in you and through you. We do not have to question about God anymore. His perfect Light has shined in our heart and made us aware of His perfect Love. The Light of Jesus brightens our path that we are to walk. It is not a dark and fearful walk anymore.

I John 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now."

This is just saying, those who hate others are not walking in the Light. The perfect Light provided for believers leads us into His perfect love. It does not allow hate of any kind. Hate is of the devil and is surrounded by darkness.

I John 2:10 "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him."

"Abideth" means to continue to live. Love is a product of Light. There is no temptation to steal from your brother, if you love him. There is no desire for things that your brother owns, if you love him. These are just two examples, but you can see that loving your brother causes you to have no desire to do him harm in any way. The lust of the flesh causes sin. The Light of God helps us see things more clearly, and causes us not to lust.

I John 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

Hate is a product of the devil. The devil is in darkness. John 12:35 "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." In the darkness, we cannot see clearly and do not see things that cause us to stumble.

I John 2:12 "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."

This is John stating his reason for writing the letter to them. Their sins are forgiven, so they are Christians. They are sons of God. They are not full grown, because he calls them little children. God forgave us our sins, because Jesus paid our debt. It is in the name of

Jesus that we are forgiven.

I John 2:13 "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father."

When we look at the three this is spoken to, it is the progression of growth in our belief. We come to Christ as little children. We grow to young men as we learn more about God, and are better equipped to resist the devil. Then lastly, we rest as old men in the knowledge of God.

I John 2:14 "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him [that is] from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."

This is very much the same as the verse above. The difference being that the little children are omitted. Those remaining have learned to overcome the devil. They have matured by the study of the Word of God. They are not overcome of the devil, because they are grounded in the Word of God. Again, speaking of fathers is just a further knowing of God.

We see, in this, the growth of the Christian and the knowledge acquired to help live in the Light.

1 John 2 Questions

1. In verse 1, what were the believers in Christ called?
2. If any man sin, we have an _____ with the Father.
3. Who is the advocate?
4. What does the word "advocate" mean?
5. Does this mean it is alright to continue in sin?
6. What does the word "propitiation" mean?
7. Who did He provide forgiveness for?
8. We do know that we know Him, if we do what?
9. What is a Christian?
10. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a _____.
11. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my _____."
12. How can you perfect God's love in you?
13. "Walk", in verse 6, is speaking of what?
14. What is the "commandment" in verse 7?
15. What is the "new commandment"?
16. When you hate your brother, you are walking in _____.
17. What does "abideth" mean?
18. Love is a product of _____.
19. What causes sin?
20. Hate is a product of the _____.
21. Quote John chapter 12 verse 35.
22. Your sins are forgiven you for His _____.
23. Why are father, young men, and children mentioned in verse 13?
24. Why are little children omitted in verse 14?

We will begin this lesson in I John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Christians are in the world, but not of the world. Our home is in heaven. We need to keep our thoughts and desires set on things above. "World" in this example here, is speaking of the sin of the world. It is speaking of worldliness and fleshly lives. Loving the world, in this sense, would be trying to please the desires of our flesh. To love the world, would make us flesh man. Christians should be spirit men. The world and the things of the world are carnal. This does not mean that we cannot enjoy the families God has given us, or the blessings we have received from Him. It does mean that we should not be caught up in worldly living. God must be first in our lives. We should not be hanging on to the world, but should eagerly await our home in heaven with Him.

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."

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are what got Eve into trouble in the garden. She looked, desired, and wanted to be as God. Lust of all kinds fall into the category of flesh and worldliness.

I John 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

We have learned in a previous lesson, that this world will pass away. In fact, we read that it will melt with fervent heat. Even if that were not the case, the world for each person will pass away in approximately 100 years. We are born dying. Death is the sentence of all who do not receive eternal life in Jesus. God is eternal. He shares that eternity with all who believe. To do the will of God means that we have received Jesus as our Saviour, and are living in the salvation He gave us. Jesus is the Quickening Spirit who gives us eternal life. In fact, He is Life. To receive Him means that we receive Life.

I John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

This, again, is speaking of Christians, when it says, little children. The last time indicates the nearness of the coming of Christ. Jesus warned of this very thing in Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect." The appearance of these antichrists is another sign that the coming of Christ is near. The word "antichrist" just means those who are opposed to Christ.

I John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

Many times these false teachers and prophets, who are really

opposed to Christ, pretend to be Christians. These people many times actually come to church and stir up the people. After a time, it is apparent that they are not Christians. It is best, if you discover them, before they do any damage to the other believers. Usually they do not boldly come out against Christ. They just plant doubt in the other believers. One of Satan's favorite statements is, "Did God say". If he can get you questioning, he has won that battle. Be steadfast, unmovable in your belief.

I John 2:20 "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things."

"Unction", in the verse above, means anointing. This would mean an anointing from the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide.

I John 2:21 "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth."

This is a further statement of verse 20. "All things", in verse 20, is spoken of here as Truth. John is writing to the church, and not to the world. Notice the word "know" which is so evident in John's writings. He reminds them that no compromise of the Truth will do.

I John 2:22 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

Anti means against. To deny Jesus brings death to the one who denies. Jesus is Life and Truth. Christ interchanges with Messiah. These that John is speaking to, then are possibly those looking for Messiah, and did not recognize Him in Jesus. To deny the Son, is to deny the Father who sent Him.

I John 2:23 "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."

Jesus said, If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. For there to be a Father there had to be a Son. To deny the Son, would be to deny there was a Father. The Father and the Son are inseparable.

I John 2:24 "Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father."

The pure gospel message that had been brought to them was to be kept at all cost. Let this gospel message live continually {abide} in you. This is simply saying, reject the false message of the antichrist. To hang on to the teachings of Christ, brings the Father and the Son into your life.

I John 2:25 "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, [even] eternal life."

Look, with me, at the promise in the words of Jesus. John 6:47 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 10:28 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand." We see from this that eternal life is in Jesus. To have Him is to possess eternal life.

I John 2:26 "These [things] have I written unto you concerning

them that seduce you."

"Them that seduce you" is speaking of those who are opposed to Christ who with flattering words are trying to draw them away from the Truth. John is writing to them and to us to be aware of these false teachers.

I John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

The "anointing" here, is speaking of the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us which teaches us all Truth. It brings to remembrance the wonderful teachings we have had. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." It is the Holy Ghost that reveals to us all Truth. John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

I John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

Stay with God. Let Christ in you live through you, and there will be no fear of error. The Holy Ghost takes up habitation in those who will receive Him. We will not be ashamed, when we follow the leading of the Spirit of God, and get our flesh under subjection to that Spirit.

I John 2:29 "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."

A Christian, is born again of the Spirit. Our flesh is buried in water baptism, and we rise to new life in Him. This is speaking of Jesus Christ the Righteous. We take on His righteousness.

1 John 3 Questions

1. Love not the _____.
2. Christians are ___ the world, but not ___ the world.
3. What is "world" in verse 15 speaking of?
4. Christians should be _____ men.
5. What are the three things that got Eve in trouble?
6. He that doeth the will of God _____.
7. Verse 18 says, it is what time?
8. What does the last time indicate?
9. Quote Matthew chapter 24 verse 24.
10. What does the word "antichrist" mean?
11. These false teachers pretended to be whom?
12. How do they bring the false message?
13. What is their favorite statement?
14. What does "unction" mean?
15. "All things", in verse 20, are spoken of as what in verse 21?
16. Who is a liar in verse 22?
17. What is another word for Christ?
18. To deny the Son, is to deny the _____ who sent Him.
19. What had been taught them from the beginning?
20. What promise did Jesus make to the believers?
21. Quote John chapter 6 verse 47.
22. Eternal life is in _____.
23. What is the "anointing" in verse 27 speaking of?
24. Quote John chapter 14 verse 26.
25. Who guides us into all truth?
26. How do we know we have His righteousness?

We will begin in I John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

The Love of God for the people of the world is hard to understand. Behold, means stop and notice. The love the Father "bestowed" tells us that we did not earn that love, it was a free gift from God. God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that we might be saved. Jesus paid the price of adoption for us to be adopted children of the Father. Jesus is the only begotten Son. We are sons by adoption. We have been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus. We have been presented to the Father by the Son. The world does not know God. It did not know the Son. It does not recognize us as adopted sons, either.

I John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

This is speaking of the beloved of God. In the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, it speaks of our spiritual body that comes forth from this physical body. We know that God is a Spirit. We, also, know that Jesus is the Quickening Spirit. We will be like Him, in the fact that we will no longer be flesh and blood, but will have a spiritual body. This, also, speaks of a great knowledge of God that will come upon us when we leave this physical body and go to heaven in our spiritual body. Jesus is the Son of God, and we will be sons of God. These are things of God that we do know. There are many things that will not be revealed unto us, until we are in heaven with Him. The eyes of our understanding will no longer be darkened. We shall have our eyes of understanding opened, and know, and understand Him. I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

I John 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

The hope, spoken of here, is the hope of the resurrection. The Christian should not put too much value on this world, but on the world to come. Christians should endeavor to be more Christ-like every day. Notice, it is in the will of man to purify himself. If our Leader {Jesus} is pure, then we must attempt to be pure, also.

I John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

This does not specifically mean the old Mosaic law. This is that law that God has placed in the heart of the believer. Anything we do in disobedience to God, is sin. The law of God for the Christian is to love God with everything within us, and to love our neighbor as ourself. If we do that, we will be pleasing God. To live in sin, is to turn away from God.

I John 3:5 "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

Jesus was completely without sin. He had never sinned. His body

had no broken bones. He was the Lamb without blemish. He took our sin upon His sinless body. Our sin died on the cross. Our sins are not covered, they are done away with by the blood of Jesus. He gave us His righteousness.

I John 3:6 "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."

"Abideth" means to continually live. If we are hidden in Christ, we do not sin. The desire to sin is taken away from us, if we are in Him and Him in us. The following Scripture shows us how it is possible for us to live this life. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Christ would no longer live in me, if I walk back into a sinful way of life. We are not in Him and Him in us, if we desire to live in sin.

I John 3:7 "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

This is just saying, to walk in the righteousness He has provided for us daily.

I John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

Committeth means continues to commit. Jesus defeated sin, and the devil, on the cross. Christians, who have put their faith in Jesus, are no longer to serve sin. Sin is not our master, neither is the devil controlling us. We have been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. We are servant of the Lord Jesus and His righteousness. Those who desire to continue in sin, do not belong to God, they belong to the devil.

I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

This does not mean that it is impossible for you to commit a sin. It means it is not your nature to sin, when you have been born again in the spirit. When Christ takes up His dwelling place within you, the desire to sin is gone. This is speaking of the new birth, when we bury the flesh man and raise the spirit man in Christ.

I John 3:10 " In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

The walk we take through life, reveals to the world whether we belong to the devil, or to God. God created everyone of us, and His desire was that we would all be His. He gave us a free will, however, and some chose to follow the devil, instead of God. The fruit we bear reveals who we are. People who habitually sin are of the devil. Those who choose not to sin are of God. This does not mean that a Christian might not commit a single sin, it means that is not their way of life.

I John 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

It is one of the 2 things Jesus said covered all the law and prophets, to love others. Love of God and love of neighbors covers it

all. We may not like what they are doing, but we must love them.

I John 3:12 "Not as Cain, [who] was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

The two brothers, Cain and Abel, typify the two conditions of man. Abel pleased God, and Cain did not. We see the good and evil in the first two sons of Adam and Eve. One followed God, and the other lived for the flesh.

1 John 4 Questions

1. What are the Christians called in verse 1?
2. Why does the world know us not?
3. What does the word "bestowed" show us?
4. Jesus is the only begotten Son, we are sons by _____.
5. When He shall appear, we shall be _____.
6. We shall see Him as ____.
7. What does the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians say about our body?
8. What are some of the things we do know about death?
9. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 9.
10. What is the hope of the Christian?
11. Because we have this hope, what should we do?
12. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth the _____.
13. What law is this speaking of?
14. What is the law for the Christian?
15. Who was the Lamb without blemish?
16. What happened to our sin, if we are Christians?
17. What does "abideth" mean?
18. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
19. What name are the Christians called by in verse 7?
20. He that committeth sin is of the _____.
21. Whosoever is born of God doth not _____.
22. How can the general public tell who is of God?
23. What is the message that we heard from the beginning?
24. Which of Adam's sons was evil?
25. What do the two sons of Adam typify?

We will begin this lesson in I John 3:13 "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

It is not a thing to be concerned about, if the world hates you, Christian. They hated Jesus {our Leader}, and they will hate us, also. The real reason they hate us, is because we remind them of the life they are living. Their guilt comes before them more, when they are around those who are trying to live right. We are not of the world. We are a separated people. Christians are even spoken of as peculiar. This means peculiar to the world.

I John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother abideth in death."

One of the evident signs of being a Christian, is the fact that we love other Christians. Hate and greed rule the worldly people. Love and sharing is of the Christian. Hate brings death. Love brings life.

I John 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

Hate and murder go hand in hand. Hate leads to murder. If you do not carry the murder out, you have already committed it in your heart, if you hate.

I John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren."

"Perceive" goes beyond just seeing. It has with it an understanding. Greater love hath no man, than He lay down His life for His friends. Jesus gave it all, because of His great love for us. His love is God love, which none of us can quite live up to. We can pattern our love after the example He left us. We must learn to love, not because of what we can get out of something, but in spite of what it might cost us. Unselfish love should be the character of all Christians.

I John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels [of compassion] from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

This is just saying, we should show our love by being compassionate to those who have a need. If someone is hungry, we should feed them. If someone is cold, we should clothe them. If they have no place to sleep, we should furnish them a bed. If we have the love of God within us, we will share with those who have need.

I John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

Just talking about helping someone will not help them. We must reach in our pocket and help them, if we can. We must act out what we believe about helping others.

I John 3:19 "And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him."

Truth and God are interchangeable here. We know we will have no regrets, if when we stand before God, we have acted out the faith that we say we have. Our heart will not condemn us, if we know we have done the best we can by everyone.

I John 3:20 "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

Sometimes we feel guilty about not helping someone when we really could not, and should not do it. Sometimes we blame ourselves when there should be no blame placed. We cannot, and should not, help everyone that asks. We should pray and ask God what to do. God knows much better than we do what was right.

I John 3:21 "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, [then] have we confidence toward God."

This is just saying, we have a clear conscience. The very thing that was never settled, when a person sacrificed for sin in the Old Testament, was that their conscience was never clear. The sin was covered, not done away with. Jesus abolished our sin, and gave us a clear conscience. If we know in our heart that we have done the right thing, then we can stand before Jesus on judgement day with a clear conscience.

I John 3:22 "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

The Scripture above and the following Scripture, lets us know, if we are right with God. He is listening for our prayer and will answer it. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." We are His children, and He will grant us the desires of our heart. Psalms 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Here is just one more promise to those who belong to Jesus. John 15:7 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." To be in right standing with God brings answers to our prayers.

I John 3:23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."

Look, with me, in the following Scriptures, and see what believing will get you. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Everyone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has been given permission to use His name to pray to the Father. Notice this type of praying in the following verses. John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:13 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:14 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it]."

I John 3:24 "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in

him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Look, with me, at the grouping of Scriptures which says this so well. John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 15:7 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" John 14:17 "[Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

1 John 5 Questions

1. Marvel not, if the world _____ .
2. Why do they hate us?
3. Why do we know we have turned from death to life?
4. He that loveth not his brother, abideth in _____ .
5. Hate and greed rule the _____ people.
6. Love brings _____ .
7. Whosoever hateth his brother is a _____ .
8. What does "perceive" mean?
9. Greater love hath no man, than that He lay down His life for _____ .
10. _____ love should be the character of all Christians.
11. If someone is hungry, we should _____ .
12. Let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in _____ and in _____ .
13. Quote 1 John chapter 3 verse 20.
14. What do you think it means?
15. Verse 21 is just saying, we have a clear _____ .
16. Why do we receive whatever we ask of Him?
17. Quote James chapter 5 verse 16.
18. Quote John chapter 15 verse 7.
19. What is His commandment to us?
20. Quote Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10.
21. What name must we use to pray and get results?
22. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will _____ .
23. Who is the Comforter?

I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

"Beloved", of course, is speaking to Christians then and now. There has never been a time in history when there were more strange doctrines being taught than right now. It is the obligation of believers to determine for themselves, whether the message being taught is of God or not. The only way for us to be qualified to judge the message is to know the Bible. We must search the Scriptures diligently to know the truth. The devil is a counterfeit. The false messages being brought forth are very close to truth. They just change a word here and there, and change the meaning. One of the most recent tricks being brought forth by the devil in the church, is a watering down of Jesus to where He is not God. Another terrible teaching that is making the rounds, is that Jesus did not become God, until He rose from the grave. This is blasphemy. Jesus was the Word of God in heaven. He was there from the beginning. He is the Eternal One. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is Eternal God the Word. To teach that the devil, or his demons, ever had any control over Jesus is also a lie. Jesus was not forced to die on the cross. He gave His life willingly. His flesh was the only thing that died on the cross. From the cross, He {Jesus} dismissed His Spirit from His body, and commanded it to go to the Father. Jesus was Eternal Spirit in the body of flesh. Anyone who believes Jesus to be less than God, is teaching a false doctrine.

I John 4:2 "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:"

To confess Jesus as the Christ {Messiah}, the Anointed One, is to have Him as your Saviour. This, to me, is saying, we must believe that the Word of God took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. He was not a man, He was just housed in the body of a man here on the earth. Inside that flesh, dwelt the Spirit of God. He was Emmanuel {God with us}. Notice, also, that people like you and me are spirits, as well. The part of us that contains life is our spirit. God had made a clay doll in the beginning from the dust of the earth. We were mere vacant houses of flesh. God breathed the breath of life in us, and we were alive. He then gave us the ability to choose good and evil when He made us living souls. We must know who Jesus is, before we can have faith in Him for salvation. Man's blood {or an animal's blood} cannot cleanse you from all unrighteousness. The blood of God cleanses us from our sins. The blood of a child comes from the Father. God the Holy Spirit hovered over Mary, and she conceived of God. Mary furnished the body. It was not Mary's blood that flowed through that body, but God's. We must believe Jesus to be God manifest in the flesh to be saved.

I John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

The terrible thing is that many churches teach that Jesus was nothing more than a man when He walked on the earth. You can easily see this is a dangerous message to bring. We cannot think of Jesus as just another man. He is divine in nature. The divinity of Christ has

been a question for years. That is what separates the true believers from those who would be against Christ. The true believers believe Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. Even to believe He became God at resurrection, would be classified as those opposed to God. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" This alone, makes you know He is deity.

I John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

John is writing this to true Christians {children of God}. The He that is in us is Christ. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." With Christ in me, I can do all things. It is Christ in me that overcomes the enemy.

I John 4:5 "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them."

The they, spoken of here, are those who follow after the flesh. They are caught up in the world. They have no hope, because they base everything they believe on what they can see with their eyes. They have eyes to see, and they do not see, and ears to hear, and they hear not. They place their faith in this world and its trappings.

I John 4:6 "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

Christians will receive this message that John and the other true apostles are bringing. Christians have ears to hear, and they hear.

I John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

Since the importance of love is the subject here, He says beloved. We Christians are the beloved of God. One of the main things that separates the Christians from the world, is the great love that we have for our brothers and sisters in Christ. God not only loves, but is love itself. When we are born of God, we are born of His love. To explain the love of God for us would be like trying to explain life itself. The word "loveth" means continues to love. One of the great things I believe about the United States, is the fact that we are concerned about the problems of people of every race. When there is famine, we try to help. When there is a devastating earthquake, we try to help. We are a loving caring nation. That makes me believe there is still hope for our nation to come back to God, and be the Christian nation we started out to be.

I John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

When you find a person filled with hate, you know that he, or she, has never experienced that great unselfish love that God has for each of us. There is a need in every person to be loved. Some have never realized that anyone loves them. When you find a person in this condition, if you can make them understand that God loves them, they will change.

I John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us,

because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

God loved all of mankind, one at a time from the very beginning. If He did not, why would He have bothered to create us in the first place? The greatest love ever shown was the love of God for us, when He sent His only begotten Son to save us from our sin and from ourselves. Truly our life is hidden in Jesus. Jesus is eternal Life. If we have Jesus, we have eternal Life.

I John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins."

The strangest and most wonderful part of this is that, He loved us when we were totally unlovable. We were yet in sin, when God sent His Son to save us. He did not wait until we had cleaned up our lives to save us. He saved us, and then helped us clean up our lives. We not only did not love God, we did not know that He loved us. Propitiation, in this verse, means atonement. In other words, He paid the penalty for our sins in full. We have no debt to pay. Our bill is marked paid in full. The great love of God for man is made real to us in this.

I John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

God taught us by example the unselfish love that we need to have for each other. If the world today needs one thing, it is love. Take the time to hug someone and say you love them today. Let the love that God has showed you shine through you and make someone else's life a little brighter. DO NOT CONFUSE LOVE WITH LUST. When you hug someone, make sure it is love, and not lust, you are feeling.

I John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

We know that no one can look upon the face of God and live. Moses came the closest, when he saw the back side of God as He passed by. We see God by looking at Jesus, who is the image of the Father. Jesus told the disciples, if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father. This just meant that the Spirit of God dwelled within Him. Jesus was the manifestation of the Godhead on the earth. When we are full of God's love, we are full of Jesus. The more full of Jesus we are, the more love we have for others.

I John 4:13 "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."

When Jesus went to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to dwell within each of us. The fact that we have the Spirit within us, tells us that He has never left us. Romans 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

I John 4:14 "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world."

The purpose of the presence of God in the form of flesh on the earth, was for the salvation of all mankind. Jesus, who was the Word of God in heaven, took on the form of flesh as the Son of God to save us. He took on the name, Jesus, because it means Saviour. He is our Saviour and our Lord.

I John 4:15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

I have used them so much that I will not quote them here, but the greatest verification of this Scripture is in Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10. Another wonderful Scripture on this is Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." This is in the very words of Jesus Himself. There is no question, when we confess. Confess is to tell a truth. We know in our heart, and confess with our mouth as verification that we are full of Jesus.

I John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Our families and friends may turn against us, but we know that God loves us. We need never be lonely or blue, we have the love of God filling us. This is not just an occasional love, but a love that is forever. If we are filled with God's love to this extent, it should spring forth from us to others we are in contact with. There is such a peace and comfort that comes, knowing that God's love is always there.

I John 4:17 "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

To know this love gives us perfect confidence to stand before the Judge of the world on judgement day. Perfect love knows no fear. Fear is the opposite of faith. When this love and faith becomes more and more, we become more like Jesus every day. The world will be able to see Jesus in us, when this happens.

I John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

It is impossible to please God, if we fear. Fear is of the devil. Faith is of God. When we are overwhelmed by the love of God for us and our love for God, there is no place for fear. If God loves us, He will take care of us. We have nothing to fear. Those who are overcome with fear, have not experienced that perfect peace that comes from the perfection of our love for God and His love for us.

I John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."

He taught us how to love when He showed us by example. He loved us, and showed us how to love Him.

I John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

When I see this Scripture, I remember what Jesus said. Inasmuch as ye have done it for the least of these, ye have done it unto me. We cannot express our love for God directly, except in praise. We cannot buy dinner for Jesus. We can, however, buy dinner for someone who is hungry in the name of Jesus. To express our love for God, we must express it through His children. When we love our brothers on the earth, we are in turn loving Jesus who made them.

I John 4:21 "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

When we are filled with the love of God, it proceeds from us. Whoever we are near, gets the blessings of that overflowing love. Love and hate are opposites and cannot dwell in the same place. It is impossible to hate, when we are consumed with God's love. We love all of God's creation, and that includes the brothers.

1 John 6 Questions

1. Beloved, believe not every _____.
2. Try the spirits whether they are of _____.
3. Why should we do this?
4. Who are the "beloved" in verse 1?
5. Who is the obligation on to determine whether the message is of God, or not?
6. What makes us qualified to judge the message?
7. What are some of the names that let us know the eternity of Jesus?
8. What, about Jesus, died on the cross?
9. Jesus was Eternal _____ in the _____ of flesh.
10. Quote 1 John chapter 4 verse 2.
11. What are some other names for Christ?
12. What name makes us know He was God with us?
13. Whose blood flowed through Jesus' body?
14. What is the spirit that denies Christ called?
15. What is the nature of Jesus?
16. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.
17. What are the Christians called in verse 4?
18. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
19. What do the people of the world believe?
20. Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of _____.
21. God is _____.
22. How was God's love manifested to mankind?
23. Do not confuse love with _____.
24. _____ hath seen God at any time.
25. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 9.
26. The Father sent the Son to be the _____ of the world.
27. What does the name Jesus mean?
28. What gives us perfect confidence on judgement day?
29. There is no _____ in love.
30. What is the opposite of fear?
31. Why do we love Him?
32. If a man say he love God and hate his brother, he is a _____.
33. It is impossible to hate, when we are consumed with God's _____.

We will begin this lesson in I John 5:1 "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him."

To truly believe in Jesus, brings new birth in Him. To be filled with Jesus is, also, to be filled with His love. To have this special kind of God love dwelling within you, would cause you to love all of God's creation. If we truly love God in our hearts and are filled with Him, then we love all of our brothers in Christ.

I John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments."

Look, with me, at some Scriptures that Jesus spoke Himself about this very thing. John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:35 "By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." The completeness of the commandments that Jesus gave to all of us were caught up in the one word, love. He said love God first, and then love your neighbor as yourself. His commandment is love.

I John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

There is perfect peace and rest in the Lord, when we keep His commandments. There is no fear, when there is perfect faith. Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:30 "For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light." II John 1:6 "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."

I John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith."

We know that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Look, with me, at the definition of what faith is. Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We live in a "show me" generation. To please God, we must believe in our heart in the love of God, which we cannot see with our physical eye. The love of God, even though we cannot see it with our physical eye, is more real than anything else. Our very life is determined by believing in salvation through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When we bury our flesh in water baptism, and rise to new life in Jesus, we have been born of the Spirit. We are no longer flesh, but spirit. The victory over this world is when the world becomes unimportant in our life, and we are living to the day when we can go home to heaven and be with Jesus. Christians are in this world, but not of this world. We are dead to fleshly desires of this world, and are putting our faith and trust in Jesus.

I John 5:5 "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. He defeated sin, as well. If I

have received Jesus, then Jesus in me has overcome the world and Satan. I am no longer in a battle against Satan. I am living in the victory of Jesus.

I John 5:6 "This is he that came by water and blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth."

I believe the water and blood, spoken of here, has to do with the piercing of His side by the soldier, and the water and blood came gushing forth. John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." Water, also, symbolizes the Word of God. The blood seals the covenant. The Spirit bearing witness is the Holy Spirit. We could, also, look at the Way, Truth, and Life. These are symbolized also by the water, Spirit, and blood.

I John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

The fact that they are One is in the Spirit. They are of one mind and accord. The manifestations of that One Spirit are Father, Word, and Holy Ghost. The name of Jesus, in heaven was the Word of God. The Father is like the great Architect. The Word is creator God. The Holy Ghost functions as Teacher and Guide. Each have a purpose. All are God. Each is co-equal with the other. When you see Elohim, or El, for the name of God, it is speaking of the plurality of God. Jesus means Jehovah Saviour. Many times when you see Lord, it means Jehovah. When you see LORD, it means El, or Elohim. This Scripture above has puzzled people through the ages, but I believe that we should look more from the spiritual standpoint to understand what it is saying. Jesus said He and the Father were One, but at His baptism all three were present. Jesus was being baptized, the Father was the voice that came from heaven and said this is my beloved Son. The Holy Ghost was symbolized by the dove that lit on Jesus. I would not get into an argument over their oneness except to say, I believe they are one in the Spirit, as we are one with Jesus in the Spirit when we believe. We look at an egg and we say, behold an egg. Really that egg consists of shell, white and yellow, but they all three are an egg. It is difficult to separate the Father, Word and Holy Ghost, other than their purpose. Believe completely in your heart, and you will not go too far wrong.

I John 5:8 "And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

We see three totally different things which are of the same purpose. Notice, the unity is in their agreement. All three are necessary to be Christians. Each has its separate function, however. Jesus did not just come by water, but by blood, as well. The Spirit, here, is speaking of the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of the risen Christ.

I John 5:9 "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son."

Man's witness is in part, because of the limited knowledge he has. The witness of God is in power and operating with full knowledge. The witness of God was when the voice came from heaven and called Jesus His Son. This happened at the baptism of Jesus, and again, at the transfiguration. Men can speak all kind of glowing reports of things Jesus has done, but when the voice comes from heaven and calls

Jesus Son, it leaves no doubt who He is. Jesus is actually man's only contact with the reality of God. He represents God to mankind and mankind to God the Father.

I John 5:10 "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

God said that Jesus was His Son when the voice came from heaven. To deny this witness, would be to deny God altogether. It would be as if we were calling Him a liar. When we believe in Jesus, the witness becomes alive within us. The witness within us is a knowing that Jesus is the Son of God, as the Father said from heaven.

I John 5:11 "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

This does not mean that we will inherit eternal life sometime in the future, but that it is ours now. Jesus is Eternal Life. To have Jesus, means you possess eternal life. This Life, spoken of here, is in Jesus. John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Colossians 3:4 "When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

I John 5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Jesus is Life, as we read earlier in this series of lessons. To have Jesus means we have life everlasting. Hebrews 3:14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;" Colossians 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." To deny Jesus brings death.

I John 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

The name of the Son of God, of course, is Jesus. There is power in that name. John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:" John 20:31 "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." The name Jesus means Saviour. To believe on the name Jesus means you believe there is salvation in the name.

I John 5:14 "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"

When we have confidence in Him, it means that we know He will do what He has promised. My favorite Scriptures pertaining to this are in the 14 chapter of John beginning with the 12th verse. We need to look at the following Scripture to see that everything we pray for may not happen, and the reason it won't happen. James 4:3 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts." When we pray, we must pray for the things that are beneficial. Be careful what you pray for, you might get it. Prayer has great power when coupled with faith. The power of prayer is in the name of Jesus.

I John 5:15 "And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

To know means that we have faith in it happening. It is very important to believe that you receive the thing you are praying for. It is your faith that is the key to getting prayers answered. Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them]." When Jesus healed the sick, He said; your faith has made you whole.

I John 5:16 "If any man see his brother sin a sin [which is] not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

The sin, here, I believe is when a man totally rejects the salvation in the Lord Jesus. God will not overrule the will of the person being prayed for. The prayer of intercession is a powerful prayer. It is an unselfish prayer for others. It is in the will of God to save all of mankind. The unselfish prayer, prayed by someone who firmly believes, will be answered, if the person being prayed for has not totally turned against God. In the book of James, we read James 5:14 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:" James 5:15 "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." We see from this, that it is correct to pray for the sins of others to be forgiven. The only time this would not be answered, would be if the person had totally rejected salvation in Jesus Christ. You cannot give a person something that they will not take.

I John 5:17 "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."

We see in the following Scripture in Jesus' own words that sins will be forgiven. The only one that will not is the sin against the Holy Ghost, which I believe is dying not believing in Jesus Christ. Matthew 12:31 "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy [against] the [Holy] Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."

I John 5:18 "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

The we, in the verse above, is John and all believers in Christ. To be born of God means that we are a new creature in Christ. Christ is sinless. If we are allowing Christ to live in us and through us, we will be free of sin, as well. Notice, there is an effort that we must make not to sin {keepeth himself}. When we are living with Christ in us, the blood of Jesus Christ keeps the enemy from us.

I John 5:19 "[And] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

The Christian is to live a separated life away from the sin of the world. The world around us is more wicked today than it has ever been before in history. We must not get caught up in this sin that surrounds us.

I John 5:20 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the

true God, and eternal life."

Here, again, we see the statement "we know". This leaves no doubt. We know Jesus is the Son of God. We have accepted that as fact. We know, also, that eyes of understanding have been opened to the knowledge of the Son of God. The world has eyes to see, but they do not see. We know the Word of God to be True. We know that eternal Life is in Jesus. We, Christians, know what we believe and are eager to tell others who will believe. Jesus is speaking to believers in the next verse. Matthew 13:11 "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." II Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

I John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

We have mentioned before, that idols mean nothings. They are of no value at all. II Corinthians 6:16 "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

1 John 7 Questions

1. Who is born of God in verse 1?
2. To be filled with Jesus is to be filled with His _____.
3. Quote 1 John chapter 5 verse 2.
4. What was the new commandment Jesus gave in John chapter 13 verses 34 and 35?
5. Quote Matthew chapter 11 verse 28.
6. My yoke is _____, and my burden is _____.
7. Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the _____.
8. What is faith?
9. When do we know we have victory over this world?
10. Who is he that overcometh the world?
11. This is He that came by _____ and _____, even Jesus Christ.
12. What bears witness?
13. What does the author believe the water and blood, in verse 6, to be?
14. Water symbolizes the _____ of _____.
15. Who are the three that bear record in heaven?
16. How are they One?
17. What was the name of Jesus in heaven?
18. How does the name Elohim differ from the name Jehovah?
19. What did the dove at the baptism of Jesus symbolize?
20. What are the three that bear witness in the earth?
21. What is their unity in?
22. What is the greater witness?
23. Jesus is actually man's only contact with the _____ of God.
24. Life is in whom?
25. Quote John chapter 1 verse 4.
26. Quote Collosians chapter 3 verse 4.
27. How do you know you have eternal life?
28. Quote John chapter 1 verse 12.
29. Quote James chapter 4 verse 3.
30. Is it right to pray for others sins to be forgiven? Explain.
31. All unrighteousness is _____.
32. What does the author believe to be the sin against the Holy Ghost?
33. To be born of God means what?
34. Little children, keep yourselves from _____.
35. What is the temple of God?

We will begin this lesson by looking into the person this letter was written to. We know that John, the apostle, was the author of this letter. There are three different opinions who this letter was written to. I will touch on all three and see if any of them agree with what you believe. Some believe this letter was written to a lady in John's time. Some believe this is written to a lady in our time. There are others that believe this was written to the church. They may all be right. Scriptures are many faceted. The message is the important thing more than who it was written to. I would tend to believe this is a personal letter from John to a Christian lady he knew.

We will begin now in II John 1:1 "The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;"

The elder, in the verse above, is John. The elect lady {whoever she is} is someone or group that believes in the Lord. The word "elect" tells us that. The children are not spoken of as elect. It, perhaps, was like Noah and his sons. Noah pleased God, but the blessing came through Noah to his sons. It appears that John knew this lady and her family personally. He even speaks of loving them. This seems to be a woman who had Christian influence, because it speaks of others loving her, who loved the Lord.

II John 1:2 "For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever."

We know that "truth" in the verse above, is speaking of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus does dwell within the believer, and He will never leave us, or forsake us. He is with us even unto the end.

II John 1:3 "Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love."

John was known as the apostle of love. Love is the theme in all of his writings. John is speaking a blessing from the Father and the Lord Jesus on this lady and her family. This is perfectly alright for an apostle to do. She was undoubtedly of great value to the church, even though her name is not mentioned. Stephen was not very well known in the Bible, but was one of the first martyrs. It is not necessary for someone to be named in the Bible to be of great value to God and the church.

II John 1:4 "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."

Notice that this family was not a Christian in name only, but were walking the Christian life every day. The fact that they were living their Christianity greatly pleased John. Probably, this was a family whom John had influenced. We are all commanded of God to live upright lives. In fact, if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

II John 1:5 "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another."

It seems each minister has a message that is uppermost. John was no exception. He based love very high on the list. First John has a great deal to say about the commandment of God to love Him and our fellow man. It is not new for John to bring up the subject of love.

II John 1:6 "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."

My own way of expressing this is, that we must walk in the salvation the Lord has provided for us. Jesus said; If you love me, you will keep my commandments. The commandments He was speaking of were in the next Scriptures. Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment." Matthew 22:39 "And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:40 "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." If we were to sum up these two commandments in just one word, it would be love. Walk in love to God and man.

II John 1:7 "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

These deceivers are probably leaders with a false doctrine who are trying to lead others astray. A "deceiver" would be pretending to be a Christian, when in reality he is opposed to God. Anyone who does not believe Jesus to be Messiah, and in fact, believes that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, is of the spirit of the antichrist. They are opposed to the truth of Christ.

II John 1:8 "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

He is saying, be careful to stay with the true gospel you learned from the beginning. The main message is to gird up the loins of the mind, and do not listen and believe a false message. The danger would be in falling away from God.

II John 1:9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

This is saying, to have the truth and lose it would be very bad. This means that we must guard the Truth. We must continually dwell in the Truth of Christ. We must not let our salvation slip away believing a lie. He that endures until the end shall be saved. We must guard the gospel message, as it was first given to us. Remain saved, after you get saved.

II John 1:10 "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed:"

Our mind is like a computer. The things we hear are recorded in our brain. We should not listen to a false message at all. If you invite these people in, you will remember some of the things they say. The best policy is do not let them in your house. To wish them God speed would be blessing them and their false message. Just get rid of them is the best policy. Do it with Christian compassion, but get rid of them.

II John 1:11 "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

To wish them God speed would be saying, you approved of their message. You could see that would be an error.

II John 1:12 "Having many things to write unto you, I would not [write] with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."

This is just saying, that he will not write more, but will come to see her when he can. This lady is someone John enjoyed being around. Perhaps, she and her family had been part of John's spiritual family.

II John 1:13 "The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen."

The greeting from a Christian lady near unto John to this lady the letter was written to, speaks of her children. This tells us that both the lady who the greeting is from, and the lady the letter was addressed to, had children. They were not nuns, but mothers. Many married women led their families to the knowledge of God.

2 John 1 Questions

1. Who are the three possibilities this letter could have been written to?
2. Who does the author tend to believe it was written to?
3. Who is the elder in verse 1?
4. How was the person addressed that the letter was written to?
5. Were her children spoken of as elect?
6. Who does John say loves this lady?
7. What does the word "elect" tell us?
8. What is the "truth" speaking of in verse 2?
9. What was the blessing John spoke on the lady?
10. John was known as the apostle of _____.
11. What is the theme in all of John's writings?
12. What explanation is given of the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 3?
13. What condition had John found her children in?
14. If we love Him, we will keep His _____.
15. What was the commandment, from the beginning?
16. Verse 6 says, what is love?
17. Quote Matthew chapter 22 verses 37 through 40.
18. Who are those that confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh?
19. What warning did he give them in verse 8?
20. We must _____ in the doctrine of Christ.
21. What harsh instruction are we given regarding listening to false doctrines, in verse 10.
22. If you wish the evil one God speed, what have you done?
23. What does the word "children" tell us about the elect lady?

We will begin this letter written by John in III John 1:1 "The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth."

We find this letter to be a personal letter written by John to his friend Gaius. Notice, he is a friend that John loves very much. The reason that John thinks so much of him is because he, also, is a student of truth. To be in the truth, it would have to be part of you.

III John 1:2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

John's wish for Gaius to prosper has a condition on it. He knows that his soul is prospering, and John wants him blessed to that extent. Good clean living brings good health many times. Some of the diseases that we have, we bring on ourselves with the type of life we live. This is not always the case, but is true many times. For instance, look at the problems the doctors have discovered that smoking cigarettes has brought. Another good example is the disease A.I.D.S. Not all cases are brought about by drug use and by homosexual activity, but by far the majority of the cases are. At least we can cut down our chances for these diseases by good clean living.

III John 1:3 "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."

It seems that John has received a glowing report of Gaius walking true to the gospel message every day. We see from this that Gaius, indeed, is prospering in his soul. His daily walk bears out his faith in the truth.

III John 1:4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

This does not mean that this is the physical son of John. It more probably is someone who John has led to Christ. He is a spiritual son of John. I can testify, that there is no greater joy than to know someone you have led to the Lord is walking in the salvation they received.

III John 1:5 "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;"

It seems that Gaius was filled with hospitality for all the Christian brothers, whether they were strangers to him, or not. He was faithfully carrying out the commandment to love God and his fellow man.

III John 1:6 "Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:"

When Gaius stands before the Lord Jesus on judgement day, he will hear Him say, "Well done thy good and faithful servant". Jesus will remind Gaius that what he had done to the least of these he had done for Jesus also, because he did it in love of the brethren. This brother shared what he had with those less fortunate than himself.

III John 1:7 "Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles."

Gaius had helped them and it was not necessary for them to live of those who were not believers. This has to be speaking of missionaries that went to carry the gospel message to the lost world. It seems Gaius' part in this was to furnish them with funds for food and care.

III John 1:8 "We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth."

The person who supplies the support for the missionary is just as involved in the missionary task, as the one who actually goes with the message. Gaius will get a missionary's reward. The one who furnishes the funds is actually a fellowhelper with the missionary.

III John 1:9 "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not."

We see the opposite of Gaius in Diotrephas. He is a very selfish man, who wants all of the authority in the church. It is very difficult for me to believe that anyone would refuse John the privilege to come to their church. You ministers today, who have been refused the privilege to preach at a specific church, can take consolation in this.

III John 1:10 "Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the church."

It seems that this Diotrephas had some position of authority in the church, because he had thrown some members out of the church if they disagreed with him. He had idly babbled malicious things about John in the church. It seemed he did not want the Christian brothers to come to the church, and he went so far as to throw the members out who welcomed other Christian brothers. This is pure jealousy, which has no place in the church. It seems John has talked to Diotrephas privately about his problem. He has sent others to speak to him and since none of this worked. John will expose him to the whole church when he comes, and it may be his turn to be thrown out. John had great authority in the early church and this Diotrephas would have to listen to whatever reprimand John had for him.

III John 1:11 "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

John does not specifically mention Diotrephas, but that is probably who John says not to follow here. This is another explanation that men are what their daily lives are. If they live evil lives, they are not of God. If they live good wholesome lives, loving their neighbors and God, they are Christians.

III John 1:12 "Demetrius hath good report of all [men], and of the truth itself: yea, and we [also] bear record; and ye know that our record is true."

Demetrius had to be the one who brought this letter. He was a trusted Christian. He lived before other Christian in such a way that they all knew he was a Christian. John is standing good for Demetrius.

John is giving him a good personal reference here. Demetrius stood up for the truth. John reminds them of his own character here, when he tells them that his report is true.

III John 1:13 "I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:"

John explains that there was no need to write more, because he was coming to see them, and he would tell them then.

III John 1:14 "But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace [be] to thee. [Our] friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."

This is a typical closing to John's letter. He promises to come and see them real soon. When you have Jesus, you have the peace which passes understanding. He includes all the believers, when he speaks of friends in his greeting.

3 John 1 Questions

1. Who was this letter written to?
2. What was John's feelings toward them?
3. What kind of letter would this be classed as?
4. How could you be in the truth?
5. John wished that he would _____ and be in good _____.
6. He wanted him to prosper as his _____ prospered.
7. What are some diseases we bring upon ourselves?
8. What caused John to rejoice greatly?
9. Quote 3 John chapter 1 verse 4.
10. Is Gaius John's real son?
11. It seems that Gaius was filled with _____ to the brothers in Christ.
12. What really good trait did verse 6 say he had?
13. What will Gaius hear Jesus say on judgement day?
14. Who did the missionaries not have to take help from, because of Gaius' generosity?
15. The person who supplies the funds for the missionary is a _____ with the missionary.
16. Who was the man causing the trouble in the church?
17. What was his problem?
18. What had Diotrephas done against John?
19. What will John do, about this situation when he comes?
20. He that doeth good is of _____.
21. Who brought this letter?
22. What kind of a person was Demetrius?
23. Who, besides John, sent a greeting?

We find there is much controversy over this little book. We find several opinions of who this Jude, or Judas is. There was an apostle, named Judas, other than Judas Iscariot who was numbered with the apostles. There is a Judas who was the brother of James, as well. He would have been the half-brother of Jesus. He, like James, had not believed Jesus to be Messiah until after Jesus rose from the dead. I would not be able to say of certain which Jude wrote this letter, but I personally believe it to be by the half-brother of Jesus.

Jude 1:1 "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, [and] called:"

One thing is cleared up here. We now know that Jude was the brother of James. Some would say, which James? Then we would be back to a guessing game again. It really does not matter who this Jude is. The message is the important thing. We would call this a general letter, because it was addressed to the sanctified of God the Father, who include Christians of all ages. How wonderful to have the assurance that we are kept in the Lord Jesus Christ. The name Jude, or Judas, was a common name among the Jewish people. The brothers of Jesus would have been terribly humbled by the fact that they lived with Jesus without really realizing He was Messiah, until after His resurrection. This statement seems to be from some one who is humbled by the fact of who Jesus is. "Sanctified", as we have said before, means made holy, or set aside for God's purpose. All believers are preserved in Christ. The devil cannot take them away from Jesus. Called means those who God called.

Jude 1:2 "Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."

This greeting is a blessing spoken on the called of God. Peter is the only one of the other writers who prayed the blessings would be multiplied. The love added to the blessing is as if it is said by John. I believe all these great men of God had great influence on this Jude.

Jude 1:3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Salvation is a common thing. It is received by everyone the very same way, by simple belief in Jesus. We find in this that something happened that cause Jude to find it necessary to write this letter. The message is a simple one. Do whatever is necessary to expose yourself to the salvation message. This is a letter begging them to seek out salvation. Do not let it slip you by. The message had been given early on to the saints. Jude does not want anything to happen to cause them to miss the opportunity of salvation. He explains it is simple to receive and is for everyone who will.

Jude 1:4 "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Even at this early stage of the Christian movement, there were

those who were bringing in messages that were not true. We see these evil men had crept in unaware to those in charge. They were of the devil, and they were intent in turning people away from the truth to believe a lie. Just because someone sits on the pew next to you in church, does not mean they are godly. Sometimes they are sent there by the devil himself to bring false teachings in the church and to damage the gospel message. These evil men had brought sin into the church. They had even gone so far as to declare the Lord Jesus Christ not to be God in the flesh. They really were denying the Father and the Son.

Jude 1:5 "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not."

He is reminding them that just because they were saved, does not mean they can do anything they want to, and still be saved. He is giving as an example, the Israelites {God's people} who he delivered from Egypt {world}. They were delivered, but started complaining and doubting that God would take them to the promised land. God made them wander in the wilderness 40 years, until those who had doubted died. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. It does not matter whether it is the Israelites on their way to their promised land, or believers in Christ who are on their way to their promised land. We do know there will be some, who stand before Jesus on judgment day who will profess to be Christians, who Jesus will tell to get away from Him, He never knew them. We must walk in the salvation we receive to inherit heaven. Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Jude 1:6 " And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

The word "kept" in the verse above is tereo, which means to guard, or keep an eye upon. The word "reserved" here, is translated from the same word that was translated kept in the verse above. My own opinion of what this whole thing is saying, is that before the fall these angels had the privilege to move around as they willed. They were dwelling in the presence of the Light. When they chose to follow Lucifer, they chose darkness over Light. It is interesting that one third of the angels followed Lucifer. There were three archangels in heaven Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Each of them had a position over the other angels. The possible reason there were one third following Lucifer, was because they were under his command. When they chose to follow Lucifer, who is now known as Satan or the devil, they gave up their freedom of movement and are only allowed to minister when sent on an evil mission. Demons, as we call them, or devil spirits as the Bible calls them, are still ministering spirits. They just minister evil instead of good. A devil, or demon spirit, must get permission from God before he attacks a Christian. We are bought and paid for by Jesus and we are His. He says what can happen to us, not the devil. They are waiting for the judgement of God, as is all intelligence. The people in the world who are not Christians can be attacked at any time by the devil spirits. The chains, in the verse above are not literal chains , but a control on them. Notice this is not a literal place they are held, but they are dwelling in darkness. The main thing we are to see in this, is the fact that they fell after they knew God.

Jude 1:7 "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

We see, in this, the judgement that came on these cities, because they lived for the sins of the world. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was the sin of homosexuality. In one day the judgement of God fell and they were all destroyed except Lot, his wife, and his 2 daughters. Homosexuality goes against the laws of nature.

Jude 1:8 "Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities."

This is just saying, that the sins of the flesh lead a person to come against all authority of God and the authority He has set up upon the earth. To defile the flesh, is to do things against the laws of nature.

Jude 1:9 "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

Michael, the archangel, was one of the three known archangels. I believe that even among this three there was probably one who was the highest. Before Lucifer fell, he was probably in the highest position an angel could hold. Michael, had respect for authority, and did not personally come against the devil {Lucifer}. He fought the devil by the name of the Lord. We can learn from this. We should not come against the devil, or his devil spirits, in our own name. The only way for us to rebuke him is in the name of Jesus.

Jude 1:10 "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves."

Our understanding of the authority in heaven is not sufficient for us to do much with, except to do the things we know we have permission to do. We have been given power of attorney to use the name of Jesus. Natural knowledge is worldly. We should pray for the wisdom of God.

Jude 1:11 "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

These 3 are speaking of the worldly. Cain was a murderer. Baalam was bribed, and that is what is probably meant here. The Core is Korah, who came against Moses. All of these are worldly.

Jude 1:12 "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [they are] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"

These love feasts have to do with the early church having love-feasts, where they sat with rich and poor. In some places, this was called the Lord's supper. The thing intended to be beautiful had turned into something evil. They were not out to help others, but to feed themselves. Clouds without water are a disappointment to those who need their fields watered. They are not fit to have anything happen to them, but to be destroyed.

Jude 1:13 "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."

These waves are out of control. The stars are speaking of the same thing. These things out of the control of God are lost, just as we would be lost, if we rebelled against God. Notice, what awaits them. Blackness and darkness is for the evil, regardless of what that evil is.

Jude 1:14 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,"

This is the Enoch that walked with God, and was not, because God took him. He pleased God and was carried into heaven to be with God without going the way of the grave. This prophecy comes from another book other than the books commonly accepted in the Bible. Notice, the number is not ten thousand, but ten thousands. Of course, the number seven means spiritually complete. These saints are the Christians. We do know that the Christians are supposed to reign with Christ as His subordinates. This could be speaking of that time.

Jude 1:15 "To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [speeches] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jesus is the Judge. It is the Lord Jesus who executes judgement.

Jude 1:16 "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling [words], having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

Now, we see who this judgement will be executed against. The people's sins, listed in the verse above, are sins of the flesh. They are caused by worldliness. Their murmurings were against God.

Jude 1:17 "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;"

This is a total separation from the people mentioned in verse 16. This is speaking to the followers of God [the beloved]. We, Christians, are reminded to keep our thoughts on the pure gospel message sent by the apostles from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:18 "How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

These apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ had warned that in the end times there would be scoffers who walk after the ways of the world and, also, try to lead others in this wicked way.

Jude 1:19 "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."

Sensual people are people who are controlled by their flesh and not the Spirit of God. I have said this over and over, but we are either controlled by our flesh, or by our spirit. We must crucify our flesh, so that Jesus can quicken our spirit. John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Jude 1:20 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

Notice, it is our obligation to build our faith. The best way to build our faith is through prayer and using our faith. The more we use it, the more it grows. When we do not know what to pray for, God the Holy Ghost prays for us, if we will allow Him. Letting God pray through you, for you, builds you up more than you could ever imagine.

Jude 1:21 "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

Jesus said, If you love me, keep my commandments. The very best way to stay in the love of God is to stay in the will of God. God inhabits the praises of His people. Praise Him always. It is the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ that saves us. His merciful act of paying the debt for all of our sins, saved us.

Jude 1:22 "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"

To be forgiven, we must freely forgive.

Jude 1:23 "And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

Do we truly love the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?. Is salvation the greatest gift we could ever attain? If it is, then we should want it, not only for ourselves, but for everyone. How can we save someone else? Tell them about Jesus and what He has done for us. If they won't listen, grab hold of them and make them listen. Don't let go, until they will listen. Give a few hours of your time now to save someone from an eternity in the lake of fire. I hate the thought of anyone winding up in the lake of fire. I hate to think of it even being near anyone. The question is, Do I hate it enough to spend my time keeping others from going there? Is there any greater task on this earth?

What are you going to do about it?

Jude 1:24 "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,"

Jude 1:25 "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen"

The only One that can keep us from falling is Jesus. We must place our trust and faith in Him and He will do the rest. In fact, there is nothing more for Him to do. He did it all on the cross of Calvary. He defeated sin and Satan on the cross for all who would believe. If you are a Christian, He has abolished your past sin. Jesus clothed us in His righteousness, the moment we accepted Him as our Saviour. When God looks at a Christian, He sees the righteousness of Jesus we are covered with. Jesus actually is the One we stand before because He is the Judge of the world. He defeated death when He rose from the grave. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow for He is the Eternal One. His power is not measurable for He is all Power. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;Philippians 2:11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Thank you for taking your time to allow me to share my thoughts with you in these lessons. My prayer is that God will open your eyes to the reality of who He really is.

Jude 1 Questions

1. What are two of the opinions of who wrote this small book?
2. The Judas who was the half-brother of Jesus did not believe He was Messiah, until what?
3. Who is a brother of Jude mentioned in this lesson?
4. What kind of letter was this?
5. Who was the letter addressed to?
6. What does "sanctified" mean?
7. What was the blessing he spoke on those he wrote to?
8. What had he given diligence to write to them about?
9. Verse 4 warns of what kind of men creeping into the church?
10. What was the terrible message they had brought?
11. In verse 5, he reminds them of what?
12. What was done to the angels who kept not their first estate?
13. What does the author believe about these fallen angels?
14. Who were the three known archangels in heaven?
15. The Bible call those we call demons, what?
16. Can a demon attack you whenever he wants to?
17. Why was Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?
18. Who was saved from Sodom?
19. What do the filthy dreamers in verse 8 do?
20. Which archangel contended with the devil over Moses?
21. How did Michael fight the devil?
22. What power does the Christian have to fight the devil?
23. What 3 evil men were mentioned in Jude chapter 1 verse 11?
24. What disappointing things were mentioned in verse 12?
25. Verse 13 is speaking of what kind of things?
26. Which Enoch is verse 14 speaking of?
27. Verse 16 describes who these ungodly are, who are they?
28. Quote Jude chapter 1 verse 18.
29. Who are sensual people?
30. Building up yourselves in the most holy _____.
31. Praying in the _____.
32. How extreme are we to get to save someone?
33. What are you going to do about it?

Thank you for taking the time for me to share my thoughts on these Scriptures in James, 1&2 Peter, 1,2,3, John, and Jude. May God richly bless you, as you continue to read His Word.

Your friend in Jesus,

Louise

**Love the Lord Ministries
P.O. Box 197
Winthrop, AR 71866
(870) 381-7393
LTLministries@yahoo.com**