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Survey of Colossians through James

by
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Survey of Colossians through James

**A study of the book of Colossians through James for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Colossians through James

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Colossians through James. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you have written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Colossians through James. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course, you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses you will be reading. After each paragraph, you will usually have three questions. The questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson, there will be an opportunity to write down something you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons, three things will happen in your life:

First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.

Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses you have studied.

Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally communicated in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

Survey of Colossians through James

	Page
Introduction	ii
1. Survey of Colossians through James - Colossians 1:1-2:23	1
2. Survey of Colossians through James - Colossians 3:1-4:18	5
3. Survey of Colossians through James - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:13	9
4. Survey of Colossians through James - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28	13
5. Survey of Colossians through James - 2 Thessalonians 1:1-3:18	17
6. Survey of Colossians through James - 1 Timothy 1:1-2:15	21
7. Survey of Colossians through James - 1 Timothy 3:1-4:16	25
8. Survey of Colossians through James - 1 Timothy 5:1-6:21	29
9. Survey of Colossians through James - 2 Timothy 1:1:2:26	33
10. Survey of Colossians through James - 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22	37
11. Survey of Colossians through James - Titus 1:1-2:15	41
12. Survey of Colossians through James - Titus 3:1-Philemon 1:1-25	45
13. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 1:1-2:18	49
14. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 3:1-5:14	53
15. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 6:1-8:13	57
16. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 9:1-10:39	61
17. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 11:1-12:29	65
18. Survey of Colossians through James - Hebrews 13:1-James 1:27	69
19. Survey of Colossians through James - James 2:1-3:18	73
20. Survey of Colossians through James - James 4:1-5:20	77

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 1

Colossians 1:1-2:23

Today, we are starting a study of the book that was written to the church in the city of Colosse. Paul had never visited the city of Colosse. However, he was concerned about the Christians in that city. The church had probably been started by men who had become Christians during the time that Paul was preaching in Ephesus. In every city where Paul preached, the new Christians went to the surrounding areas to start other churches. Today, we also need Christians who have enough love for Christ that they will establish churches in the areas near them where there are few or no churches.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Paul prayed for the Christians in Colosse.
- Explain what we learn about the work of Christ.
- Explain what Paul warns about false teachers.

Even though Paul had never visited the city of Colosse, we read that he always prayed for the Christians of that city. They had a strong faith in Christ and a strong love for other Christians. They knew that they would receive eternal life in the future. This was the message that had been preached to them by Epaphras. Epaphras was probably the man who first brought the Gospel to Colosse. In fact, that was probably the city where he had lived as a boy. We will see later in the book that Epaphras also had a very great concern for the Colossians and prayed for them continually.

1. Read Colossians 1:1-14 and write what Paul calls Epaphras.
2. Explain what these verses teach about the faith, love and hope of the Christians in the church at Colosse.
3. Explain why you think that the fact that Paul gave thanks for the faith, love and hope of the church at Colosse shows that the church at Colosse was a strong church.

Here, we see again that Christian leaders are servants of Christ and not masters over the church. Christ is our only master. Paul thanked the Lord for the Colossians. He thanks God for their faith, their love and their hope. However, he also prayed for their continued spiritual growth. We also see the things that Paul prayed for the Christians in Colosse. Paul prayed that they would be filled with God's wisdom and knowledge so that they would know the will of God for their lives. He prayed that they would walk the way that God wanted them to walk so that their lives would produce fruit for Christ. Then, Paul prayed that they would be strengthened so that they would be patient and able to suffer a long time.

4. Read Colossians 1:1-14 and write what Paul wanted them to give to the Father.
5. Explain why it is important to pray that other Christians will be filled with the knowledge of the will of God.
6. Explain why you are thankful that you can pray that the Lord will give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Truly we have many things for which to thank the Father. He has given us eternal life. The Lord has delivered us from the power of darkness. In delivering us from that darkness, the Father has placed us in the kingdom of His Son. This means that we have been freed from the power of the devil. We will share all of the riches of heaven. Through the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood, our sins have been forgiven. As a result, our lives have been completely changed.

7. Read Colossians 1:1-14 and write what we have through the blood of Christ.
8. Explain what makes it possible for Christians to be strengthened with all might in their lives.

9. Explain what you learn about prayer and giving thanks from these verses.

We are also given a beautiful picture of Christ in these verses. First, we see that Christ is in the image of God. Christ is before all things and He is the One who made all things. He is the One who is over all thrones, dominions, principalities and powers. He created everything in heaven and earth including the things that are so small that we cannot see them. Not only did Christ create all things; He is also the One who holds all things together. If Christ did not hold the tiny parts of the atom together, everything would fall apart.

10. Read Colossians 1:15-29 and write of what Christ is the Head.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that Christ is the Creator of all things.

12. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ is the exact image of the invisible God.

The fact that Christ is the Head of the body, the church, means that it our responsibility to work under the leadership of Christ. He is our Head. He is the first one to have victory over death. His victory over death will also give us victory over death. Christ is also over all things. He is completely God just as He is completely man. Here, again, we see the greatness of Christ. He is God. Because Christ is God, He is able to make peace for us.

13. Read Colossians 1:15-29 and write how Christ made peace.

14. Explain what these verses mean when they say that Christ the Head of the body, the church.

15. Explain why it is important to you that all of the fullness of the Father dwells in Christ.

Through the blood of Christ, we have been made right with God and have peace with God and have been reconciled (brought back into relationship) to Him. Because of the death of Christ, we know that His blood not only covered our sins but also took them away. Christ can present us to the Father as people that are holy and without blame. We deserved to die but the blood of Christ paid for our sins. That is what makes it possible for Christ to declare us righteous and without sin when we repent of our sin of unbelief and place our trust in Christ. As a result, we will not be rejected by the Father because Christ has already paid the penalty for our sin and we are declared righteous at the moment of repentance.

16. Read Colossians 1:15-29 and write what caused Paul to rejoice and be full of joy.

17. Explain what it means to be reconciled to God by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

18. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that although you were once an enemy of God that you had been reconciled to God and are now declared holy, unblamable and unprovable in His sight.

Paul was rejoicing that he had the privilege of suffering so that others would be able to hear the Gospel. Here, we learn an important lesson. We should be thankful for everything that happens to us as we speak to others about Christ. Paul was also thankful that he could speak about the church. Those who had lived before Christ had not known anything about the church. However, the church has been revealed to us. Paul was also glad to share with the Gentiles the riches that we have in Christ. We are to preach and warn people of their sins. Then, we are to teach every person that becomes a Christian so that the person may become complete in Christ.

19. Read Colossians 1:15-29 and write how Paul wanted to present every person to Christ.

20. Explain why it is important to help every Christian grow to spiritual maturity.

21. Explain what you learn about Christ and His work in our lives from these verses.

Paul had a great concern for the Christians of Colosse and Laodicea because he had never seen them. Paul want them to let the love of Christ so control their lives that they would also be drawn closer together as Christians. Today, the only way that Christians will be drawn closer together and have a real love for each other happens in the same way. Christians must choose to let the love of Christ take control of their lives if they are going to love others. That is what makes it possible for Christians to become one in Christ.

22. Read Colossians 2:1-13 and write what is hidden in Christ.
23. Explain what it means for the hearts of Christians to be knit together in love.
24. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the concern of Paul for the Christians in Colosse and Laodicea even though he had never seen them.

We cannot have real wisdom or real knowledge unless we are yielding the control of our lives to Christ. Today, our churches have the same problems that the church in Colosse faced. There were men who were coming to the city of Colosse who had much education. However, they did not know Christ. They were using their education and fancy words to try and confuse the Christians. Paul was filled with joy because he had heard how the Christians were standing firm in their faith in Christ. They were not listening to these false teachers. Today, this is also the kind of Christians that we need.

25. Read Colossians 2:1-13 and write how we should walk since we have received Christ.
26. Explain what it means to take root and to be built up in Christ.
27. Explain what you have learned about what it means to walk in Christ from your study of the Word of God.

We have been saved by Christ. Now, we should walk in the wisdom and knowledge that He gives us. We are to study His Word so that we will become strong in faith. We are to watch out for false teachers who try to get us to think the way the world thinks, instead of having our faith in Christ. People will try very hard to get Christians to follow their teachings and traditions. They will only cause confusion and cause us to lose the joy of our salvation if we listen to them. We must realize that we are complete in Christ. He is the One who gives us wisdom and knowledge. If people say things that do not agree with His Word, we are not to listen to them.

28. Read Colossians 2:1-13 and write the things that men will use to destroy the joy that we have in Christ.
29. Explain what it means to be complete in Christ.
30. Explain why you think that people try to substitute the philosophies and traditions of men for the promises of Christ.

Christ has within Himself all of the fullness of the Godhead. He is complete in every way. That is why we are made complete when Christ comes into our lives. Because we have been completely changed by Christ, we are to be baptized to show that this complete change has happened in our lives. Baptism does not change us. Instead, it is a testimony of the fact that Christ has already changed us. We are showing that we are now new persons in Christ because He has given us new life.

31. Read Colossians 2:1-13 and write what God has forgiven us because of Christ.
32. Explain why it says that the circumcision of Christ is the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh.
33. Tell how you would explain the meaning of baptism to a person that is a new Christian.

Because Christ has forgiven all of our sins, we are no longer under the control of the law and its ordinances. Those were nailed to the cross with Christ. By His death and resurrection, Christ has shown that He has complete victory over the devil. Christ also showed that he has complete power over all other powers. Now, we are to live our lives to serve Christ. We do not need to depend on traditions or ceremonies any more. We are complete in Christ.

34. Read Colossians 2:14-23 and write who we are not to let beguile (trick) us.
35. Explain what it means that Christ has blotted out the handwriting against us.
36. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you no longer are under the control of all kinds of religious ordinances, traditions and ceremonies.

There were false teachers who were coming to Colosse and saying that Christ was not God. They taught that Christ was much greater than men were but said that He was not God. Instead,

these false teachers taught that Christ was like one of the powerful angels. Today, we have many false religions that are denying that Christ is God. Some of them say that Christ is a great man but they refuse to recognize that He is God. We have seen that Paul has answered these false teachers several times by saying that the completeness of God is in Christ. He is our Head. He holds us together and causes us to grow strong.

37. Read Colossians 2:14-23 and write to what we are dead with Christ.

38. Explain why there are many false groups that deny that Christ is God.

39. Explain what it means to you to know that every part of the body of Christ is able to grow because every part gets nourishment from Christ, the Head.

Paul also goes on to warn about false teachers who teach that we should live by the law. These false teachers were saying that they were better than others were because they did not do certain things. We read that there were certain things that they would not touch, taste or handle. These verses show us that they were not better because they avoided these things. They were only looking for an excuse to boast about their works. As a result, they were really only satisfying themselves, instead of obeying God. They had actually substituted the commandments and doctrines of people, instead of following the Word of God.

40. Read Colossians 2:14-23 and write who we should obey, instead of obeying the rules of men.

41. Explain why human rules and laws will not help a person grow spiritually but will actually hinder spiritual growth.

42. Explain why you have found that it is important in your own life to yield your life to Christ and His love for spiritual growth rather than following the rules of people.

Now, re-read Colossians 1:1-2:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 2

Colossians 3:1-4:18

In our last lesson, we learned that Paul was warning the Christians in Colosse about false teachers. Today, we will learn some important lessons about why it is possible for us to live for Christ as Christians. Many Christians complain that their lives are a struggle. The reason that these Christians are struggling, instead of having a life that is full of joy, is the fact that these Christians have never learned to live the way that Christ has made it possible for them to live.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how we are able live as Christians.
- Tell how we should serve Christ in our families.
- Tell how we should work for Christ.
- Explain what we learn about prayer.

Since Christ has raised us to new life, we are to desire the things of Christ and not the things of this earth. At the moment we placed our trust in Christ, He changed our lives and gave us new desires. These new desires can change and transforms our lives as we learn to walk in the Spirit. We have died with Christ and have been given a new life by Christ. Our life is the life of Christ living in us. This new life can be a completely different life because we have been given a new nature and new desires. We are no longer controlled by our own sin nature.

1. Read Colossians 3:1-11 and write what is called idolatry.
2. Explain why Christians are encouraged to set their desires on those things that are above.
3. Explain in what ways the Lord has helped you to begin focusing on the things that are eternal, instead of focusing on the things of this world.

We are given a list of several sins that we will no longer want to do as we yield our lives to Christ. One of the things that we are told not to do is to desire anything that someone else has. When we develop a strong desire for things, we are actually making those things idols that we worship. The evil things are the things that men do because they are following their own desires and have not followed Christ. There are many people who have chosen to keep following their own desires. Those were also the things that we used to do before we became Christians.

4. Read Colossians 3:1-11 and write what we put off when we became Christians.
5. Explain why the old man and his deeds were the thing that caused us to desire all kinds of evil things before we became Christians.
6. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that you have been set free from the control of the old sin nature and have been given new desires.

Our old sin nature caused us to do many evil things before we became Christians. Now, Christ has given us a new man (nature). This new nature gives us a new mind and a new understanding. This new mind gives us new desires. Romans 12:2 says that we no longer need to be conformed to the world. Instead, Christ promises that our lives can be transformed as we renew our minds. Christ has also made us new creations. We have been made in the image of Christ. We are able to become one in Christ regardless of our former background. Christ has also made us free. He has given us His Spirit so that we have the power to live for Him.

7. Read Colossians 3:1-11 and write what we have put on since we have put off the old man and his deeds.
8. Explain how becoming new people in Christ breaks down the old barriers that existed between others and us.
9. Explain what it means to you in your life to live your life as a new person that is being

transformed by Christ.

As Christians, we are to live the kind of life that Christ would live if He were here on the earth. Since Christ now lives within us, He is actually here on this earth in the life of each Christian. Each moment that we are yielding to the Holy Spirit, we are allowing our lives to be an example of the life of Christ. This is what makes it possible for a Christian to show mercy, kindness, humbleness, and gentleness and be willing to suffer for a long time. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, we will be able to put others before ourselves. We will also be able to forgive others in the same way that Christ forgave us. Christ forgave us even though we had hated Him.

10. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and write the most important thing that we are able to do as we yield to the Holy Spirit.

11. Explain why it is possible for Christians to have the power to demonstrate the life of Christ in their lives as they yield to the Holy Spirit.

12. Explain how the Lord has changed your own life as you have started depending on His strength to forgive others, instead of depending on your own strength.

Everything that we do as Christians should be done in love. Since these verses are talking about the love of Christ, we will only be able to do things in love as we are yielding our human spirits to the Holy Spirit. However, as we are learning to yield to the Holy Spirit so that we have the power to do things in love, we will become closer to Christ and closer to other Christians. As the love of Christ controls our lives, we will have a growing love for other Christians. The power of the Holy Spirit working in us also makes it possible for the peace of God to control our lives. We also more fully understand the fact that we are a part of the body of Christ and He is working in our lives. This gives us the power to be thankful and full of joy in our lives.

13. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and write what we should let dwell in our lives.

14. Explain why Christians are able to be thankful in their lives as they yield to the Holy Spirit.

15. Explain what it means to you in your own life to have a thankful attitude.

In order for us to live the way that Christ designed us to live, we must learn the Word of God. Then, the Word of God is able to control our hearts and our thoughts. The result will be that we will be able to teach and encourage each other so that every Christian will become stronger. Our hearts will be filled with joy and singing. We are able to see Christ work in our lives and through our lives. We are able to give thanks to Christ for all things. We are able to show an attitude of thankfulness both by our words and by our actions.

16. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and write in whose name we are to do all that we do.

17. Explain why letting the Word of Christ dwell in us and yielding our lives to the Holy Spirit are really the same thing.

18. Explain how the Lord has changed your life as you have learned to let the Word of Christ dwell in you.

We also learn how the Lord gives us the power to live as Christians both at home and at work. We see what the Lord will give each of us power to do as we yield to Him. Wives have the power to submit themselves to their husbands. Husbands have the power to love their wives with the love of Christ and not become bitter toward their wives. Children are given the power to obey their parents. Parents are given the power not to cause their children to be filled with anger or discouragement. Here, we see that a family must have Christ at the center of that family or they will not be able to do these things. This is why it is important to study the Word of God together as a family. Our love for Christ will cause us to love our families and help our families to grow strong in Christ.

19. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and write what servants (employees) are told to do.

20. Explain why Christ is able to change and transform families as they learn to yield to the

Holy Spirit.

21. Explain how learning to yield your life to Christ and ask for His strength to obey His Word has changed your own life.

Here, we see that servants (employees) are to be obedient to their employers in all things. They are not to do this just to please men. Instead, they are to be obedient to their employers because they worship God. Masters or employers are to pay fair and equal wages to the people who work for them. They are to treat their employees the right way because Christian employers are also working for Christ. As a result, they should treat the people who work for them the way that they want to be treated by Christ.

22. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and write how we should do all things.

23. Explain why Christians will do their work in a different way if they are yielding their lives to the Lord.

24. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the way that you should work to please the Lord.

Here, we see that we are to do all things for the Lord and not just to please other people. We are to work at our job realizing that we are working for the Lord. The way that we work on our job will be one of the things that causes the people that work with us to listen when we speak about Christ. If we are lazy and the other people have to do part of our work, they will not listen when we talk about Christ. If we are doing the best job possible, the people who work with us will respect our testimony. They will be more open when we share the Gospel with them.

25. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and write who will reward us if we work to please the Lord.

26. Explain why Christians are to do all that they do to please the Lord.

27. Explain how your desire to please the Lord has changed you in your life and in the things that you do.

In the final chapter of Colossians, we have some wonderful lessons about prayer. We are to continue in prayer. When things are going the way that we want them to go, we should pray and thank the Lord. When things are not going the way that we want them to go, we should still pray. Here, we see that we should pray at all times. We also need to understand and realize that God will always answer our prayers in His time. Sometimes it seems like our prayers are not answered right away. However, that should not cause us to become discouraged. God has a purpose for not answering immediately so we should continue to pray.

28. Read Colossians 4:2-18 and write what Paul asked the Colossians to pray for him.

29. Explain why prayer should be a continual thing in the life of every Christian.

30. Explain why you think it is important for you to pray that the Lord will give you the words to speak as you share the Gospel with others.

Paul wanted the Christians to pray that God would give him opportunities to speak for Christ. Paul was in prison for speaking about Christ. Instead of discouraging him, he only wanted the Colossians to pray that he would have more opportunities to speak for Christ. Today, we need more Christians who are anxious to speak for Christ no matter what happens to them. We need to pray for each other that the Lord will give us opportunities to witness. We need to pray that Christ will give us the courage to speak when these opportunities come to share the Gospel. As we pray for each other, the Lord will strengthen all of us so that we will be more effective in sharing the Gospel.

31. Read Colossians 4:2-18 and write how we are told to walk.

32. Explain why Christians will only be able to witness effectively as we pray that the Lord will give us His strength to speak and that He will prepare the hearts of those to whom we speak.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to be a more effective witness for Christ.

As we pray for the Lord to give us wisdom to speak, the Lord also tells us how to walk and talk with those who are not Christians. We are told to walk in wisdom. This will mean that we choose to think the thoughts of God and not to think on our own. We are also to use the opportunities that the Lord gives us to speak to those that are not yet Christians. As we pray that the Lord will help us to speak with love and concern, Christ will show us how to answer every person.

34. Read Colossians 4:2-18 and write who Paul was sending to tell about his state.

35. Explain why it is important for us to pray that the Lord will show us how to speak to each person if we want our witness to be effective.

36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to be a more effective witness for Christ.

We go on to read that Paul is sending Tychicus to bring this letter to the Colossians. They had no mail service in those days so the only way to send a letter was to have someone else take the letter. We read the Tychicus was a greatly loved Christian brother. He was a faithful servant of the Lord. He was bringing the letter to the Colossians so that he could comfort and encourage them.

37. Read Colossians 4:2-18 and write who was coming with Tychicus.

38. Explain what these verses teach us about the life and ministry of Tychicus.

39. Explain how Tychicus can be an example to you in your own life.

We also learn that Mark was with Paul in Rome. In Acts 13, we read that Mark had left Paul and Barnabas and returned home as they were taking the Gospel to those who had never heard. Later Paul did not think that they should take him a second time because of his failure the first time. However, Barnabas felt that they should give him another opportunity. God had rewarded the faith of Barnabas and now Mark had become a faithful worker for Christ. Barnabas gives us a great example to follow when someone fails. By giving people who have failed another opportunity, they also may develop into faithful workers for Christ.

40. Read Colossians 4:2-18 and write the name of the Christians in Rome that came from Colosse.

41. Explain what these verses teach about the faithful service of Epaphras as he prayed for the Christians in Colosse.

42. Explain how Epaphras can be an example to you in your own life.

Now, re-read Colossians 3:1-4:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 3

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:13

Today, we are beginning the study of the first of two books written to the church in the city of Thessalonica. Paul, Silas and Timothy had only been in the city of Thessalonica for a short time before a group of Jews forced them to leave. However, a group of people had become Christians and a church had been established in that time. Since Paul had been there such a short time, the Christians in Thessalonica did not have a clear understanding of certain teachings. Paul wrote this letter a few months later to explain some of the things that they did not yet understand.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what Paul said about the faith of the Thessalonians.
- Tell how Paul taught the people in Thessalonica.
- Tell how the Thessalonians received the Word of God.
- Explain how God wants every Christian to live.

Although Paul, Silas and Timothy had only been in the city of Thessalonica for a short time, the Christians in that city were strong. Paul had prayed much for the Christians in that city. As a result, we learn that the Christians in Thessalonica had developed a strong faith. They also had developed a great love. In addition, they were resting in the promise that they had eternal life through Christ. Paul was now able to give thanks to God for the way that they had grown in their spiritual lives. As a result, he gave thanks to God each time that he prayed for them. Here, we see that these people had applied the Word of God to their daily living.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and write what Paul knew about these Christians.
2. Explain why the fact that Paul could give thanks for their work of faith, labor of love and patience of hope shows that the church at Thessalonica was becoming a strong church.
3. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to develop a strong faith, a strong hope and a strong love.

In a very short time, Paul, Silas and Timothy had taught these Christians many things. They had learned that God chose them even before He formed the world. That was the reason that they were able to rest in the promise that they had eternal life. They knew that no one could take away the salvation that God had given them. Here, we also see the reason why we do not need to worry. We can also rest in the promise that God has given us eternal life. No one can take this life away from us. Christ chose us even before He formed the world. As we grow in our understanding of the fact that Christ chose us before He formed the world, we will experience a growing peace in our lives.

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and write how the Gospel had come to the Thessalonians.
5. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand that Christ chose them to eternal life even before He created the world.
6. Explain how it has helped you in your own life to know that Christ chose to give you eternal life even before He created the world.

We go on to see that the Gospel is not just a message of words. This is due to the fact that the Gospel is about Christ, the One that God raised from the dead. It is a message of power. The Gospel is able to completely change every person that becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives and gives us His power. As a result, we are able to live for Christ. We are also able to rest in the promise of knowing that we have eternal life.

7. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and write what the Christians in Thessalonica had become.
8. Explain why the Gospel comes with power so that it has the power to change and transform

lives.

9. Explain why it is important to you that your life is a godly example that others can follow as they learn to follow Christ.

Just as the Christians in Thessalonica had a strong faith, now they were also real examples to Christians in other places. Everyone was speaking about the faith of the Christians in Thessalonica. This faith had caused them to turn to God from idols. This faith had also caused them to serve the living and true God. Today, we also have a real need for Christians that are really living for Christ with a strong faith. As people see that Christ has changed our lives, they will want Christ to change their lives also. Our example can be a powerful way to draw others to Christ.

10. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and write for whom the Thessalonians were waiting.

11. Explain why a genuine faith in Christ will cause people to turn from whatever idols or things that they serve and cause them to serve the living and true God.

12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the growth of the Christians in Thessalonica.

When Paul and Silas came to the city of Thessalonica, they had just been beaten in the city of Philippi. However, that beating did not stop them. Instead, they boldly spoke about Christ. Here, we see that not even severe persecution stopped Paul and Silas from speaking about Christ. Today, we need more Christians that are willing to speak for Christ regardless of what happens to them. We have been given a great privilege and responsibility as Christians. God has given the Gospel to us so that we can share it with others.

13. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write who we should please as we speak.

14. Explain why it is a great privilege for Christians to be entrusted with the Gospel and given the opportunity to share the Gospel with others.

15. Explain why you think that Paul, Silas and Timothy give you an example of how to share the Gospel in these verses.

We see that everything we do should be done to please God. We are to speak the Word of God and not just try to please men. The Word of God will convict people of their sin if we are faithful in speaking the Word of God. Paul did not try to get people to speak about him. Instead, he wanted to speak to them about Christ. Paul, Silas and Timothy had spoken to them in love the way that a nursing mother speaks to a newborn child as she cares for the child. These verses show us that these men provided the care of a nursing mother for these new Christians.

16. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write how Paul, Silas and Timothy labored (worked) while they were in Thessalonica.

17. Explain why it is important for spiritual leaders to provide the care of a nursing mother as they care for new Christians.

18. Explain what it means to you in your life to become a spiritual parent to a new Christian to help that new Christian begin to grow.

Here, we see the concern of Paul, Silas and Timothy to reach others for Christ and establish churches. They were willing to teach day and night so that people would come to Christ and follow Christ. They had preached the message of the Gospel. Their lives had also provided the example of a godly father as they helped these new Christians begin to grow. They had taught the Word of God. They had encouraged and challenged these Christians to serve the Lord. They had shown the love and concern of a father for his children. They did this so that the believers in Thessalonica would learn to walk as mature Christians. Here, we see that as Christians we must be willing to use our time to strengthen other Christians.

19. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write how Paul, Silas and Timothy wanted these Christians to walk.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of a spiritual father who can provide

an example of a godly walk for new Christians.

21. Explain what you learn for your own life about making wise use of your time as you serve the Lord.

The Christians in Thessalonica had realized that Paul, Silas and Timothy were speaking the Word of God and not their own words. As a result, the Word of God was able to work in their lives and lead them to become Christians. Now, the Christians in Thessalonica were suffering for Christ just as the Christians in Judea were suffering. The Jews had killed Christ. Then, the Jews had tried to stop the Christians from telling the Gentiles about Christ.

22. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 and write what Paul says about the way that God looked at these evil men.

23. Explain why it is important that people receive the Word of God from us and not our own words.

24. Explain how the Word of God worked in your own life to bring you to the place of putting your trust in Christ.

The people that are against Christ cannot please God because they hate God. They are also against all other people because they want to keep all other people from receiving eternal life through Christ. These people had tried to keep Paul, Silas and Timothy from speaking to the Thessalonians about Christ. As a result, Paul and the others had been forced to leave Thessalonica. Now, Paul hoped to visit the Christians in Thessalonica again.

25. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 and write who had hindered Paul from visiting the Thessalonians.

26. Explain why the Jews were trying to forbid Paul and the others from speaking to the Gentiles about Christ.

27. Explain how the lives of Paul, Silas and Timothy provide an example for you if others try to hinder you from sharing the Gospel.

Today, Satan still tries to keep us from the work of the Lord. He will do everything possible to stop us. Sometimes God will allow Satan to hinder us for a time. Satan then thinks that he is gaining the victory. However, God is using the things that seem to be hindering us to complete His plan. Christ uses that hindrance to show us some of the other things that God wants us to do to spread the Gospel. As a result, God gains the victory, instead of Satan.

28. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 and write what Paul, Silas and Timothy said was their glory and joy.

29. Explain what these verses teach about what Paul, Silas and Timothy expected to see at the coming of Christ.

30. Explain how you know that God will complete His plan regardless of how Satan tries to stop the plan of God.

As we go on to the third chapter, we see why God had allowed Satan to keep Paul from returning to Thessalonica. Paul became so concerned about the Christians in Thessalonica that he finally sent Timothy to Thessalonica to see how the Christians there were getting along. Timothy was a developing spiritual leader that had been ministering with Paul. Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to teach and encourage the Christians there.

31. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 and write the report that Timothy brought about their faith and love.

32. Explain how the Lord used the hindrance of Paul that prevented him from returning to Thessalonica to develop the ministry of Timothy.

33. Explain what you learn about the fact that the Lord takes the hindrances of Satan and turns them around to bring glory to God.

Although Paul, Silas and Timothy had only been in Thessalonica a short time, they had spent

their time teaching both day and night. As a result, those who become Christians there had developed a strong faith. They had also developed a great love for the Lord and for each other. In addition, the Christians there had a great desire to see Paul again just as he had a great desire to see them.

34. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 and write what comforted Paul.

35. Explain why Paul said that the lives of Paul, Silas and Timothy would be encouraged as the Thessalonians continued to stand fast in the Lord.

36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of having a real concern for the development of new Christians.

Paul was filled with joy as he thought of the faith of the Thessalonians. Now, he wanted them to continue to stand fast in the Lord. Paul also prayed that he would be able to come back to Thessalonica and teach them more. Then, they would be able to learn and understand more about Christ. Here, we see the concern of Paul to help new Christians become stronger. This should also be our desire.

37. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 and write how often Paul prayed for the new Christians.

38. Explain why it important for us to help new Christians grow stronger.

39. Explain some of the things that you have done to help new Christians in their spiritual growth.

Paul also tells us one other thing that he prayed for the Christians in Thessalonica. He prayed that their love for each other would continue to grow. He also prayed that their love for all men would become greater. Today, we live in a world where there is very little love. People are filled with fear and hate. Christ says that all people will know that we are His disciples when we are filled with love for one another. This is the kind of love that we need to have as Christians today.

40. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 and write what our hearts will be like before God if we are filled with love.

41. Explain what it means for hearts to be unblamable in holiness before God.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your life to show love to other Christians.

Now, re-read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 4

1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28

In our last lesson, we learned that Paul, Silas and Timothy had only preached in Thessalonica for a short time before they were chased out of the city. As a result, this letter is answering some of the questions of the Christians in Thessalonica. In our study today, we will learn how we should walk as Christians. One of the things that was bothering these new Christians was the fact that some of the Christians had died. Now, these new Christians wanted to know what would happen to these Christians as the time that Christ came back to take the Christians to heaven.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how we should walk as Christians.

Tell what the return of the Lord will be like.

Explain how we should live since we know that Christ is coming soon.

As Christians we are to walk to so that we please God. As we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit so that we are walking under the control of God, we know that our love will increase more and more. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, we have a desire to obey the commandments that Christ gave us. One of the things that Christ said was that we should not commit fornication. The word fornication includes all kinds of sex sins. God says that these sins are sins against our body and that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of the fact that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we should not want to commit any sins that are against our body.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 and write what we are told about lust.
2. Explain what these verses teach us is the will of God for our lives.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to walk in a way that will please the Lord and bring glory to Him.

In these verses, we see that lust is called concupiscence (sensuality). Sensuality is a desire to satisfy our sexual desires in sinful ways. This includes evil and lustful thoughts about others. It includes all kinds of immoral acts. Today, this kind of thinking and acting has become very common. God says that these sins are sins against the body. As Christians are bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we are not even to think about these evil things.

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 and write to what God has called us.
5. Explain why Christians are called to avoid every form of sensuality including both sinful thoughts and sinful actions.
6. Explain why we are to treat our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit and use our bodies to bring honor to God.

As Christians, we are not to defraud (try to take advantage of) any other person. If we try to take advantage of our brother, God will judge us. God does not want us to live lives that are unclean and sinful. That is common in the world but God wants our lives to be an example to others that is different than the world. God desires that our lives be holy and pleasing to Him. If our lives are not pure and holy, we are rebelling against God and causing others to speak against Him. In contrast, if our lives are pure and holy, others will be drawn to Christ.

7. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 and write what God tells us to do to our brother.
8. Explain why God wants our lives to be lives that are an example of the difference that Christ has made in our lives.
9. Explain why you think that living a pure and holy life will give you more opportunities to share with your unsaved relatives and friends the difference that Christ can make in their lives.

As Christians, our love for each other should continue to increase. We choose not to talk or gossip about others. Instead, we should be quiet. We choose to work and not be lazy. There are some Christians who find every excuse possible to avoid work. However, we are told to work hard so that those who are not Christians will listen when we speak about Christ. They will respect us and listen to us even if they do not work hard themselves. If we work hard, God will supply our needs.

10. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 and write how we are to walk in our relationships with those who are not Christians.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the way that Christians should live and work in their daily lives.

12. Explain what it means to you personally to know that you are taught of God to love one another.

After Paul left Thessalonica, some of those who had become Christians had died. The other Christians were concerned because they did not know what would happen to the dead Christians when Christ returned to take the Christians to heaven. Here, we see that Paul tells the Thessalonians that they do not need to worry or be sad about those who are asleep (dead). Just as Christ rose from the dead, He is going to raise the bodies of the dead Christians.

13. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and write who will come with Christ when He comes to the earth to take the Christians.

14. Explain why Paul did not want the Thessalonians to be ignorant about what is going to happen when Christ comes.

15. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that Christ is coming again to take all Christians to heaven.

Here, we see that this resurrection will be the resurrection of all Christians. Christ will bring the souls and spirits of the Christians who have died with Him when He comes again. Then, the souls and spiritual will rejoin the bodies that have been sleeping (dead). Christ will raise the dead bodies and they will meet Christ in the air and be rejoined to their souls and spirits at the same time as the Christians that are still alive on the earth meet Christ. The living and those who have died will all go to be with Christ at the same time. All of the Christians will meet Christ together.

16. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and write how Christ will come from heaven.

17. Explain what the coming of the Lord for all Christians will be like.

18. Explain why you are eagerly waiting for the Lord to return and take you to heaven to be with Him.

When Christ comes back, the dead will be raised first. Then, those that are alive will go with them as the dead come out of the ground. Both groups will have their bodies changed. We will all receive bodies like the body of Christ. Both those who are dead and those who are still living will meet Christ in the air. All of these things will happen as fast as a person can blink. Here, we have a wonderful promise for every Christian. We will be with Christ forever. We will never be separated from Him again.

19. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and write how we are to use these words about the return of Christ in our ministry to one another.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the resurrection of all Christians when Christ returns for us.

21. Explain what it means to you in your life to know what happens to Christians when they die.

We see that Paul had taught the Thessalonians many things about the coming of Christ to take the Christians to heaven. They understood many things. They knew that the coming of the Lord would be like the coming of a thief at night. No one knows when a thief is coming or

people would be prepared to meet the thief and stop him. In the same way, no one knows when Christ is coming to take the Christians to heaven so we need to ready for the return of Christ at any time. Those who are not ready will not have time to get ready because the coming of Christ will be very sudden. The day of the Lord will begin as soon as Christ has taken the Christians to heaven.

22. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and write what people will be saying after Christ comes back to get the Christians.

23. Explain why those who are not Christians will think that they can have peace and safety.

24. Explain why you do not need to be fearful of the tribulation and the other things that will happen when God begins to judge the world.

Today, many people are talking about peace. Everyone has his own idea about the way to get peace. However, Christ is the only one that can give true peace. When people think that they are reaching a day of peace, they will find that sudden destruction comes instead. They will not escape. People are sleeping when they should be preparing to meet Christ. As the children of light, we are looking forward to the coming of Christ to take us to heaven.

25. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and write what we should put on as Christians.

26. Explain why Christians can look at the future very differently than those people who are not Christians.

27. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you are a child of the light and not a child of darkness.

As Christians we are to have our faith in Christ. This makes it possible for us to have a love for Christ and for each other. Our hope is in Christ because He has given us salvation. Christ has given us life and we will live forever. Now, we are to comfort and encourage each other. We are also told to teach each other so that we will all grow strong. The result will be that we will be able to serve Christ better because He is working in our lives and through our lives.

28. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and write what we are to do as we minister to one another as Christians.

29. Explain what it means for Christians to walk as children of light.

30. Explain some of the ways that the Lord is using you to build up other Christians and help them in their spiritual growth.

We also see our responsibility to the elders and leaders of the church. We are to appreciate them and be thankful for them. They are working hard to help us grow stronger as Christians. Christ has given them the responsibility of leading the church. As a result, we should respect them. We are also told to live in peace with other Christians. When we have peace between ourselves and other Christians, we are all able to work together to do the work of the Lord.

31. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and write who we are told to warn.

32. Explain what these verses teach about the responsibility of Christians toward those who are spiritual leaders.

33. Explain some of the things that spiritual leaders have done to help you in your own spiritual growth.

We are to warn those who disobey and rebel against God. We need to help them understand the results of their rebellion. At the same time, we are to encourage those who are discouraged. We are to strengthen the Christians that are weak. We are to be patient with all people. We are not to return the evil when others do evil to us. Instead, we are to show the love of Christ to them. We are to show this love both to those who are Christians and to those who are not Christians. As we do this we will experience lives that are full of joy and rejoicing.

34. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and write how we are told to pray.

35. Explain why Christians are told to follow the things that are good, instead of returning evil for evil.

36. Explain what makes it possible for you to have joy in your life as you serve Christ and do His will.

We see that we should be praying at all times. We are told to give thanks for everything because this is the will of God for our lives. This reminds us of the fact that as we yield to Christ, He gives us the strength to give thanks for all things and in all situations. This includes the things that seem to be bad as well as the things that are good. We are not to limit the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are not to reject any part of the Word of God. We are told not even to do anything that might look evil.

37. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and write who is able to sanctify us.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the way that Christians should live for Christ as we wait for His coming.

39. Explain what it means to you in your life to be thankful for all things.

As we live for Christ, God will give us peace and make our lives pure and holy. Paul also prays that God will preserve our whole spirit, soul and body and keep them blameless as we wait for the coming of the Lord. Here, we see that we have been made in the image of God. We have a physical body that we can see. It includes seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling and tasting. Our soul is that part of us that thinks, remembers, feels different emotions and makes choices. Our spirit is that part of us that is able to understand and communicate with God. Our spirit also recognizes what is right and wrong. It helps us to find meaning in life and causes us to be concerned about others.

40. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and write what these verses say about the faithfulness of God to keep His promises.

41. Explain why the fact that God made us with a spirit, soul and body helps us to understand what it means to be made in the image of God.

42. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that God wants to preserve your whole spirit, soul and body blameless until the coming of Christ.

Now, re-read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 5

2 Thessalonians 1:1-3:18

Some false teachers had told the Thessalonians that the Thessalonians had missed the resurrection. These false teachers said that the persecution that the Thessalonian Christians were now suffering was part of the suffering that will happen on the earth after Christ takes the church to heaven. Of course that meant that these false teachers were saying that the Thessalonians had missed the rapture and were now in the tribulation. In our lesson today, we will learn about those things that will happen after Christ takes the Christians to heaven.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Tell why we should not get upset when we suffer.

Explain who the man of sin is.

Explain about what Paul asked the Christians to pray.

Tell what we should be doing until Christ returns to take us to heaven.

As you remember from our study of 1 Thessalonians, the Christians in Thessalonica had only been Christians for a few months. The church there had been established in a very short time and Paul, Silas and Timothy were forced to leave because of persecution. Now, this second letter to the Thessalonians was written soon after the first letter. However, we are also given a real picture of the spiritual growth of the Thessalonian Christians. We read that their faith had grown greatly. The Christians all had a great love for each other.

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 and write what Paul was telling the other churches about the Thessalonians.
2. Explain what these verses teach about the prayer life of Paul for the Thessalonians as well as Christians in many areas.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you to pray for Christians that live in other areas.

We see that the Thessalonians were experiencing great suffering because they were Christians. They were showing real patience and faith in Christ when people did evil things to them. They were willing to endure any suffering with joy because they knew that they were suffering for Christ. They felt that it was a privilege to suffer for Christ. This reminds us again that it is a privilege to suffer for Christ because He suffered and gave His life for us.

4. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 and write what Paul said God would do to those who were troubling them.
5. Explain what it means for Christians to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ.
6. Explain what it means to you in your own life when you experience opposition from others because you are a Christian.

Here, we see that we do not need to worry or try to get even with those who do evil things to us because we are Christians. God will judge them for their evil actions. They will receive the judgment that lasts forever. God says that in that judgment that He will take vengeance on them that do not know Him and do not obey Him. This will include all those who have rejected the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and have refused to place their trust in Him. This judgment will be in the lake of fire and brimstone. This judgment will include separation from God forever. Such people will not even be allowed to see the glory and power of Christ.

7. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 and write down how often Paul prayed for the Christians in Thessalonica.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the eternal judgment of all those who reject Christ and the life that He offers.

9. Explain what it means to you when it says that this judgment of all unbelievers will include eternal separation from the presence of the Lord.

We have seen in each letter of Paul that he was always praying for the Christians in the cities where he had preached. He was concerned for them and wanted them to grow strong and become mature Christians. Paul prayed that the Christians would walk the way that God wanted them to walk. He prayed that the will of God would be done through their lives. The will of God was to glorify Christ so that men would follow Christ. Today, God also wants us to bring glory to Christ by all of the things that we say and do in our lives.

10. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 and write who God wants to be glorified by all that we say and do.

11. Explain how Christians can glorify Christ so that others will also want to follow Christ in their lives.

12. Explain why you want the Lord to use you and work through your life to draw others to Himself.

In our study of 1 Thessalonians, we learned that Christ will come back to get the Christians and take them to heaven. After Christ takes the Christians to heaven, there will be seven years of great suffering on the earth called the tribulation. Some false teachers had told the Thessalonians that they had missed the resurrection of the Christians. These false teachers said that the suffering of the Thessalonians was a part of the tribulation. As a result, Paul now tells them not to be worried because certain things must happen before the tribulation comes.

13. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write what must happen before the start of the tribulation.

14. Explain why false teachers want to cause trouble and confusion to new Christians by teaching them things that are not true.

15. Explain what you can do to help new Christians that are being deceived by false teachers.

Here, we see that two things must happen before the tribulation begins. First, there will be a falling away or a rebellion. This is a turning away from God. When men turn away from God, they will also rebel against the Word of God because they have rejected what God teaches about right and wrong. This will produce rebellion against all authority. Today, we are seeing people turn away from God and rebel against those who are in authority. This rebellion against God and authority is happening all over the world as men get further from God.

16. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write what the man of sin (the antichrist) will do when he is revealed.

17. Explain why Christians should not be surprised when they see a growing rejection of God by people throughout the world.

18. Explain what you learn for your own life from the fact that there is a growing rebellion against God and any authority.

Once the Christians are taken out of the world at the coming of Christ for us, the people of the world will begin to look for a leader that can stop the rebellion that is going on in the world. Today, people are already beginning to look for a world leader who can stop rebellion and bring peace. This is what the man of sin (the antichrist) will promise that he will do. He will do this right after Christ takes the Christians to heaven. As soon as the antichrist gains control of the world, he will say that he is god and will put his image in the temple at Jerusalem. Daniel and Matthew tell us that this will happen at the middle of the tribulation. The antichrist will try to make everyone worship him.

19. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and write what these verses say is already at work.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the man of sin (the antichrist).

21. Explain what you learn about the way that the antichrist is going to deceive the world from this passage.

We also see evidence in these verses that the Christians will be taken off the earth before the antichrist gains control. The antichrist is hindered from gaining control by the restrainer. The one who restrains or holds back the antichrist is the Holy Spirit. The antichrist cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world. Since the Holy Spirit lives in the life of every Christian, the Holy Spirit can only be taken out of the world when the Christians are taken out of the world. As soon as the Christians and the Holy Spirit are taken out of the world, then the antichrist will be revealed.

22. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 and write what kind of works the antichrist will do.

23. Explain why the Holy Spirit will restrain the antichrist and prevent him from gaining world power until the Christians are taken to heaven.

24. Explain why this helps you to understand why you do not need to live in fear as you think about the future.

Here, we see that the antichrist will have great power so that he will be able to do great miracles. Those who heard the Gospel but failed to follow Christ will believe the lie of the antichrist. They will never again have an opportunity to follow Christ because God will cause them to believe the lie of the antichrist. Those who have heard the Gospel but have rejected Christ will be completely deceived by the antichrist.

25. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 and what God will send on those who have heard about Christ and rejected Him.

36. Explain why we do not need to worry about living under the control of the antichrist if we are Christians.

27. Explain why you think that the antichrist will be allowed to do great miracles in order to deceive the world.

As Christians, Christ has made us free. He chose us and saved us. He makes us right with God through the work of the Holy Spirit. Now, we are to stand firmly as Christians and not be tricked by the devil. Just as the early Christians had the apostles to teach them about the death and resurrection of Christ, we now have the Word of God to teach us. The Word of God will help us to stand firmly as Christians. God wants us to know that He has loved us. He will establish us in every good word and work.

28. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 and write who will comfort and strengthen us so that we can speak and work for God.

29. Explain why we are to stand firmly and be established in the Word of God.

30. Explain some of the ways that the Lord has comforted you in your life and encouraged you as you speak and work for Him.

As Paul comes to the final part of the book, he asks the Christians in Thessalonica to pray for him and for those with him. He wants them to pray that nothing will hinder the preaching of the Word of God. The Lord can stop evil men because He has all power. Today, we also need to pray that Satan will be prevented from hindering us as we serve Christ. We also see that Christ is the One who gives us strength and keeps us from evil. He leads and directs us day by day.

31. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 and write with whom we are told not to walk.

32. Explain what it means for the Lord to direct our hearts into the love of God and into patient waiting for Christ.

33. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that the Lord is faithful and that He will establish you and keep you from evil.

These verses show us that there were some Christians that were not walking in the way that the Bible teaches them to walk. Instead, they were only doing things to satisfy themselves. They were talking about others. Today, there are Christians who are doing the same things. We are told not to fellowship with them until they start walking the way that the Lord wants them to

walk. Some of these Christians were so disobedient that they were not even working. They expected the other Christians to supply their needs.

34. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 and write what Paul commanded about those who would not work.

35. Explain what kind of an example Paul, Silas and Timothy had provided for the Christians in Thessalonica.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your life to follow the example of Paul and not the example of those who are lazy.

Today, there are still some Christians who do not want to work. Instead, they expect other Christians to help them. This is also true in the work of the church. Some Christians want to receive all of the blessings of the church but they do not feel that they should help in the work of visitation, witnessing, teaching or anything else. They want to be served, instead of growing and learning to serve. As a result, many churches do not grow because many of the Christians are not working for Christ.

37. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 and write what Paul encourages the Christians to keep on doing.

38. Explain why Christians will grow and develop in their spiritual maturity if they will yield their lives to the Lord and let Him work through them.

39. Explain what you learn about your responsibilities as a Christian from these verses.

We also see that we are to work without complaining. Then, we will be able to eat and enjoy the food for which we have worked. We are never to get tired of helping others. If another Christian is not obeying the Word of God, we are not to hate him. Instead, we are to teach and encourage him so that he will grow strong in the Lord. As he grows in the Lord, he will learn to serve Christ also. Paul says that the Lord is the Lord of peace who works to change and transform our lives. He also reminded the Christians that the Lord is with them. We also know that the Lord is with us.

40. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 and write what Paul prays that the Lord will give us.

41. Explain what these verses teach about the way to minister to a Christian that is not obeying the Word of God.

42. Explain how you can serve the Lord effectively as you minister to other Christians.

Now, re-read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-3:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 6

1 Timothy 1:1-2:15

Today, we are beginning a study of the three books known as the Pastoral Epistles. These three books give us many instructions about the leaders of the church. In order to have strong churches, we need to follow these instructions carefully. In our lesson today, we will be given a warning about those who teach the wrong things. We will also be given a warning about those who live the wrong way. Then, we will read Paul's special instructions to Timothy. Finally, we will learn about the way that we should act in the church.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what we learn about false teachers.
- Tell what Paul says about his own life.
- Tell what we learn about prayer.
- Explain what we learn about how we should act in the church.

As Paul begins this letter to Timothy, he says that he is writing to his own son in the faith. Timothy had probably become a Christian the first time that Paul had visited his city. Acts 16:1-5 tells us about the second visit of Paul to that area. There we see that Timothy had a good report of the other Christians even though he was just a young man. On this second visit, Paul invited Timothy to travel with him. As a result, Timothy had worked with Paul for many years and had become almost like a son to Paul. Paul left Timothy in various cities to strengthen the Christians and churches when Paul went to new cities.

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11 and write where Timothy was when this letter was written to him.
2. Explain why Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus when he had gone from there to the area of Macedonia.
3. Explain what lessons you learn from the fact that Paul took Timothy with him to help Timothy develop as a spiritual leader.

There were some in Ephesus who were teaching false teachings. Paul warns Timothy about these teachers. Some were telling stories that were not true. Others were spending their time trying to find out more about their early families. These things were only causing them to become confused, instead of helping them to grow strong in their spiritual lives. Timothy was to help the Christians grow instead. Paul said that true teaching will come from a heart that is controlled by the love of Christ. True teaching will come from a clear conscience. True teaching will come from a genuine faith.

4. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11 and write what these people who were giving false teaching wanted to be.
5. Explain why a faithful teacher will want to be controlled by the love of Christ, have a clear conscience and have a genuine faith.
6. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to be a faithful teacher as you share the Word of God with others.

These people in Ephesus wanted to be teachers even though they were following false teachings. As a result, they did not even know what they were teaching. Of course they could not teach the truth because they did not even know the truth. Their teaching could only lead others the wrong way. We also see the purpose for the law. The law has been given for the sinful man who does not believe in God. It has been given to show sinful men that they are lost and condemned to hell. The law shows that a person cannot save himself. All that the law can do is condemn a person.

7. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11 and write to whom the law is good.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the purpose of the law.
9. Explain why it is important for you to understand that the law was not made for a righteous man.

Paul goes on to talk about the way that God had called him to preach, teach and establish churches. Even though Paul had been a very sinful man, God had saved him. God chose Paul in spite of his sin. Before Paul had become a Christian, he had spoken against Christ. He had persecuted the Christians and tried to destroy them. In fact, he was on his way to persecute Christians when the Lord stopped him on the road to Damascus. Here, we see that no matter how sinful a man is, God is still willing to save him. Christ offers eternal life to all people.

10. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 and write why Paul says that he had obtained mercy from God.
11. Explain how the Lord had changed and transformed Paul so that the Lord could count him as one who was faithful and even put him into the ministry.
12. Explain how the Lord changed and transformed your life and why He is able to enable you to be a faithful servant for Him.

Just as God showed great love and mercy to us, God showed great love to Paul. He had been saved in spite of his great sin. We read that Paul felt that he was the greatest sinner in the world. Here, we see that Christ saved Paul even though Paul felt that because he had persecuted and killed Christians that he was certainly worse than any other person was. Christ is willing to save any person. It does not matter how sinful that person has been in the past. Christ is still able to save that person.

13. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 and write what Christ came into the world to do.
14. Explain what these verse teach us about the greatness of the grace and love of Christ for us.
15. Explain why it is important to you that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Even though Paul felt that he was the worst sinner in the world, Christ saved him. Christ did this to show that He can save all people. It does not matter how sinful people have been in their past. Christ had waited a long time for Paul to turn to Him. He showed His love to Paul, instead of killing him. Paul is an example or pattern to show that Christ will give everlasting life to all who place their trust in Him and follow Him. Christ offers this everlasting life as a free gift to all.

16. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 and write how Paul told Timothy to fight the battle against the power of the devil.
17. Explain how the fact that Christ saved Paul and transformed his life is an example of the fact that Christ can change and transform the life of any person.
18. Explain why it is your desire for your life to be an example of the fact that Christ can change and transform a life.

If we are going to serve Christ, we must stand firmly in the faith that Christ has given us. We must not try to add any of our own ideas to the Word of God. We must not turn from some of the things that the Word of God teaches. We read that there were two men who had turned away from teaching the true faith. As a result, God was allowing Satan to punish their physical bodies so they would repent and turn back to God, instead of continuing to follow their sinful ways.

19. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 and write the names of these two men.
20. Explain what it means when it says that Timothy was to hold to the faith and a good conscience as he served Christ.
21. Explain why it is important to you in your life that you hold to the faith as you stand for Christ and share Him with others.

Paul goes on to tell what we should do as Christians. We are told to pray for all people. We should pray for both our friends and those who treat us as enemies. We should pray for those

who are Christians and those who are not Christians. As we pray for those who are not Christians, we should pray that they will realize what it means to follow Christ. Then, we should thank God when such people become Christians. We are also told to pray for those who have particular needs.

22. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and write what other group of people for whom we are told to pray.

23. Explain why prayer and the giving of thanks should be a very important part of the life of every Christian.

24. Explain what lessons you learn from these verses that you can apply to your own prayer life.

Here, we see that we are to pray for our rulers and leaders. Even if our leaders are not Christians or may even hate Christ, we are to pray for them anyway. As we pray for our leaders, God will lead them and guide them even though they do not know that God is leading them. As a result, we will be able to have a quiet and peaceful life. This is why Christ wants us to pray for all kinds of leaders whether they are good or evil. We also need to pray for the salvation of those leaders that are not Christians.

25. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and write how many people Christ wants to be saved.

26. Explain why these verses teach that it is very important for all Christians to pray for the leaders of their country.

27. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to be praying for the people you know to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

We read that there is only one person who goes between God and men. That person is Christ. Christ is our mediator (the one who goes between God and us). We do not need to confess our sins to any person. Instead, we can pray directly to God through Christ. Christ will speak to the Father for us. He will tell the Father that He has paid the penalty for our sin and that we have accepted His payment for our sin. Then, the Father will forgive us because the Father is satisfied with the price that Christ paid to remove the penalty for our sin.

28. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and write for whom Christ gave His life as a ransom.

29. Explain what it means for Christ to be our mediator.

30. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that you can come to the Father through Christ in prayer at any time.

Christ is our mediator because He paid the penalty for our sin with His blood. Now, God has chosen us to tell others of that fact that Christ paid the penalty for our sin with His blood. This is a wonderful message that every person needs to know. This is the reason that God has chosen every Christian to tell others about the death and resurrection of Christ. Only as every Christian tells others about Christ will every person have an opportunity to hear about Christ.

31. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and write what Paul said men should do everywhere.

32. Explain why Paul was appointed to be a preacher, an apostle and a teacher of the Gentiles.

33. Explain how the fact that God wants every person to hear the Gospel applies to you personally.

In order for people everywhere to pray to God through Christ, we must go everywhere and tell people about Christ. Paul also goes on to talk about the things that women should do in the church and wherever they go. Christian women are to dress in a way that will bring honor to God and not in a way that will cause men to look at them. Women should be more concerned about doing good works than trying to impress people with fancy clothes and much jewelry.

34. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-15 and write what God says about women teaching in the meetings of the whole church.

35. Explain why God wants women to be a testimony to others by the way that they dress and do good works.

36. Explain why you think that God has given men and women different responsibilities in the church.

God has a plan for the way that His Word should be preached and taught in meetings of the whole church. That plan is for men to do the preaching and teaching. Today, many men have failed to take their God given responsibility. In other cases, women have taken the responsibility from men and have become preachers and teachers in the church. We see in other passages that women have been given a very important responsibility of teaching women and children in the church. However, in meetings that include both men and women, men are to take their God given responsibility and do the teaching. Women are also told that they are not to take the authority over men. Instead, men are to be leaders in the ministry and business of the church.

37. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-15 and write how the women are to learn.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of men being willing to take their responsibility to teach and preach.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the different ministries of men and women in the church.

We also see the reason why women are not to teach or lead men in the church. Eve was deceived (tricked) by the devil. It is for this reason that men are to be the leaders in their families as well as in the church. God has created men and women to think differently so that all needs will be met in the family and in the church. However, because men and women do think differently, women are often more easily deceived than men. As a result, the devil knows that he can lead a church the wrong way easier if women have taken the leadership because it is easier for him to deceive women.

40. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-15 and write how we should all live whether we are men or women.

41. Explain why it is important for men to take their responsibility and provide leadership in the church.

42. Explain why you think that God created men and women to think differently so that all of the various kinds of needs would be met.

Now, re-read 1 Timothy 1:1-2:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 7

1 Timothy 3:1-4:16

Today, we will receive further instructions about the way that things should be done in the church. We will learn about the kind of men that God wants to be leaders in the church. If all churches develop the kind of men that God says that they should have as leaders, all churches would be much stronger. This is why one of the key responsibilities of leaders is to develop additional godly leaders. God gives the qualifications for leaders in the church. The men that meet these qualifications should be recognized as leaders appointed by the Holy Spirit.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain the qualifications for an elder.

Explain the qualifications for a deacon.

Tell what we should not do as Christian leaders.

Explain what some of our priorities should be as Christian leaders.

In our last lesson, we learned that men are to take the leadership in the church. Today, we will learn about the kind of men that God wants to lead the church. First, we will learn about the leaders that are called elders, bishops or overseers. All three words are speaking of the same office in the church. Throughout the New Testament we see that elders are to lead the church. In Acts 14:23, we see that there are to be a group of elders in every church. This means that there should be at least two or more elders in every church. The pastor is one of the elders but there must be one or more besides the pastor who serve with the pastor.

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and write what a man desires if he wants to be a bishop (elder).
2. Explain why it is important for men to have a desire to become godly men so that they can be leaders in the church.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for a man to have a desire to be an elder in order to be an effective elder.

Here, we see that all of the men in a church should have a desire to grow spiritually so that they become qualified to be elders in the church. God recognizes them as leaders if they meet the qualifications that are given in this chapter. To be an elder, a man should be one who is respected and not spoken against. He must have only one wife. In some countries, men are still allowed to have several wives at the same time so those men would not qualify for spiritual leadership. A man must be able to control himself in all things (temperate). He must be soberminded (think in a godly way). He must also act in the right way in all things. He must be one who uses his home as a place of ministry. He must be able to teach others.

4. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and write what is mentioned after being able to teach.
5. Explain why the way that a man leads his family in his home will be a good indication of the way that he will lead the people in the church.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for a man to be a godly leader in his home if he is going to be an effective leader in the church.

We are given several things that an elder must avoid. As elder must not drink. He must not fight or start fights. He must not be greedy for money. He must be willing to suffer a long time without getting angry. He must not desire the things that others have. He must teach and discipline his children in the right way. If he cannot lead his children, he is not going to be an effective leader in the church. Today, there are many leaders in churches who have failed to teach and train their own children. God says that they must learn to lead and teach in the home before they lead and teach in the church.

7. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and write the next thing an elder must not be in order to a leader in the

church.

8. Explain why most of the qualifications for leadership mentioned so far deal with godly character and godly example.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for leaders in the church to lead by their character and by their example.

A novice is one who is a new or a weak Christian. A man who is a new or a weak Christian will still lead in a worldly way, instead of leading by godly character and example. In addition, he might become proud if he were appointed as an elder. Then, the devil would be able to tempt him to sin. An elder must also be respected by those that are not Christians. Here, we see that his life must be an example to all people whether those people are Christians or whether they are not Christians.

10. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and why a spiritual leader must have a good report by those who are not Christians.

11. Explain what these verses teach about the kind of men that Christ wants to be the elders in a church.

12. Explain why you think that it is important for those who are already elders to help men grow and mature in their spiritual lives so that those men will grow and become spiritually qualified to become elders.

We are also given the qualifications for deacons. The deacons are the men who help the elders by helping those who have needs. In many churches, they are also the men who care for the money and other things that belong to the church. We see that the qualifications for deacons include some of the things mentioned for elders. We saw that an elder is not to be a novice (a new or a weak Christian). For a deacon we are told that he must first be proved. This means that there must be time to examine his life to make sure that he meets the qualifications given in Scripture. However, if he is a new Christian that is really growing, he may meet the qualifications of Scripture in a fairly short time.

13. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-16 and write what Gold says about those who use the office of a deacon well.

14. Explain why there are fewer qualifications given for deacons than the qualifications that are given for elders.

15. Explain why you think that men must meet certain qualifications for spiritual leadership whether they are deacons or elders.

Here, we see that a man who is faithful as a deacon will soon develop the additional qualifications that are given for an elder. There are a number of things that are required for an elder that are not required for a man to be a deacon. An elder must be one who is given to hospitality. This means that he must use his home as a place of ministry. This is one of the best places to teach new Christians. It is also a way to show kindness to strangers and the needy. One of the other qualifications for an elder that is not given for a deacon is an ability to teach. As deacons grow spiritually they should be taught to teach the Word of God so that they can one day meet the qualifications for an elder.

16. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-16 and write what kind of boldness we have in Christ as leaders.

17. Explain why both deacons and elders must have lives that are blameless so that no accusations can be brought against them.

18. Explain why you think that a church will be a strong church if the elders are consciously working to help the younger men develop the qualifications for godly leaders.

As we have seen the qualifications for elders and deacons, we see that it is God who chooses the men to be the leaders of the church. The church is supposed to recognize as leaders those men that meet the qualifications set by Scripture. Since there are fewer qualifications for deacons, a man will become qualified to be a deacon before he meets all of the qualifications

- for an elder. As a man serves as a deacon and continues to develop his godly character, he should also be shown how to show hospitality and be shown how to teach the Word of God. This ability to teach includes an ability to recognize and answer those who teach false doctrines.
19. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-16 and write what the church is called in these verses.
 20. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of developing godly leadership to lead every church.
 21. Explain what you have personally learned about leadership in the church from these verses.

Paul was hoping to come and visit Timothy before very long. However, he wanted Timothy to know these things so Timothy would be able to teach the church in Ephesus about the kind of godly leaders that God wanted them to have to lead them. Today, we still need leaders like these to help the church grow strong. We need this kind of leaders to provide an example of godly character for younger Christians. We also need this kind of leaders to equip all Christians so that every Christian is prepared to tell others about the death and resurrection and Christ and how He shed His blood on the cross to pay for their sin.

22. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-10 and write what Christ says will happen in the last days.
23. Explain why leaders who demonstrate godly character are so important in view of the fact that we are warned that some will depart from the faith.
24. Explain why you think God felt it was important to give this warning that in the last days some will depart from the faith.

Today, we are seeing a great group of people turn away from the Gospel and depart from the faith. Leaders of churches that once preached the Gospel are now following evil spirits and demons. Others are trying to talk to the dead. Some are going to fortunetellers that are controlled by evil spirits. Some churches are even encouraging people to mix their old religions with Christianity and continue to worship evil spirits. They are speaking lies and refusing to teach the Word of God.

25. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-10 and write what we read about the consciences of such people.
26. Explain why some people can depart so far from the faith that they will reach a point where they have seared their consciences so much that their consciences no longer bother them when they teach such false teachings.
27. Explain why you think we are seeing these very things happen in churches in various places today.

These false teachers will teach lies for so long that they will not even feel guilty when are teaching lies. There will be some false teachers who will teach that it is wrong to get married. Some false teachers teach that it is wrong to eat certain foods. However, God says that He has created all things and we do not need to refuse to eat what God has given us. Instead, we are to thank Him for everything.

28. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-10 and write what kind of spiritual nourishment we are to share with people to help them in their spiritual growth.
29. Explain what these verses teach about false teachers and their teachings.
30. Explain why you think it is important to help Christians grow by sharing with them the words of faith and of good doctrine.

Instead of following false teachers, we are to follow Christ. We are to have our faith in Him and teach what He taught. Then, we will have a sound faith that comes from the Word of God. We are not to listen to the traditions and stories of men. We are to spend our time studying the Word of God so that our lives will become more and more like the life of Christ. This kind of spiritual exercise is even more important than physical exercise to make our bodies strong.

31. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-10 and write why Paul worked and suffered for Christ.
32. Explain why godliness is profitable unto all things.
33. Explain why you have made it your goal to grow in godliness so that your life will make an

impact both for now and for eternity.

Christ is the One who saves all people. Sinful men do not receive their judgment immediately. Instead, they are allowed to live and have more opportunities to learn about Christ and follow Him. Those who follow Christ will receive eternal life and will be saved forever. This is the message that we are to teach all people so that people have the opportunity to become Christians. In addition to our words, we are also to teach by our example. This example includes our words, our conduct, our love, our spirit, our faith and our purity.

34. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and write what Timothy was not to let anyone despise.

35. Explain why Christians are to back up the things that they teach by the lives that they live.

36. Explain why you think that your life should also be an example to others in each of the areas that Paul mentioned to Timothy in these verses.

Timothy was also told to emphasize three things. He was to emphasize the reading of the Word of God. He was to emphasize exhortation or encouragement. He was to emphasize the teaching of the doctrines of the Word of God. Today, we still need to emphasize these three things. If we will emphasize these three things, people will be drawn to Christ and Christians will grow. We are also to meditate on the Word of God. To meditate means to think about the Word of God and then apply the Word to our own lives. As we apply the Word of God to our lives, it will change our daily living.

37. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and write what Timothy was not to neglect.

38. Explain why it is very important to emphasize the public reading of the Scriptures in the services of the church.

39. Explain why you think it is important for Christian leaders to make certain that there is a strong emphasis on reading, encouraging others from Scripture and teaching the doctrines of Scripture in the church services.

Christ had given Timothy a spiritual gift. The leaders of the church had recognized this gift. Timothy was now told that he was not to neglect and fail to use that gift. In 2 Timothy 4:5, we see that Timothy was told to do the work of an evangelist. An evangelist is one who equips the saints to share the Gospel with those who are not Christians. It is easy for Christian leaders to get so busy doing the work of the ministry that they fail to make it a priority to continue to equip others to serve the Lord. As a result, Paul warned Timothy not to neglect the gift that had been given to him.

40. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and write the two things that Timothy was told to pay attention to and continue in them.

41. Explain why it is important for spiritual leaders to use the gift that God has given them to equip other Christians to serve the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that a church will grow much stronger if each of the elders will make it one of their key priorities to equip every Christian to serve the Lord.

Now, re-read 1 Timothy 3:1-4:16 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 8

1 Timothy 5:1-6:21

In our last lesson, we learned some things that we should avoid as Christian leaders. We also learned some things that we are to make priorities in our ministries. Today, we will learn some more about the things that we should do as Christian leaders. If we are doing the things that God tells us to do, we will help the church grow and become strong. We will also be given some more warnings about false teachers and the things that they may teach to deceive people and lead them astray.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how we should help the older widows.

Explain how we should treat the elders of the church.

Explain what kind of teachers we should avoid.

Explain how we should serve the Lord as Christians.

We are not to attack with words those that are elders. Instead, we are to speak to them privately and show them their error so that they can correct the error. We are to respect the elders like we would respect our fathers. We are to treat the older women like we would treat our mothers. We are to treat the younger men and women as brothers and sisters. Here, we see that we are all a part of the family of God and we should treat the entire family of God with love. We are also to help the widows who have no one to help them.

1. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16 and write what Christ says about a man that refuses to care for a widow in his own family.

2. Explain why Christians are to treat one another as family members.

3. Explain why you think that these verses teach that it is important to view and treat other Christians in the same way that we treat members of our family.

A true Christian widow is one that has a real trust in God and spends much time praying for others each day. She is not one who just spends her time satisfying herself. If a Christian is not concerned about a widow in his own family, he is being an unfaithful Christian. He is not showing Christian love and concern in his own family. He is not obeying the command of Christ. As a result, that person is missing the blessing that Christ wants to give him.

4. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16 and write what Christ says about a man who refuses to care for a widow in his own family.

5. Explain why Christians are encouraged to have a great concern for older members of their family.

6. Explain what these verses teach you for your own life about your responsibility to the older widows in your extended family.

Here, we see that it is very important to care for the widows in our family. If we refuse, we are worse than people who do not even believe in God. A widow who should be cared for by the church is one that is at least sixty years old. She should be one who has been concerned about others. She should have been showing the love of Christ by the things that she did. Here, we see that a true widow is one that has served the Lord as long as she has been able to do so. The church is told not to take the responsibility for caring for the younger widows. Instead, the younger widows are encouraged to marry again.

7. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16 and write what the younger widows would do if the church took the responsibility of caring for them.

8. Explain why the church does have a responsibility to care for older widows who have no family and who have served the Lord faithfully.

9. Explain why you think that older widows are encouraged to make prayer a very important part of their ministry.

A young widow would have nothing to do if they church took the responsibility to care for her. If that happened, it would become very easy for her to become lazy. She might be tempted to begin going from house to house telling gossip. The younger widow is encouraged to get married and raise a family. Part of that ministry in the home includes the fact that the wife is to rule the house (choose how to decorate and organize things in the house as women are the ones who make a house a home). Then, Satan will not have an opportunity to get the younger widows to cause trouble in the church. Although the younger widows are encouraged to marry, we do have a responsibility to help the older widows in the church.

10. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16 and write the things that Paul encouraged the younger women to do.

11. Explain why women are told to rule the house.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord has given women some very important ministries in the home.

We go on to see that those elders that lead the church the way that God wants them to lead should be respected. As Christians, we also have a responsibility to help supply the needs of those who spend all of their time teaching the Word of God. They are giving their time to help us so we should be happy to give our money to help them. In this way, we are all ministering to one another.

13. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 and write how many witnesses there should be before we let someone tell us that an elder has done wrong.

14. Explain why we should want to share what we have with those that are teaching us the Word of God.

15. Explain why you think that God says not to receive an accusation against an elder unless there are at least two witnesses.

There may be one person in the church that does not like a certain leader. That person may speak against that elder to try and cause problems in the church. For this reason, we should not listen when there is only one person who says that an elder has done wrong. Instead, we see that there should be at two or more that have seen an elder do wrong. However, when there are elders that are living in sin, they should be spoken to publicly so that others will not be tempted to join them in their sin. They have a great impact because they are leaders.

16. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 and write what things we are told to observe.

17. Explain why it is important to take action if there are several witnesses who say that an elder has sinned.

18. Explain why you think that elders are to lead by their godly example and not just by their words.

We see also that we are not to be unfair in the way that we do things in the church. Instead, we are to be fair in all that we do and show real Christian love. We are to keep ourselves pure and not become involved in the sins of other men. When we choose elders of the church, we are not to do it suddenly. Instead, we are to spend much time in prayer before selecting the elders. Then, if they have hidden sin in their lives, God will show us that these men are not to be chosen to be leaders in the church. God will also show us if we should choose some that we had not considered at first.

19. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 and write what kind of problems Timothy had that frequently caused him to get sick.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the way to choose elders to lead the church.

21. Explain why you think that churches should spend more time in prayer than most do before selecting those who will lead the church.

If we work for someone else, we are to obey and honor the people for whom we work. We are to serve them the way that we would serve Christ. Then, people will not speak against Christ. If we work for a Christian, we should not feel that we can get by with less work because our employer is a Christian. Instead, we should do the best job possible because we are working for people that are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are sharing in the blessings that the Lord has given them.

22. Read 1 Timothy 6:1-5 and write what Paul calls a man who refuses to accept this teaching.

23. Explain why Christians should be very thankful and show it by the way that they work if they have the opportunity to work for other Christians.

24. Explain why you realize that the way that you work on your job is a very important part of your testimony to others.

There are many people who do not teach what the Bible teaches. Instead, they speak their own ideas. Here, we see that they are proud. They really know nothing about the Word of God. Instead, they try to impress people by the way that they speak. They love to argue with words, instead of obeying the Word of God. They cause anger and fighting. Their minds have turned away from God. They do not know the truth. We see that such teachers are teaching their own ideas and philosophies, instead of teaching the Word of God. They are seeking to gain followers for themselves, instead of leading people to place their trust in Christ.

25. Read 1 Timothy 6:1-5 and write what we are told to do when we meet that kind of a preacher or teacher.

26. Explain why false teachers teach things that turn people to human ideas, instead of turning them from sin to obedience to Christ.

27. Explain how these verses help you to personally recognize those who are teaching false ideas and philosophies.

When we meet false teachers that are not teaching the Word of God, we are not to listen to them. Instead, we are to withdraw from them. We are not to have any fellowship with them. They will only lead us the wrong way, instead of teaching us the Word of God so that we can grow in our spiritual maturity. All that they will do is cause us to argue and fight. When that happens, we will begin to show the fear and hatred of the world, instead of acting in the power of the Holy Spirit so that our lives demonstrate the love of Christ to others.

28. Read 1 Timothy 6:1-5 and write what kind of minds these false teachers have.

29. Explain what these verses teach us about false teachers and the things that their teachings will produce.

30. Explain what these verses teach you is the real goal of false teachers.

We also learn that as Christians we place a different value on things than the world. The world looks for the things that will benefit self. Here, we see that a real love for God is the most important thing that we can have. We had nothing when we were born. When we die, we will be able to take nothing from this world with us. Since that is true, we should not be anxious about how we can get more of the things of this world. As we grow in godliness and learn the meaning of contentment, we see that we can be satisfied with food and clothes and that we do not need things to make us happy.

31. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-21 and write what is a root or cause of all sorts of evil.

32. Explain why one of the greatest lessons that Christians can learn for their daily lives is to be content with the things that God has provided for them.

33. Explain what you have learned for your own life about the fact that contentment will give you inner peace.

The love of money is one of the best traps of the devil. The devil tries to get every Christian concerned about getting money and things. When Christians start trying to get money so that they can buy things, their faith often becomes weak because they start depending on their

money, instead of depending on Christ. This only causes sorrow, instead of joy, because the things that they are depending on do not last. When those things are gone, all they have left is a weak faith. Today, many Christians have become very concerned about money. They have begun following things, instead of Christ. As a result, these Christians have become weak. Since many Christians think this way, many churches have become weak and are doing very little for Christ.

34. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-21 and write what Christians should do if they do have money.

35. Explain why Christians can easily be deceived if they start to love money or the things that money can buy.

36. Explain what you have learned from these verses for your own life about the dangers of coveting money and the things that it can buy.

If God has given us money, we can thank the Lord for the opportunity to help those who are poor and needy. As Christians, we can share with other Christians that have less than we have. Then, Christ will reward us. We are told to flee the things of the world and choose to follow the things that will produce a life that will have eternal value. We see that we are to follow the things that will produce godly character. Those things will equip us to fight the good fight of faith. That way our lives will have an impact for eternity, instead of just for this world.

37. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-21 and write what kind of a confession Christ gave before Pilate.

38. Explain why Christians are to keep their eyes focused on the things that will produce eternal value, instead of on the things of this world.

39. Explain what these verses teach you about the way to fight the good fight of faith.

As Christians we are to follow the example of Christ. We see that Christ gave us an example to follow. If we follow His example, our lives will be unrebukeable at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of seeking earthly riches, we need to encourage others to seek God and His desires because that will help them to enjoy the things that God has provided for them to enjoy. Christians will enjoy the blessing of the Lord as they make it their goal to do good works and minister to the needs of others because they will be storing up eternal treasures.

40. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-21 and write what Timothy was told to keep.

41. Explain why Christians will find great joy in life as they learn to trust in the living God, instead of trusting in uncertain riches.

42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the things that will bring you joy in your life.

Now, re-read 1 Timothy 5:1-6:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 9

2 Timothy 1:1-2:26

Today, we will begin studying the final book that Paul wrote before he was put to death. In this letter, Paul is giving final instructions to a young man that had become a spiritual leader as he had worked with Paul. The instructions given in this book are important instructions for all Christian leaders. We need to study these instructions carefully if we want to be effective leaders for Christ. This book will teach us lessons about how to live and also how to do the work of the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what we learn about the early life of Timothy.
- Explain how we are to stand as Christians.
- Explain how we should work as the servants of Christ.
- Explain how we will be rewarded as the servants of Christ.

As we begin this letter, we see again the concern of Paul for Timothy. Paul remembered Timothy in his prayers continually. He never forgot about Timothy. Paul prayed for him night and day. Paul was in prison again. This time he was in a Roman dungeon. He did not have much opportunity to talk to others. However, he could still pray. Sometimes we are sick and do not have the opportunity to witness to others. However, we can spend more time praying that other Christians will have opportunities to witness and tell others about the death and resurrection of Christ.

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and write how much Paul wanted to see Timothy.
2. Explain what Paul meant when he said that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.
3. Explain why you think Paul had such a great concern to be able to see Timothy one more time before his death.

As Paul thought of Timothy, Paul had a great desire to see Timothy. Paul also thought of the mother and grandmother of Timothy and of their great faith. Here, we see the results of faithful teaching by parents and grandparents. Timothy was a strong Christian with a great desire to serve Christ. He had been taught in the home as a boy to love and serve the Lord. Here, we see that the home is a key in the development of strong Christians. If we want our children to grow up and become strong Christians, we must faithfully teach them in the home as they are growing. We must also be an example of a godly Christian by the way that we live and serve the Lord. This will help them to become the kind of Christians that God wants them to be.

4. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and write what God has given us, instead of a spirit of fear.
5. Explain why faithful teaching in the home together with a godly example by the parents will greatly help children in their spiritual growth.
6. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the lives of the mother and grandmother of Timothy.

Today, there are many people throughout the world that are filled with fear. This is due to the fact that the devil has control of their lives, instead of Christ. When Christ comes into our lives, He places the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit, we find that He removes our fear. The Holy Spirit gives us His power so that we can witness boldly for Christ. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, we are no longer weak. We have the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Christ also gives us His love so that we are filled with love, instead of fear. Christ renews and transforms our minds so that the thoughts that we think will be His thoughts. As a result, our lives are completely changed.

7. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and write what Timothy was told to stir up in his life.
8. Explain why Christians are able to act with boldness, instead of fear, when they are yielding to the Holy Spirit.
9. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you are filled with the spirit of power, and of love and of a sound mind.

Because Christ has given us His power, His love and a renewed mind, we no longer need to be ashamed to witness and tell others about Christ. Christ saved us and changed our lives. He now gives us His strength so that we can carry out the purpose that He has given us for our lives. This did not happen as a result of our own works. Instead, this is due to the fact that Christ chose us before the world began. Now, Christ has appointed us to go and tell others how they can have eternal life through Christ. This means that our lives have a purpose that will have an eternal impact.

10. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18 and write what Paul was appointed by God to do.
11. Explain why Christ wants to change the life of every Christian and give every Christian a purpose that will bring joy to the life of each Christian.
12. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you can have a purpose that will produce eternal results in the lives of others.

Paul had been faithful in preaching and teaching the Gentiles. Because of the opposition of those who were not Christians, Paul was now in prison. However, that did not make him ashamed. He had placed his trust in Christ. Now, he knew that Christ would be with him and take care of him regardless of what happened around him or to him. We can have the same peace and confidence in our own lives. We can know that Christ will take care of us regardless of what is happening around us or to us.

13. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18 and write to what Timothy was told to hold fast.
14. Explain why Paul was able to have great peace and know that whatever happened to him that the Lord would keep him.
15. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ will give you eternal life regardless of what others might do to you on this earth.

Today, we live in a world where many people are confused and do not know what to believe. In these days, we must stand on the Word of God and not our own ideas. We know that the Word of God has given us sound words. We are to let the Holy Spirit teach and guide us so that we know how to teach the Word of God to others. We must continue to teach the Word of God and not our own ideas because our own ideas will not give people a solid foundation on which to stand.

16. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-18 and write who had often been an encouragement to Paul even when he was in prison.
17. Explain how the life of Onesiphorus gives us an example of the way that Christians can be an encouragement to other Christians.
18. Explain why it is important to you in your life to faithfully teach the Word of God to others and not just share your own ideas.

As we begin the second chapter, we see that Paul gives us several pictures of the way that we should serve Christ. First, Paul speaks to Timothy as a son. As a son, Timothy is encouraged to be strong in Christ. We have no strength in ourselves. However, in Christ we can have all of the strength that we need because Christ is the source of all strength and power. He is our strength and we can depend on Him at all times. As we depend on Him, He will work in and through our lives.

19. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and write what we are supposed to do with the things that we have been taught from the Word of God by others.
20. Explain why Christians must learn to depend on the power of Christ and not their own

strength if they are going to be effective in serving Christ.

21. Explain how it has changed your own life as you have been learning to be strong in Christ, instead of depending on yourself.

Here, we see some very important lessons about teaching. The things that we have learned are to be taught to faithful men. We are not to keep the Word of God to ourselves. Whatever we know should be taught to other faithful men. We are told to teach these people so well that they will be able to teach others also. This means that we must do more than just tell a person something. We must let them explain what we are teaching back to us so that we know that they understand clearly. If they do not understand clearly, they will never be able to teach those things to others.

22. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and write what we are to do as good soldiers of Christ.

23. Explain why it is important for Christians to make sure that those that they have taught are able to now explain those things to others.

24. Explain why these verses show you that you must learn to think about a third and fourth spiritual generation and not just about the people that you are presently teaching.

In these verses, we also see that we are soldiers for Christ. We are in a battle against all of the powers of the devil. We must be prepared to endure persecution or whatever else the devil brings against us. We must not get ourselves so busy with the things of the world that those things keep us from fighting against the powers of the devil. One of the favorite tricks of Satan is to get Christians so busy that they do not have time to witness for Christ. We must be careful not to let the devil hinder us with busyness so that we do not have time to do the work that the Lord has for us.

25. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and write who is the one that gets the first fruit from a field.

26. Explain why it is possible for Christians to become so busy with the affairs of this life that they fail to work for the Lord.

27. Explain what these verses teach you about the importance of setting godly priorities for your own life.

We see that we have two more pictures that show us how to serve the Lord. One is a man in a race. He does not receive the prize unless he has obeyed the rules. If a man breaks the rules, he is disqualified from the race. A farmer is the first one to enjoy some of the fruit from his field. As we look at all of these pictures together, we see one larger picture. As we depend on Christ for our strength, we will be able to teach others. We must be prepared to endure hardness and avoid letting the things of the world keep us busy. Then, as we serve the Lord, we must obey the Word of God. As a result, we will receive a reward.

28. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and write what Paul said is not bound.

29. Explain why Paul was willing to suffer trouble and be treated as an evildoer in order to spread the Word of God.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses.

God also gives us some wonderful promises in this chapter. Since we have died with Christ, we will also live with Him. As we suffer for Christ, we know that we will also reign with Him. However, we are also given a warning that Christ will deny us if we deny that we know Him. We see that Christ is faithful and cannot deny Himself. We are also told not to argue about the things that are not important. Arguing will only cause people to turn away from Christ.

31. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-26 and write how we should study the Word of God.

32. Explain why Christians can look forward to living and reigning with Christ if they are faithful in serving Him.

33. Explain why you have realized that arguing about words will hinder your witness for Christ.

We are to study the Word of God and not just read it. Studying the Word of God means

reading, memorizing and meditating on the Word of God until we understand it. As we memorize the Word and meditate upon it, we need to apply the Word of God to our own lives and let the Word of God change our lives. We need to continue to think about the Word of God throughout the day. If we wake up during the night we can continue to meditate on the Word. If we do these things, we will not be ashamed when we stand before Christ.

34. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-26 and write what we are to avoid.

35. Explain why studying, memorizing, meditating and applying the Word of God to our lives will change our lives as Christians.

36. Explain what it means to you in your own life to be a workman of God that is not ashamed because you are rightly dividing the Word of God.

We are not to listen and participate with those who speak against God and His Word. They are trying to turn others from Christ. Instead, we can choose to rest in the promise that we are the sons of God. God knows us and has chosen us. Now, we should stay away from sin. We are like vessels (jars or other containers) in a house. Some containers are used for important things. Other containers are just used for the garbage. If we want to be used by the Lord, our lives must be vessels that are pure and holy so that the Lord can use our lives. We want to be fit for the Master's use and prepared for every good work.

37. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-26 and write what Timothy was told to flee.

38. Explain why Christians are to purge themselves from sin if they want to be fit for the Master's use and prepared for every good work.

39. Explain what kind of a vessel you want your own life to be for the Lord.

Paul gives Timothy several instructions in the last verses of this chapter. We need to also apply these instructions in our own lives. First, Paul told Timothy to avoid all kinds of lusts. Lust is a desire for something that is not yours. Timothy is also warned not to argue and fight with false teachers that are fighting against Christ. Instead, Timothy was told to show love and kindness. He is reminded to teach the Word of God. He is told to be patient and not boast about himself. Today, we need to follow these instructions in our own lives.

40. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-26 and write what we are to follow instead of lust.

41. Explain why Christians are told to instruct those who oppose them with patience and gentleness.

42. Explain what these verses teach you about how to be an effective servant of the Lord in your own life.

Now, re-read 2 Timothy 1:1-2:26 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 10

2 Timothy 3:1-4:22

In our study today, we will learn about the fact that many will turn away from Christ in the last days. The things that Paul warned about are happening right now. This should cause us to realize that we are getting close to the time when Christ will return to take the Christians to heaven. Although many people are turning away from God, we should not be discouraged. We can continue to stand on the promises of God in His Word. Then, we will not stumble. Paul also gives us a tremendous example from his own life. He had been faithful to the end and finished what Christ had for him to do.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain what things will be like in the last days.

Tell why we should depend on the Word of God in these last days.

Explain what we should be doing in these last days.

Explain the final instructions that Paul gave to Timothy.

As we look at the things that are happening in the world around us, we realize that the things that Paul said would happen in the last days are happening right now. The time is getting close when Christ will come back to take the Christians to heaven. First, we see that people love themselves. People are spending much of their time looking for things that will satisfy themselves. They want the things that other people have. People are also proud and boast about the things that they can do. At the same time, they also speak against God.

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and write how people are acting toward their parents.
2. Explain why most people including many Christians have become focused on themselves and their own desires and have little or no concern for others.
3. Explain why you think that Paul said that in the last days perilous times would come in the world.

We see that many children no longer listen to their parents. Instead, they disobey and rebel. We also see that people today are not thankful. They do not worship God. They have no love for others. Instead, their whole emphasis in life is to live to please themselves. They speak lies about others and have no self-control. They fight and hate those who are doing the things that are good and right. People will not listen to others. Instead, they are filled with pride.

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and write what they love more than they love God.
5. Explain why it is important to teach Christians to learn to be thankful for all things since they are living in a world where people are not thankful.
6. Explain what you learn for your own life from these verses about the danger of being self-centered and selfish.

Here, we see again that people are only interested in satisfying themselves. They are religious and have a form of worship. However, their religion is man-centered, instead of centered in God. People deny the Gospel and refuse to follow Christ. As Christians, we are not to follow the people that are doing the things mentioned above. Instead, we are to stand firmly for Christ. Then, we will not fall. If we listen to the people that are seeking their own pleasure, instead of seeking God, we will also fall into sin. People today have chosen to leave God out of their lives and live in sin and immorality. They are also looking for human knowledge and human wisdom.

7. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and write what God says about the learning of people as they seek human knowledge.
8. Explain why people have created their own religion that allows them to satisfy their own evil

desires, instead of following Christ.

9. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of following Christ and not getting deceived by the ideas of the world.

Today, the whole world is going after human knowledge. However, the more that people seek knowledge, the further they get from the truth. John 14:6 tells us that Christ is the truth. John 17:17 tells us that the Word of God is truth. However, in their search for knowledge, people are fighting against the truth. Their minds are filled with evil. These people have completely rejected God and are in rebellion against Him. They refuse to follow Christ. We see though that God will only allow them to rebel for a certain amount of time and then God will judge them.

10. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 and write the names of the men who withstood Moses.

11. Explain how the rebellion of the people of the world today shows that we are living in the last days before the return of Christ.

12. Explain why these verses help you to understand that the world will get worse and not better as the coming of Christ gets closer.

We see that the life of Paul was completely different than the lives of people are in these last days. Paul did everything that he did to bring honor and glory to Christ. He taught the Word of God. He was obedient to the commands of Christ. His only purpose in life was to tell others about Christ. He had a strong faith and was willing to suffer a long time. He had great love and patience. He had suffered from many persecutions. However, those persecutions did not bother him because he knew that Christ was with him and would take care of him. In fact, we have seen many times that Paul was rejoicing because he had the privilege of suffering for Christ.

13. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and write who Paul says will suffer persecution.

14. Explain what Paul understood about the way that the Lord delivers even when a person is enduring persecution and affliction.

15. Explain why you know that the Lord will deliver you as you experience opposition and persecution for Christ.

Here, we see again that it is a privilege for us to suffer for Christ. He only allows us to suffer for Him if we have been living godly lives. If we are suffering for Christ, it means that we are being faithful servants of Christ. As Christians, we know that evil men are getting worse and will persecute Christians more. However, we are to continue to follow Christ and do the things that we have been taught from the Word of God. That Word showed us how to have salvation.

16. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and write how all Scripture was given.

17. Explain why Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the things that he had learned from the Word of God and from godly teachers.

18. Explain why you realize that it is important to continue to focus on the Word of God even when many are departing from the Word.

We see that the entire Bible is the Word of God and comes from God. When it was written, it was written without a single error. We know that we can rely and depend on the Word of God. We see that the Word of God teaches us in four important ways. First, the Word of God teaches us the doctrines of God and shows us His standard. Second, the Word shows us when we have sinned and done wrong and come short of that standard. Third, the Word shows us the steps to correct what we have done wrong to get back into fellowship with Christ. Fourth, the Word gives us instructions about the way to live our lives each day. As a result of these four things, we are able to live the way that God wants us to live.

19. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and write what Christ says He wants to help the man of God become.

20. Explain what these verses teach us about the way that the Word of God was given to us.

21. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that God wants you to become mature

and equipped for every good work.

As we come to the final chapter of 2 Timothy, we see that Timothy is given some very important instructions. He is told to preach the Word of God. Today, there are many people that are preaching their own ideas and not the Word of God. However, it is the Word of God that changes people and not the words of men. We are to speak the Word of God at all times because it will change and transform all that hear it. We are to warn and encourage people from the Word of God.

22. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and write what kind of teachers people will want when they turn away from the sound doctrine of the Word of God.

23. Explain why it is important to continue to preach and teach the Word of God even when people are encouraging us to teach other things.

24. Explain why you realize that it is only the Word of God that will change lives and not the thoughts and ideas of people.

We see what happens when people turn away from the Word of God. They begin to follow false teachers, who tell them what they want to hear, instead of telling them what the Word of God says. These teachers turn people away from the truth. Paul also tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. Ephesians 4:11-12 teaches us that the ministry of spiritual leaders is to equip Christians for effective ministry. Evangelists equip Christians to share the good news of the Gospel with those who are not Christians. They also show others how to share the Gospel by their own example. Timothy had traveled with Paul for many years equipping Christians for ministry. Now, Paul tells him to keep on equipping people for the work of the ministry.

25. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and write what Paul says about his life.

26. Explain why Paul urged Timothy to keep on carrying out his ministry of equipping Christians to preach the Gospel

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know how to explain the Gospel clearly so that others can know how to become Christians.

Paul knew that he would soon be killed. However, he was not afraid. He knew that he had done what Christ wanted him to do. He knew that his work on earth for Christ would soon be complete. He knew that he had not changed the Word of God. He had preached what God had told him to preach. Now, he knew that he would soon receive a reward from Christ. These verses tell us that a reward is promised to all those who are looking forward to the appearing of Christ.

28. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8 and write what that reward is called.

29. Explain what Paul teaches us from his example about the importance of being faithful to Christ.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the importance of being faithful to Christ until you complete the course that the Lord has for you.

We also learn a little about some of the men that worked with Paul. Demas had left Paul because he loved the present world. Here, we see that Demas was more concerned about the things of this world than he was about obeying Christ. He was unwilling to lose his life for the sake of the Gospel. He loved the things of the world more than he loved Christ. Today, there are many people that are just like Demas. There are many that are not willing to stand for Christ if it means persecution or suffering. There are others who love the things of the world. They are not willing to let Christ have complete control of their lives. They will serve Christ only if it does not interrupt their plans. We read that Paul had sent three other men to other cities with the Gospel.

31. Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and write who was with Paul in Rome.

32. Explain what would cause a person like Demas to put the things of the world ahead of Christ in his life.

33. Explain why you know that you will only experience real joy and peace as you place Christ

first in your own life.

We see that Luke was faithful in serving Christ. He did not care if he died for serving Christ. As a doctor, he wanted to be there to meet the physical needs of Paul. The Lord wants more men like Luke that are willing to put Him first in their lives. As Christians we need to be faithful to Christ and serve Him without thinking about ourselves. Then, we can look forward to great blessing from the Lord.

34. Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and write who Paul told Timothy to bring with him when Timothy came to Rome.

35. Explain what these final greetings teach us about the importance of being faithful to the Lord.

36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the faithful ministry of Luke.

On the first missionary trip of Paul, Mark had gone with Paul and Barnabas. However, he went back home when the going got rough. As a result, Paul did not want to take him the second time. Paul felt that he had failed the first time. However, we see that one failure does not need to ruin our lives. Now, we read that Mark had become a profitable servant of Christ and he was faithfully doing the work of the Lord. This was the result of Barnabas giving him a second opportunity to serve as a part of a ministry team.

37. Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and write who strengthened Paul when no man stood with him at his first defense.

38. Explain why the ministry of Barnabas had helped Mark to become a man with an effective ministry for the Lord even though Mark had failed the first time.

39. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about giving a second opportunity to those who have failed once.

When Paul had been on trial before the Roman ruler, none of the other Christians had stood with him. Paul prays that the Lord will forgive them for their fear and lack of encouragement. However, the Lord encouraged Paul. The Lord gave Paul the strength to speak to the Roman emperor about Christ. Christ had also protected Paul and delivered him from the Roman emperor. Paul knew that the Lord would be with him and take him to his heavenly reward so he did not fear what he knew was going to happen to him now.

40. Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22 and write to whom Paul sent greetings.

41. Explain why Christians can know that the Lord will give them encouragement even if people fail to provide encouragement.

42. Explain some of the ways that the Lord has given you strength and encouraged you when you have faced times of testing.

Now, re-read 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 11

Titus 1:1-2:15

Today, we will study again about the qualifications for the men who are the elders of the church. God wants us to understand the areas that we need to help Christians grow so that they will become qualified for spiritual leadership. Today, most churches seem to spend very little time learning about the godly character that the Lord desires for those who lead the church. As a result, many churches have people as elders that do not meet the qualifications of Scripture. These churches are making little or no effort to help men become qualified. This leads to weak churches because the leadership cannot help others become strong when the men who lead are not strong themselves.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain what things we need to emphasize to develop godly leaders.

Explain what happens when churches do not have godly leaders.

Explain what we are to teach the various groups of people in the church about the way to live in their daily lives.

As we begin this letter, we see that Christians are chosen by God. God has promised that He will give every Christian eternal life. God will keep this promise that He has given us because God cannot lie. God gave this promise before He ever created the world. God then used other men to give us this wonderful message. Now, God commands us to share this message with others. Paul wrote this letter to Titus who was his spiritual son and had ministered with Paul over a period of many years. Here, we see that Paul had left Titus in Crete to develop the men and help them become qualified to be elders in the churches so that the churches could be established.

1. Read Titus 1:1-9 and write what Titus was told to do in Crete.
2. Explain what these verses teach us about the eternal life that God has promised to those that He chose before the world began.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your life to know that God chose you before He even created the world.

We see that Titus had been given two key things to do as he ministered on the island of Crete. There were some things that still needed to be taught and explained to the new Christians on the island of Crete. They needed to know these things so that they would be strong and able to serve Christ better. Titus was also told to develop and appoint elders in every church. Here, we see that every church needs several elders and not just one elder. We also see that every church has within it the people needed to lead the church. That leadership just needs to be developed. That is why the qualifications for elders are given in these verses. That way Titus would know what he was working to develop in the lives of potential elders. Once the men met these qualifications they were to be recognized as elders appointed by the Holy Spirit.

4. Read Titus 1:1-9 and write what kind of children an elder should have.
5. Explain why one of the primary responsibilities of the leaders of any church is to help the men grow and develop in their spiritual lives so that they become qualified to be elders and other spiritual leaders.
6. Explain why you think that these verses teach that the most important thing for spiritual leadership is the development of godly character.

As elder must be blameless. He must have only one wife. His children must be faithful children. They must not be accused of rebellion. They must not be rebelling against the Word of God. Here, we see that one of the things that elders need to be taught and shown is how to

become godly leaders that are leading their own families. The elders are given the responsibility of the care of other Christians so they are to be stewards (caretakers) for God. Since elders are to lead by their example, we see that an elder must not want his own way. He must not get angry quickly. He must not drink. He must not fight or covet money.

7. Read Titus 1:1-9 and write what an elder should love.

8. Explain why it was important for Titus to teach the men how to be leaders in their own families as he helped them become qualified for spiritual leadership.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for leaders to lead others by their own example and not just by what they teach.

Since an elder is to be a lover of hospitality and a lover of what is good, we see that an elder must enjoy having people visit in his home. He must be able to think with a clear mind. He must be fair and holy. He must have self-control in all things. He must be a man who believes and obeys the Word of God. He must be able to teach sound doctrine. At the same time, he must be able to expose false teaching and answer from Scripture those who are teaching false teaching..

10. Read Titus 1:1-9 and write to what an elder is to hold fast.

11. Explain why it is important for an elder to be able to teach sound doctrine and to expose those who teach false doctrine.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that those who lead your church are able to teach sound doctrine.

Today, we have many false teachers that are trying to trick those that are not Christians and those who are weak Christians. These verses tell us that these false teachers will say things that are completely false so that they can deceive those that listen to them. This is why it is so important to know how to answer false teachers. When the new or weak Christian sees that the Word of God answers the false teachings of these teachers, he will begin to depend on the Word of God for his strength, instead of listening to these false teachers. We see that these false teachers will even try to deceive entire families.

13. Read Titus 1:10-16 and write what Paul said about the false teachers in Crete.

14. Explain why these verses teach that the real motive of false teachers is dishonest gain for themselves.

15. Explain what you learn for your own life from the fact that these verses teach that there are many false teachers that are trying to deceive others.

Paul uses some rather strong language to describe these false teachers. However, this was also the way that people who were not even Christians described the false teachers. Now, Titus is told to speak sharply to the weak Christians that were listening to these false teachers. Then, these weak Christians would have a strong faith in Christ, instead of continually being confused by these false teachers. Titus was to tell the Christians to obey the Word of God rather than listening to Jewish stories or the commandments of men.

16. Read Titus 1:10-16 and write what had happened to the mind and conscience of these false teachers.

17. Explain why it is easy for new or weak Christians to be deceived by the stories and commandments of men when men teach them, instead of teaching the Word of God.

18. Explain why you realize that it is important for you to teach the Word of God rather than tell stories if you want to help people grow spiritually.

These false teachers had let the devil twist their minds and consciences. As a result, they did not even know how to think the right way. They did not know what was right or what was wrong. They said that they knew God. However, they were denying God by everything that they did. Their works were pleasing to the devil because they were disobeying God in every way. They were unable to do any good because the devil completely controlled them. Today,

we have many false teachers just like the false teachers in the time of Paul.

19. Read Titus 1:10-16 and write what these false teachers do by their works.

20. Explain why both the mind and the conscience of the unbelieving is undefiled especially the minds and consciences of false teachers.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to recognize those that are false teachers.

Now that we have learned what false teachers are like, we go on to see what true teachers should teach and do. We are to teach sound doctrine. This means that our teaching must come from the Word of God and be true to the Word of God. First, Paul speaks to the older men. The older men are told to be sensible and spiritually healthy in their thinking. They are to exercise self-control in their lives. They are to have a strong faith that causes them to be obedient to the Word of God. They are to demonstrate real love and patience in their lives. Here, again, we see the importance of the Word of God in our daily lives. We are to guide our daily lives by the teachings in the Word of God.

22. Read Titus 2:1-8 and write to what group of Christians Paul speaks second.

23. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that the older men are to set the example for all of the rest of the Christians by the way that they think and act.

24. Explain what you learn about the importance of your own life being an example that others can follow.

The older women are to live lives that are holy. They are not to say false things about others. They are not to drink. Instead, they are to be examples and teachers. The older women are to teach the younger women. They are to teach the younger women how to be effective in their families. This includes teaching them to love their husbands. They are to teach them to love their children and show the younger women how to raise their children so that the children will have a desire to love and serve the Lord. The younger women are to be taught to live good and holy lives. They are to be taught to obey their own husbands. The result of the young women practicing these things will be that people will not speak against the Word of God.

25. Read Titus 2:1-8 and write to what group of Christians Paul speaks after speaking about the young women.

26. Explain why these verses teach that the older women have a very important teaching ministry in the church.

27. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about teaching those that are younger than you.

We see that the young men are also to be sensible and spiritually healthy in their thinking. They need to learn to think in ways that are pleasing to God. Titus was told to show other young men how to live by his own example. For this reason Titus was to be an example to the young men by his life and as he taught them sound doctrine. He was to show integrity, respect and incorruptibility in the way that he taught the young men. He was to use sound speech that could not be condemned. His life and his teaching were to be an example so that no one could speak evil of him.

28. Read Titus 2:1-8 and write what this would cause to happen to any who tried to oppose his teaching.

29. Explain why it is important to Christians to teach others both by their example and by their words.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for our own life from these verses about the way that you should live as a Christian.

We have seen it emphasized in these verses that as Christians we are to be sound in doctrine. This means that we must know the Word of God so that false teachers will not confuse us. Today, many Christians are being confused by false doctrines because they do not know the Word

of God very well. This is why we have it emphasized in several places in the New Testament that spiritual leaders are to feed the flock of God (the Christians in the church). Strong Christians are also better prepared to witness to others and share with others how to become Christians.

31. Read Titus 2:1-15 and write what servants are told to do.

32. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand the Word of God and learn to apply it in their daily lives in order to make an impact on the people around them.

33. Explain why you think that an important part of the ministry of a spiritual leader is to equip others to teach the younger Christians.

When we work for someone else, we are to obey our employers. We are also to do the best job possible, as that is part of our witness for Christ. We are told not to talk back when our employer tells us to do something. Instead, we are to respect our employers and do what our employers tells us to do. Then, our employers will listen to us when we talk to them about Christ. As a result, our employers may become Christians because we have been faithful workers.

34. Read Titus 2:9-15 and write what we read about the grace of God in these verses.

35. Explain why Christians are to be examples for Christ by the way that they work for their employers.

36. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the way that you should work for your employer.

God showed His love and His grace to all people by sending Christ to pay the penalty for our sin. Because Christ has saved us, now we should want to live for Him. Instead of thinking and acting the way that the world thinks and acts, we should think and act to please God. Our lives should be lives that are pure and holy. We should also be looking forward to the day when Christ will come to take the Christians to heaven. Christ is coming soon. We should be living every moment as if we are expecting Christ to come today.

37. Read Titus 2:9-15 and write what the return of Christ is called.

38. Explain what verses eleven through thirteen teach us about the past, the present and the future.

39. Explain what you learn for you own life about being prepared for the coming of Christ at any moment.

We serve a great and wonderful God. Christ gave His life for us. His blood paid the penalty for our sin so that we would be free from our sin. Christ did this so that He could make us pure and holy. Christ did this so that we would be His people. Christ wants us to be Christians that are eager to serve Him. We are to teach other Christians to live lives that are pure and holy also. Titus was to continue to teach these things. In the same way, we are also to continue to teach these things.

40. Read Titus 2:9-15 and write what Titus was not to let other people do.

41. Explain what these verses teach about the reason why Christ gave His life for us.

42. Explain what it means to you in your own life that Christ chose you to be a part of those that are a people of His own.

Now, re-read Titus 1:1-2:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 12

Titus 3:1-Philemon 1:25

Today, we will study the final chapter of Titus. Then, we will study the entire book of Philemon. Philemon was a Christian in the city of Colosse. One of the churches in that city met in his home. Philemon had a servant named Onesimus. Onesimus had stolen some money and had run away to Rome. God worked in the life of Onesimus and he became a Christian while he was in Rome. Either before or after he became a Christian, he met Paul. Now, he wanted to return to his master. As a result, Paul now asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how we should live as Christians.
- Explain what we learn about the life and character of Philemon.
- Explain how Paul shows his love for Onesimus.

As Christians, we are to obey our government. God has placed our government over us for a purpose. When we rebel against our government, we are being disobedient to the command of God. Instead of disobedience to the government, Christians are to look for opportunities to do good works. We are also told not to speak evil things about others. We are to be submissive in our actions, instead of fighting. Instead of pride, we are to show meekness instead. Christ has completely changed our lives from what we were before we became Christians. Before we placed our trust in Christ, we disobeyed God. We satisfied our own desires. We were filled with envy and hate.

1. Read Titus 3:1-15 and write what God showed us to even though we had not yet placed our trust in Christ.
2. Explain why Christians are instructed to place themselves in subjection to the leaders that God has placed over them.
3. Explain why you think that Christ wants you to show the change that has happened in your life by having a spirit of gentleness.

God showed His great kindness and love to us because we had nothing good in ourselves. Before we became Christians, we were foolish and deceived. We were living to please ourselves. Envy and hate controlled us. We could do nothing to make ourselves right with God. Since we could do nothing to change ourselves, Christ showed His love and mercy by saving us. We are saved by the blood of Christ and receive power from the Holy Spirit. God did these things for us because of Christ.

4. Read Titus 3:1-15 and write what Christ has made us because of the fact that we have been justified by Christ.
5. Explain what the lives of all people are like before they place their trust in Christ and turn the control of their lives over to Him.
6. Explain what it means to you in your personal life to know that Christ has given you new life and placed the Holy Spirit within you.

Because Christ died for us, we will share with Christ all of the riches of heaven. Since we have been made right with God through Christ, we should have a desire to show our love for Christ by doing good works. These things are good in the sight of God. There are also several things that God tells us to avoid. We are told to avoid foolish questions and genealogies. Genealogies are the names of the generations of our family that lived and died before us. It really is not important to know who lived many years before us. The important thing is to live for Christ right now.

7. Read Titus 3:1-15 and write what God says about studying genealogies and fighting about

the law.

8. Explain why God says that Christians are to focus on doing good works and the things that are good and profitable.
9. Explain what happens when Christians get involved in arguing about foolish questions or debates about the law.

We are also told to avoid people that are heretics after giving them two opportunities to turn from their false teachings. A man that is a heretic is one that has chosen to follow a false doctrine. That person has rejected the Word of God and is trying to get others to reject the Word of God. Then, it tells us why we are to reject such individuals. These people will only cause divisions and fighting. God says that such people are condemned. As Paul closes this letter, he says once more that we should show that we are Christians by our good works. Those good works will produce fruit for Christ because they will cause people to listen to our message.

10. Read Titus 3:1-15 and write where Paul was planning to spend the winter.
11. Explain why false teachers that are allowed to remain in a church will always cause divisions and fighting in that church.
12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Christians are encouraged often to look for opportunities to do good to others.

As we begin our study of the letter to Philemon, we see that Paul is a prisoner of Christ. The Jews had nearly killed him. Then, the Romans had held him in prison in Caesarea for two years. Finally, he had been sent to Rome to stand trial before the Roman emperor even though there were no charges against him. Now, Paul said that he was a prisoner of Christ because he was in the place where Christ had placed him to share the Gospel. Paul was a prisoner in his own hired house in Rome. Now, he was writing to Philemon from that house. Paul says that he is also writing to the church that meets in the house of Philemon. Here, we see again another Christian that had dedicated his house to the Lord for the work of the Lord.

13. Read Philemon 1:1-7 and write how often Paul prayed for Philemon.
14. Explain why Paul viewed himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ and not a prisoner of the Romans.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the example of Philemon as he used his home as a place for Christians to gather.

We see again in this letter that Paul spent much time praying for the Christians in other places. He also spent much time praying for the churches that the Lord had used him to establish in different parts of the world. When we lead another person to Christ, we need to continue to pray for that person and pray that the person will grow and become a strong Christian. We also see that Philemon had a great faith and love. Paul had even heard about his faith and love in Rome. First, he loved the Lord and then he also loved other Christians.

16. Read Philemon 1:1-7 and write how Paul felt because of the love of Philemon.
17. Explain what these verses teach about the prayer life of Paul both for individual Christians and for entire churches.
18. Explain what lessons you learn from the example of Paul that will help you in your own prayer life.

Paul was joyful because of the faith and love of Philemon. The faith of Philemon was a strong faith. He realized the wonderful blessings that he had received through Christ. He did the things that he did because the love of Christ was controlling him. Here, we also see that a strong faith in Christ leads to a strong love for other Christians. We need to have our faith in Christ and not in ourselves. When our faith is in Christ then He will give us a great love for other Christians. This is why we are then motivated by the love of Christ and that causes us to live for Him and not for ourselves.

19. Read Philemon 1:1-7 and write what Philemon did for the hearts of other saints.
20. Explain why a strong faith in Christ will cause Christians to have a great love and concern for other Christians.
21. Explain what you learn for your own life about the importance of having a great love for other Christians.

Paul now goes on to tell the real purpose of his letter. Philemon had a servant by the name of Onesimus. Onesimus had stolen some money and had run away to the city of Rome. In Rome, Onesimus had become a Christian. He had also spent some time with Paul. Now, he wanted to return to his master, Onesimus. According to the Roman law, a master could kill a servant that had run away. However, if another person would speak for the servant, then the master would sometimes forgive the servant. Here, we see that Paul is writing to speak for Onesimus.

22. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul says about Onesimus.
23. Explain why Paul sent his request as a request from Paul the aged and not as a demand from Paul the apostle.
24. Explain what these verses show you for your own life about the way to make a request of another Christian.

Here, we see a great concern as Paul speaks for Onesimus. He is not telling Philemon what to do. Instead, Paul begs Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Paul says that he is asking, in love, instead of telling him what to do. Here, we learn a real lesson for ourselves as Christian leaders. We should not tell other people what to do. Instead, we should ask them in love if they will do what we are requesting. Christ emphasized over and over that Christian leaders are to be servants, instead of dictators. A dictator is one who tells others what to do. A Christian leader is to serve people and help them make their own decisions about what they should do. The Christians are to make these decisions based on the principles that they have learned from the Word of God. If the Christian leader has been faithful in teaching the Word of God, people will then be able to make wise decisions.

25. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul says about Onesimus.
26. Explain why it is important for Christian leaders to follow the example of Paul and be a servant to those that they lead, instead of a dictator.
27. Explain what it means to you in your own life to lead other Christians by serving them rather than acting as a dictator.

Here, we see a beautiful picture. Paul is asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus. When we sin as Christians, Christ speaks to the Father for us. Christ tells the Father that He paid for our sins by the blood that He shed on the cross. That blood was enough to cover every one of our sins. Christ says that we have accepted His payment for our sin and have placed our faith in Him. Then, Christ asks the Father to remember that His blood is sufficient to pay the penalty for our sin. As a result, the Father always forgives us because Christ has spoken for us. We have been freed from our sin because Christ spoke for us.

28. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write for how long Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus.
29. Explain how the book of Philemon gives us a picture of the way that the Father forgives our sin.
30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that the Father has forgiven you for the sake of Christ rather than forgiving you for your own efforts.

Before Onesimus became a Christian, he had been unprofitable. Instead of helping his master, he had stolen money from him. However, his life was changed when he became a Christian. Now, he was a profitable servant that wanted to serve his master. As a result, Paul is now sending him back to Philemon. He had become such a help to Paul that Paul would have been glad to keep him in Rome as a helper. However, Paul wanted Onesimus to be able to serve his own master instead.

31. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul calls Onesimus, instead of a servant.
32. Explain why Christ changes people from people whose lives are unprofitable to lives that are able to make a great impact.
33. Explain in what ways the Lord changed your life when you placed your trust in Christ.

Onesimus had been a rebellious servant before he became a Christian. Now, he had become a much loved brother in Christ. Here, we have a real picture of what happens to us when we become Christians. We also were changed from rebellious people to much loved brothers in Christ. We are given a new life and a desire to serve Christ. Although Onesimus had been a failure for a time, now he had become a brother in Christ to Philemon. They would be together with Christ forever.

34. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul says he will do if Onesimus owes Philemon anything.
35. Explain why Christ changes Christians from servants to beloved sons.
36. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that you are a much loved child of God.

Here, we see another real picture of love. Onesimus had stolen some money from Philemon. Now, Paul says that he will repay all that Onesimus has stolen. Paul was willing to do anything necessary to help another Christian. Today, we also need to be like Paul. We need to have a desire to help other Christians when they have a need. As they see the love of other Christians, their faith will become stronger. As a result, they will be able to serve Christ more effectively.

37. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul was certain that Onesimus would do.
38. Explain what these verses teach about our privilege and responsibility to help other Christians.
39. Explain some of the ways that you personally have found effective ways for you to help other Christians.

As Paul comes to the end of this short letter, he mentions the joy that he will have if Philemon will forgive Onesimus. Then, he goes on to say that he is sure that Philemon will forgive Onesimus. In fact, Paul knows that Philemon will do even more than Paul has requested. This is an example for us to follow as Christians. We should have a desire to do even more than Christ asks us to do. Then, we will be showing the love that Christ has given us.

40. Read Philemon 1:8-25 and write what Paul asks Philemon to prepare for him since Paul thought that he would soon be freed.
41. Explain why Christians should have a desire to do even more than Christ requests.
42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about helping other Christians.

Now, re-read Titus 3:1 through Philemon 1:25 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James
Lesson 13
Hebrews 1:1-2:18

Today, we are beginning a study of the book of Hebrews. This book was originally written especially to the Jews that had become Christians. For this reason, this book mentions many things from the Old Testament. These were things that would have all been very familiar to the Jews since they had grown up studying the Old Testament in the synagogues. In these chapters, we will see that although Christ was greater than any of the angels, He left all of the wonderful things of heaven and became a man so that He could die for our sin.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why Christ is greater than all angels.
- Tell about the warning to all that fail to become Christians.
- Explain why Christ became lower than the angels for a time.
- Explain how Christ defeated the fear of death for Christians.

As we begin this book, we see that the Father spoke to the prophets in many different ways. He spoke to some through visions. He spoke to others through angels. The Father spoke directly to some of the prophets. There were also many other ways that the Father spoke to the prophets. Now, however, the Father has spoken to us through Christ. In fact, the first verse of the book of John introduces Christ as the Word. Christ is the One who will receive all things.

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write how Christ upholds all things (holds all things together).
2. Explain why the Father had chosen to speak to the Old Testament writers in many different ways.
3. Explain why you think that the Father chose to speak to us at the last through Christ and His ministry.

Christ is the Creator of the universe. In addition, He is also the One who holds all things together. We see in these verses that it is Christ that holds everything together. People have discovered that all things are mostly empty space. If Christ did not hold everything together, all of our buildings and even the world itself would fall apart. However, these verses tell us that it is the word of Christ that holds all things together. Here, we see the power of the word of Christ. Whatever He says will happen. We also see that Christ is the exact image of the Father.

4. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write what Christ did when He returned to the Father in heaven.
5. Explain what it means for Christ to be the brightness of the glory of the Father and the exact image of the Father.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to understand that the Father delegated the creation of the universe to Christ.

Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven. We go on to see that Christ is much greater than any of the angels. God never called any of the angels His Son. Instead, Christ is the only one who is the only begotten Son of God. As a result, there can be no comparison between the angels and Christ. All of the angels worship Christ. Today, we are also to worship Christ. We are to realize that Christ is God and should be worshipped by all people.

7. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write what the angels are called.
8. Explain why these verses show us that Christ is God and that all people should worship Him.
9. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that it is right for you to worship and serve Christ.

The Father has given Christ a throne. Christ will be the King that rules forever. He will rule over all people who are right with God. Even those who reject Him on this earth will one day be forced to recognize that Christ is God. We read that Christ loves the things that are right and

hates the things that are sin. Christ is the One who has all power. He is the One that made the earth. Christ also made the heavens and all of the stars that are in the heavens. This reminds us again of that fact that Christ is the One who has all power and authority. There is nothing that He does not control.

10. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write what will happen to all men

11. Explain why the Father said that Christ is God and that His throne would last forever and ever.

12. Explain how you want to live your own life since Christ loves righteousness and hates iniquity (sin).

People grow old and die. Because of their sin, they cannot continue to live in their own strength. However, Christ will always live. He has had complete victory over death. People become old just like their coats. One day, the time comes for every person to die. Then, Christ will change all those who are Christians. However, Christ Himself will never change. He will always be the same because He is the One that is alive from the dead.

13. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write what God has never said to any of the angels.

14. Explain why it is important that the Father told Christ to sit at His right hand until the Father makes the enemies the footstool of Christ.

15. Explain why you can rejoice in the fact that God promises that you will be changed by Christ.

We see again the place that has been given to Christ by the Father. No angel has ever had the privilege of sitting on the right side of the Father. No angel has ever been given complete power over all those who hate God. Instead, the angels serve the Lord. Christ has also sent the angels to serve each Christian. The angels protect us. The angels watch over us. The angels do these things because the Father has chosen us to share all of the riches of heaven with Christ. Here, we see that as Christians we are rich. We will share everything that belongs to Christ. This is a wonderful promise.

16. Read Hebrews 1:1-14 and write what the angels are called.

17. Explain what these verses teach about the ministry of the angels to all believers.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about Christ from this chapter.

As we come to chapter two, a real warning is given. We are told to do the things that we have heard. It is not enough just to hear the Word of God. We must choose to obey the Word of God if we want the Word to be effective in changing our lives. We are not to forget what we have learned from the Word of God. Those who disobey and rebel against the Word of God will receive their judgment. We also have a real warning to those who wait too long to receive the Word of God.

19. Read Hebrews 2:1-8 and write the warning to those who neglect the message of salvation.

20. Explain what will be the consequences for those who neglect the salvation that Christ has provided.

21. Explain why it is important for you and me to pay attention to the things that we have heard.

There is no escape for those who wait too long to receive the salvation that Christ offers. The time of judgment will come and then it will be too late for those who have said that they will wait until tomorrow to become Christians. Christ was the first to tell about the message of salvation that He offered. Then, the apostles were the next to tell others how to follow Christ. God gave the apostles the power to perform many miracles to show that their message was true. These signs, wonders and diverse miracles were done through the special gifts given to the apostles by the Holy Spirit.

22. Read Hebrews 2:1-8 and write how God decided to give these gifts that He gave through the Holy Spirit.

23. Explain why it is important for people to receive the salvation that Christ offers while they

have the opportunity.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Father gave signs, wonders and diverse miracles to the apostles to confirm their message about the resurrection of Christ.

Here, we see that it is the Holy Spirit has given all of the gifts. That is also true of the spiritual gifts that we have received. This is done to complete the plan and will of God for our lives. As a result, we are not to boast about the gifts that we have been given. Instead, we are to use those gifts to bring glory to Christ. Here, we see the importance of being obedient to God. He has a plan for our lives. If we choose to follow His plan, instead of making our own plans, we will be in the center of the will of God for our lives. This will cause us to have great joy and happiness because we will know that we are doing the right things.

25. Read Hebrews 2:1-8 and write what God made Christ for a little while.

26. Explain why God was so concerned about mankind that He sent His Son to visit the people of this world.

27. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that God was so concerned about you that He sent His Son to die for your sin.

We see that Christ became a man so that He could die for the people of the world. Although Christ was much greater than the angels, He was willing to become a man. Because Christ became a man and died for our sins, He now has been placed over all things. Everything has been placed under His control. There is nothing that Christ does not control. Again we see the power of Christ. He had all power. This made it possible for Him to lay aside some of that power for a time and become a man. Then, when He had died for our sins He was able to receive that power again.

28. Read Hebrews 2:1-8 and write how many things were not placed under Christ.

29. Explain what these verses teach us about the power of Christ.

30. Explain why it is important for you in your own life to know that Christ has had all things placed under Him.

We go on to see the reason that Christ was made a little lower than the angels. Christ was made a little lower than the angels so that He could die for all people. We read that He tasted death for every man. His death was of such great value that it was enough to pay for the sins of all the people that have ever lived or will ever live. Because Christ was obedient to the Father and died, now there are many that receive eternal life. Christ provides that salvation as a free gift.

31. Read Hebrews 2:9-18 and write what Christ is not ashamed to call us.

32. Explain how the fact that Christ sanctified us and set us apart from our sin now makes it possible for us to be one with Christ.

33. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that the captain of our salvation personally suffered for you.

We see that Christ is not proud. He was willing to give everything including His life in order to make us right with God. He chose to become a man. He chose to become like us so that He could die for us in our place and for our sin. Now that we are right with God, Christ is happy to call us His brethren. He is not ashamed of us. Instead, Christ is glad to speak about us. When we placed our trust in Christ, we became his children. Then, Christ chose to call us His brothers so that we can share all of the riches of heaven with Him. As Christians, we are spiritually rich.

34. Read Hebrews 2:9-18 and write who Christ will destroy.

35. Explain why Christians can rejoice because they have been included in the family of Christ.

36. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ is not ashamed of you.

Here, we see that Christ has complete power over the devil. The devil still thinks that he is

powerful. He did not realize that Christ gained a complete victory when He died on the cross. Because Christ did have a complete victory over the devil when he died and rose again, we do not need to be afraid of death any longer. By His death and resurrection, Christ has given us complete victory over death. Now, we can have joy, instead of fear, because Christ conquered death for us. We can face death because we know that we will immediately be in the presence of Christ.

37. Read Hebrews 2:9-18 and write what kind of a priest Christ became.

38. Explain why the fear of death is the greatest fear that all of those that have not placed their trust in Christ have.

39. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you have been set free from the bondage of the fear of death.

When Christ came to this earth, He did not come as an angel. Instead, He became a man. Now, He is our faithful high priest who stands between God and us. He paid for our sins and now He speaks to God for us because He has made us right with God. We are not separated from God any longer. We can also rejoice because we are no longer controlled by our sins. Christ has given us victory over them. Since Christ became a man, He was tempted by the devil just as we are tempted by the devil. However, Christ did not sin. Instead, He had victory over temptation.

40. Read Hebrews 2:9-18 and write what Christ is able to do for us because of the fact that He was tempted and did not sin.

41. Explain why Christ made us possible for us to experience reconciliation (be brought back to God) with God.

42. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that you can cry out to Christ for help when you are tempted.

Now, re-read Hebrews 1:1-2:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 14

Hebrews 3:1-5:14

Today, we will learn what happened to the nation of Israel because they failed to believe the promises of God. The Jews knew the promises of God but they failed to believe them. Today, there are also many people that know the promises of God but they do not believe and accept those promises. We will also learn about the power of the Word of God. We see that the Word of God is living and very powerful and the message in the Word of God has the power to completely change every person that obeys the Word and yields to the Holy Spirit to work through his or her life.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the Israelites who left Egypt did not enter the land of Israel.
- Tell why we have been given a better rest.
- Explain what we learn about the Word of God.
- Explain what happens when Christians do not grow and mature.

As we begin our study today, we have a comparison between Moses and Christ. Moses was a faithful servant of God. He obeyed the things that God told him to do. He led the nation of Israel out of the country of Egypt. Although Moses was a faithful servant of God, Christ is much greater than Moses because Christ is the Son of God. God is the One who builds all things. Christ has made us the house of God because God lives in our lives. We can now rejoice because we have been given a strong hope that no one can take from us.

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-19 and write what the Holy Spirit warns us not to do.
2. Explain why Christ is greater than Moses even though Moses and his entire family were faithful servants of God.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that Christ is much greater than Moses is.

For forty years the nation of Israel hardened their hearts against God as they traveled through the wilderness. Time after time they rebelled against God. As a result, God was grieved with them. He could not be filled with joy when the nation He had chosen continued to rebel against Him. Throughout the entire forty years, the people had sin in their hearts and lives. They did not walk in the ways that God taught them. Today, there are some Christians that are just like the children of Israel. They are allowing sin to continue in their hearts. They are not walking the way that the Word of God teaches that we should walk as Christians.

4. Read Hebrews 3:1-19 and write what God told the nation of Israel since they would not walk in His ways.
5. Explain why Christians need to listen to the Lord and not harden their hearts like Israel did in the wilderness.
6. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to make sure that you do not harden your heart by disobeying God.

Here, we have a real warning about rebellion against God. The entire nation of Israel wandered for forty years in the wilderness. They died in the wilderness because they refused to believe the promises of God. Even as Christians, God may judge us with physical death if we are rebellious Christians. We are to warn and encourage each other every day as Christians so that the devil will not be able to trick any of us. The devil is trying to get every Christian to sin and turn away from Christ. That is why we need to spend time every day studying the Word of God and encouraging each other as Christians.

7. Read Hebrews 3:1-19 and write what the deceitfulness of sin can do in the life of any Christian.

8. Explain why Christians are instructed to encourage one another every day
9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to study your Bible and encourage other Christians every day.

We also read more about the nation of Israel in the wilderness (desert). They hardened their hearts many times. They continued to live in sin. They did not want to follow the leader that God had chosen for them. Finally, God judged them. Their adults all died in the wilderness. They did not get to enter into the land that God had promised to Abraham. Instead, they died in the wilderness. Then, their children entered the land that God had promised to them.

10. Read Hebrews 3:1-19 and write why they could not enter into the land.
11. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of allowing unbelief to remain in the life of any person.
12. Explain why lessons you learn for your own life from the unbelief of Israel in the wilderness.

The nation of Israel did not receive the rest that God promises when they entered into the land that God had promised to them. Instead, God was talking about a much greater rest. We see that people can miss the rest that God promises. The nation of Israel had the Word of God preached to them and they rejected it. The Word of God did not help them because they did not put their faith in the promises of God. Today, people face the same choice. They must place their faith in Christ if they want to share in the rest that God has promised.

13. Read Hebrews 4:1-8 and write who can enter into the rest of God.
14. Explain why people must place their faith in Christ in order to enter into the rest that God has promised.
15. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that when you placed your faith in Christ that you entered the rest that God promises here.

Here, we see the key to entering into the rest of God. We must believe the promises of God and have faith in Christ. Here, we are not talking about the kind of belief that many people have. Many people think that they will get to heaven if they believe that Christ was a good man. However, just believing that Christ is a good man is not enough. We must believe that the blood of Christ paid the penalty for our sin. Then, we must make the choice to follow Him. When we make the choice to repent of our sin and place our faith in Christ, we enter into the rest of God.

16. Read Hebrews 4:1-8 and write who Christ says must enter into His rest.
17. Explain why all those who have believed and placed their faith in Christ have entered into His rest that was prepared before the foundation of the world.
18. Explain why it is important to you to know that this was the plan of God before He ever created the world.

When the Jews refused to receive Christ and chose to crucify Him instead, that did not mean that no one could receive Christ. Instead, it meant that we have also been given the opportunity to follow Christ and share in that rest. Now, we need to be careful that we do not let our hearts become hard as the people of Israel did. Many of the people that are alive today will fail to follow Christ and they will not share in the rest that Christ promises to those who trust in Him.

19. Read Hebrews 4:1-8 and write who else was not able to give Israel the rest that God promised.
20. Explain why these verses warn us not to harden our hearts.
21. Explain why you realize that you can enjoy the rest that God has promised because of the choice that you made to place your trust in Christ.

Since God does promise a rest to those who follow Him, we need to warn people to turn away from their unbelief. We need to let the Word of God speak to them. The Word of God is alive. It will convict people of the failure to believe in Christ. It will show the thoughts of their

minds. The Word of God will show people the desires of their hearts. This is the reason we need to speak the Word of God, instead of our own words, when we are speaking to others. The Word of God will do the work of God in their lives and bring many to Christ.

22. Read Hebrews 4:9-16 and write what kind of a priest we have.

23. Explain why we have ceased from our works to try and earn our salvation when we placed our trust in Christ by faith.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for you to share the Word of God with others rather than sharing your own words.

Christ is our great high priest. He is not like an ordinary priest. In the Old Testament, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest had to first take blood into the Holy of Holies as a covering for His own sin. Then, he would go out and get more blood as a covering for the sins of the people. Christ is our great high priest and the Son of God. He offered Himself and His blood once for all. Now, He is the One that speaks to God for us. He understands us and knows our needs. He knows how we feel. He is concerned and wants to help us. He was tempted just as we are tempted. Since Christ was tempted, He knows how we feel when we are tempted.

25. Read Hebrews 4:9-16 and write what happened when Christ was tempted.

26. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that Christ is our great high priest who is speaking to God for us in heaven.

27. Explain why it is important for you to know that Christ understands what you are experiencing when you are tempted.

Christ was tempted just as we are tempted. However, He did not sin. As a result, Christ now speaks to God for us. Since we know that Christ will speak for us and not against us, we can come to Him boldly when we pray. We do not need to be afraid that He will not listen to our prayers. Instead, we know that He does hear our prayers. He does show us His mercy. He will help us in our time of need. Christ does this because he is our great high priest.

28. Read Hebrews 4:9-16 and write what throne we come to when we come to Christ with our prayers.

29. Explain why it is important for all Christians to understand that Christ had victory over temptation when He was tempted.

30. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ is speaking to the Father for you.

Throughout the Old Testament, a man was chosen to serve as the high priest. Then, that man spoke to God for other men. However, the high priest also had to speak for himself because he was a sinner just like all of the other people. Here, we see that although a man was chosen to be the high priest, he still had to deal with his own sin. In the same way, in ourselves we are no better than any other person is. We see though that Christ was different than any of the high priests in the Old Testament. He was not a priest like Aaron or those who followed after Aaron. Christ had never committed any sin.

31. Read Hebrews 5:12-14 and write what kind of a priest Christ was like.

32. Explain why Aaron and all of the other Old Testament priests had to offer sacrifices for their own sin.

33. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ was not like Aaron and the other high priests.

We will be learning more about Melchizedek in the next few chapters. Here, we see that Christ will be a priest forever. He has this right to be a priest forever because He is the Son of God. He saved us by His death and the shedding of His own blood. He was the obedient Son of His Father. Now, Christ offers salvation that will last forever to all that will follow and obey Him. There are also many other things that can be said about Christ being our great high priest.

34. Read Hebrews 5:1-14 and write why the writer of Hebrews says that it is hard to speak

those things.

35. Explain what it means when it says that Christ learned obedience through the things that He suffered.

36. Explain what it means to you to know that Christ is the One who is the author of the eternal salvation that you received when you placed your trust in Christ.

Here, we see a real warning to Christians. The people who were receiving this letter had been Christians long enough that they should have been teachers of others. However, they had not been doing the things that they had been learning. As a result, they had become dull of hearing and were like baby Christians again. Here, we learn an important lesson. Unless a person is growing and sharing with others what he or she is learning, that person will soon become weak. Then, that person will not be able to learn new things from the Word of God. Today, most churches have many weak Christians because those Christians are not teaching others the things that they are learning.

37. Read Hebrews 5:1-14 and write what these Christians now needed to help them begin to grow again.

38. Explain why Christians are in danger of becoming dull of hearing if they fail to obey the things that they are learning from the Word of God.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to grow to spiritual maturity and not remain a spiritual baby.

The new Christian needs to begin learning the things that are the easiest to understand in the Word of God. However, he should grow in his Christian life so that he begins to understand the things that are more difficult. The new Christian will grow much more quickly if he begins teaching the things that he is learning to others. The sooner a new Christian begins witnessing and teaching others the things that he or she is learning, the faster that person will grow and mature as a Christian. Then, that person will be able to eat the solid food of a more mature Christian. Here, we see that a mature Christian will be able to know what is good and what is bad because he has been using the things that he has learned.

40. Read Hebrews 5:1-14 and write what a Christian that has grown will be able to tell.

41. Explain why it is important for a Christian to grow and mature so that he or she will be able to understand what things are good and what things are bad.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to begin teaching others the things that you are learning from the Word of God.

Now, re-read Hebrews 3:1-5:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James
Lesson 15
Hebrews 6:1-8:13

In our study today, we will learn more about the fact that Christ is our great high priest. Christ is the one who goes between God and us. The Jews had a member of the family of Aaron serve as their high priest. However, Christ is a much greater high priest. He is like Melchizedek. Melchizedek was the priest of Salem (Jerusalem). Abraham met him after God had given Abraham victory in a war. Melchizedek was a priest of the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth. Abraham then gave a tithe of all to Melchizedek.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the entrance of Christ into the holy of Holies means for us.
- Explain why Christ is like Melchizedek.
- Explain why Christ is greater than Aaron.
- Explain the meaning of the New Covenant.

We see that when we become Christians, we are not to stop there and be satisfied. We are to grow and become mature Christians. We are not to continue to follow our old way of doing things. Instead, we are to go on to spiritual maturity. We also read about many that have heard the Gospel but have never placed their trust in Christ and followed Him. They have heard the Word of God. They have seen the power of the Holy Spirit. However, they have never come to Christ in true faith. They were like people who had tasted food but had never eaten any of the food.

1. Read Hebrews 6:1-20 and write what is impossible for these people that fall away and fail to become Christians.
2. Explain why the first verses of this chapter show us that people need to hear more than just the doctrines related to salvation.
3. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ wants you to grow to maturity.

Those who hear the Word of God and see the power of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of others have the opportunity to follow Christ and place their trust in Him. A group of Jewish people had heard about Christ and was pretending to be followers of Christ. However they had never followed Christ. Here, they are being warned that there is no second chance for them to become Christians after they die. They must choose to follow Christ while they are alive or it will be too late. Once people die, the time of judgment has come.

4. Read Hebrews 6:1-20 and write how these verses say that the earth receives the blessings of the Lord.
5. Explain the difference between being around Christians and even acting like Christians and having true faith in Christ.
6. Explain why you think that many people think that going to church and acting like other Christians is what saves them.

Here, we see that God shares His blessings with the earth. Those blessings cause both the crops and the thorns to grow together. However, the thorns will be judged. The writer of Hebrews was glad that those that had received the Word of God had also followed Christ. As a result, they were all encouraged to minister and serve the Lord. Then, they will share in the promises of God. Here, we see that we also have a responsibility to serve the Lord and minister to others.

7. Read Hebrews 6:1-20 and write who these verses say received a great promise in the Old Testament.
8. Explain why the writer of the book of Hebrews had confidence that the Jews receiving this

letter had a true faith even though he warned about those who only claimed to be Christians.
9. Explain what you think that these verses mean when they say that the lives of those who were receiving this letter gave evidence of salvation.

God has given His Word that He will keep His promises. It is impossible for God to lie or break His promises. His Word cannot be changed. He will carry out the things that He has spoken and bring them to completion. In the Old Testament, the high priest went into the holy of Holies once a year to speak to God for the people. When Christ died, the veil (the piece of cloth) that separated the holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was ripped from the top to the bottom. Christ became the One that speaks to God for us. We no longer have to come to God through some human priest that has to offer blood first for his own sins and then for our sins. Through Christ we know that we have eternal life.

10. Read Hebrews 6:1-20 and write what this hope that we have in eternal life through Christ gives to us.

11. Explain why the fact that the veil of the temple was ripped from the top to the bottom shows that we can come directly to the Father through Christ.

12. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ is speaking to the Father for you.

We go one to see that Christ was a priest like Melchizedek. We read about Melchizedek in Genesis 14. Abraham had won a great military victory in a battle to rescue his nephew from a group of kings that had captured him and the things that he possessed. As Abraham was returning from the battle, Abraham met Melchizedek. Since Melchizedek was a priest of God, Abraham gave Melchizedek one tenth of all that he had. In the book of Genesis, we do not read that Melchizedek had parents or that there was a time when his life began. That is why Melchizedek is used to give us a picture of Christ because Christ has no beginning and no end.

13. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 and write when these verses said that Melchizedek became a priest.

14. Explain why Melchizedek is called both King of Righteousness and also King of Peace.

15. Explain why you think that Melchizedek does not have his genealogy or his list of ancestors given in the Bible.

Here, we see why Melchizedek gives us a picture of Christ. Christ had no beginning. He has always existed. Christ has always been with the Father. Since Melchizedek has no beginning, he was a much greater priest than Aaron. In fact, Aaron and his entire family paid the tithe to Melchizedek through their father, Abraham. Aaron was only a man that died. Yet, the people paid tithes to the sons of Levi and the sons of Levi gave tithes to Aaron.

16. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 and write to whom the sons of Levi as well as the sons of Aaron paid tithes to through Abraham.

17. Explain why Melchizedek was a much greater priest than Aaron was.

18. Explain why you think that God chose to use Melchizedek to give us a picture of the ministry of Christ.

Just as we do not read about the birth of Melchizedek, we do not read about his death either. Here is the reason that Melchizedek is a type or a picture of Christ. Christ has always been with the Father. He will always be with the Father in the future. That is why Christ will always be able to speak to the Father for us. Instead of being a priest that dies, Christ has conquered death and had victory over it. He is our great high priest that will always speak to the Father for us.

19. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 and write whose descent is not counted from Aaron and the other high priests.

20. Explain why these verses make it clear that Christ will always be able to speak to the Father for Christians.

21. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ is speaking to the Father for you.

In Christ, the Jewish way of worship was completely changed. In the Old Testament, the Jews had to bring their sacrifices to the priest. Then, the high priest went into the holy of Holies one day each year. First, he would take blood as a covering for his own sin. Then, he would take blood as a covering for the sins of the people. Now, Christ is our sacrifice. He offered His own blood to take away our sin. He is also our high priest that speaks to the Father for us. Now, we can go directly to the Father through Christ. That is why Christ is so very different than the priests that came from the family of Aaron. He is able to be our faithful high priest because He had no sin.

22. Read Hebrews 7:11-28 and write the name of the tribe from which Christ came.

23. Explain why the fact that there has been a change in the priesthood and Christ has become our high priest means that there must also be a change in the law.

24. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that Christ fulfilled the law and that He can give you the endless life that He has.

We see that Christ even came from a different tribe than the tribe from which Aaron came. As a result, Christ can be our high priest forever. Christ gives us a new life. He has changed us completely. Now, we have a real and true hope. Under the family of Aaron, there were many priests. Each time that the high priest died, another priest had to be chosen. Now, Christ is our high priest forever. We see that this made it possible for Christ to be able to do what no other priest could do.

25. Read Hebrews 7:11-28 and write how completely Christ saves us.

26. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that the law can make nothing perfect.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your life to be able to come directly to the Father and not just to some man.

Christ saves us completely. Once we become Christians, we never need to worry about whether we are saved or not. Christ will continue to pray for us forever. We have a high priest that is without sin. He does not need to offer a sacrifice for His own sin as the family of Aaron had to do. Instead, Christ can pray for us at all times because He has never had any sin. Christ is holy. He is undefiled. He is separate from sinners. He did not need to offer sacrifices. Instead, He was able to offer Himself once for all for our sins so that we could receive forgiveness.

28. Read Hebrews 7:11-28 and write what those who became priests under the law had to deal with in their own lives.

29. Explain why it is important for Christians to realize that Christ is able to save them to the uttermost.

30. Explain what it means to you to know that Christ is your high priest that prays for you at all times.

Since Christ is our high priest, we have a wonderful promise. Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. There Christ is speaking directly to the Father for us. This is one of the key ministries of any priest. A priest speaks to God for men and a priest speaks to men for God. That is why we as Christians are also called priests. Christ is in the temple that God built and not the one that men built. In the tabernacle that Moses built, the priests offered sacrifices every day. They had to offer those sacrifices because they could not go directly to God because of their own sin. They worshipped God in the tabernacle that they had built. That tabernacle was made according to the plan that God had showed Moses.

31. Read Hebrews 8:1-13 and write what kind of a covenant God has given us.

32. Explain why it is important that Christ is at the right hand of the Father speaking to Him for us.

33. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

In Christ, everything is made new. Christ made a new and better covenant (agreement). People have always been saved by faith. In the Old Testament, people showed their faith in God by offering sacrifices as a covering for their sin. Now, Christ is our sacrifice. He shed His blood to cover our sin. In addition, His blood completely removes our sin so that our sin will never be remembered again. Our sin has also been removed as far as the east is from the west and also buried in the depths of the sea.

34. Read Hebrews 8:1-13 and write what God will be to the Jewish people when He has written His law in their hearts.

35. Explain why Christ has become the mediator of a better covenant that is based on better promises.

36. Explain why it is important in your life to know that your sins will never be held against you again.

We see that these verses give a wonderful promise to the nation of Israel. One day, the entire nation will begin to follow Christ. They will be the people of God. They will not need anyone to teach them the Word of God. Instead, every one of them will know the Word of God. This will be true from the least important person to the most important person. None of them will be left out. They will all be included in the group of people that know God.

37. Read Hebrews 8:1-13 and write where God says that He will put His laws for the nation of Israel.

38. Explain the meaning of this wonderful promise that God has made to the nation of Israel regarding their future.

39. Explain why it is important to you to know that God will keep His promises to the nation of Israel in the future.

Even though we are not Jews, we have been given a great privilege also. When Christ died, He died for all men. His death and resurrection made us recognize that Christ will keep this promise to save all that come to Him. His death and resurrection also means that the promise to the Jews is certain. Through the death of Christ it is possible for the sins of all people to be forgiven. Even though the Jews received a special promise, we all share in the blessings given to us by the death and resurrection of Christ.

40. Read Hebrews 8:1-13 and write what God says about our sins when we become Christians.

41. Explain why it is important to every person that places their trust in Christ to know that Christ will remember their sins no more. (He will no longer hold our sins against us.)

42. Explain why you are thankful in your personal life to know that the moment you placed your trust in Christ that He blotted out your sins and no longer holds them against you.

Now, re-read Hebrews 6:1-8:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Colossians through James
Lesson 16
Hebrews 9:1-10:39

As we finished our last lesson, we learned that Christ has made a New Covenant with the nation of Israel. In the Old Testament, we see that the people had to bring sacrifices as a covering for their sins. Now, Christ has come to this earth and He became the sacrifice for our sins. The blood of the animals that men offered for their sins was only a covering for their sins until the coming of Christ. When Christ died on the cross for our sins, His blood removed our sins as well as covered them. Once our sins are forgiven, we never need to worry about them being held against us again.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the New Covenant is much better than the Old Covenant (the Law).
- Explain why the death of Christ was necessary for us to have eternal life.
- Tell why the blood of Christ was greater than the blood of the Old Testament sacrifices.
- Explain why we should live by faith.

We see that the Old Covenant was only a picture of what the New Covenant given to us by Christ would be like. Under the Old Covenant, the Jews came to worship at the tabernacle. The tabernacle had two parts. The first part was called the holy place. It had a lampstand, a table for bread and an altar where incense was burned. Each of these pieces of furniture gives us a picture of Christ. In John 8:12, Christ said, "I am the Light of the world." In John 6:35, Christ said, "I am the Bread of Life. The obedience of Christ is a sweet smell to the Father.

1. Read Hebrews 9:1-15 and write what the second part of the tabernacle was called.
2. Explain why first covenant (the Law) needed an earthly sanctuary and an earthly sacrifice.
3. Explain why it is important to you to know that Christ is the One that is able to give you light to lead you and provide you with spiritual food for growth.

The priests went into the holy place every day, once at the time of the morning sacrifice and once at the time of the evening sacrifice. However, the high priest went into the Holy of Holies only one day out of the year. When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he took blood first for his own sins and then the second time for the sins of the people. It was in the Holy of Holies that God met sinful man. The high priest placed the blood on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the stones with the Ten Commandments. Under the Old Covenant we see that it was impossible for of the people to come directly to God. Even the high priest could only come directly to God once a year and he had to come with blood as a covering for his sins and then the sins of the people.

4. Read Hebrews 9:1-15 and write what kind of a priest Christ is.
5. Explain why it was necessary for the high priest to place the blood on the mercy seat so that it was placed over the Ten Commandments.
6. Explain why you are thankful that you can come boldly to God in prayer instead of having a high priest place blood on a mercy seat for you.

When Christ died on the cross, God ripped the piece of cloth that hid the Holy of Holies from men from the top to the bottom. Because of the death of Christ, His blood is our sacrifice. Now, we can come directly to God through Christ. We no longer need the blood of goats and calves to cover our sin. Christ not only covered our sins; He also removed them by His death on the cross. In doing that, Christ provided eternal redemption for us. That meant that He let go of our sins.

7. Read Hebrews 9:1-15 and write who we should serve since the blood of Christ has taken away our sin.

8. Explain why it is important for Christians to understand the difference between the Old Covenant (the Law) and the New Covenant (salvation provided by the death and resurrection of Christ).
9. Explain why it is important to you in your life that Christ came as the High Priest of the good things to come.

Christ is the One that goes between the Father and us. The first covenant (testament) was the law. The law condemned us to death. Now, Christ makes us free from the law and gives us eternal life. Because of this wonderful life that God has given us, our desire should be to serve the Lord. This should be the most important thing in our lives. Christ offered Himself without any spot (sin) to the Father. That is why He is able to cleanse our conscience from the dead works that only brought spiritual death. Instead, He has given us a promise.

10. Read Hebrews 9:1-15 and write what Christ has promised to us.
11. Explain why Christians should want to serve the Lord that provided them with forgiveness instead of continuing to serve dead works.
12. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the New Covenant that Christ has provided.

When a person makes a will and tells who will receive what when that person dies, that document is called a last will and testament. It does not go into effect until that person dies. The covenant (law) that God gave Moses also required death. Many animals were killed to cover the sins of the people. At the time that the tabernacle was dedicated, Moses took blood and sprinkled that blood on each of the pieces of furniture that were placed in the tabernacle.

13. Read Hebrews 9:16-28 and write what is necessary for the remission (forgiveness) of sins.
14. Explain why it was necessary for Moses to sprinkle all of the pieces of furniture in the tabernacle with blood.
15. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from that fact that God says that the first covenant (testament) had to be dedicated with blood.

We see that it is impossible for sin to be forgiven if there is no blood shed for that sin. This is why it was necessary for people to kill thousands of animals in the Old Testament so that sin could be covered until Christ died so that sin could be taken away. That is why the high priest had to take the blood once each year into the Holy of Holies first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Now, Christ has died once for the sins of all people. His blood has paid the penalty for the sins of all. Now, people must choose either to accept the payment by Christ or reject the payment by Christ and choose to pay for their own sin.

16. Read Hebrews 9:16-28 and write what happens to men after death.
17. Explain why it is important for Christians to share with all people that people must accept the payment for sin by Christ or they will pay for their sin with eternal judgment.
18. Explain why it is important to you in your life that you know how to explain clearly to your relatives, friends, co-workers, neighbors and other acquaintances the importance of the choice that they are making.

We see that these verses tell us that there is one time that everyone will be on time. No one will be late for the time that God has set for each person to die. When that time comes, there will be nothing that will keep that person from dying. Once a person dies, then the time of judgment has come. For those who did not ask Christ to forgive their sins and come into their lives, it is then too late for them to become Christians. However, Christ has died for our sin so that we do not need to be judged for our sin. Those who accept the gift of Christ will never face judgment when they die.

19. Read Hebrews 9:16-28 and write how Christ will appear to those that are looking for His coming.
20. Explain why it is important that Christ came to this earth to put away sin by the sacrifice of

Himself.

21. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that Christ died for your sins and in your place.

We go on to learn more about the fact that the sacrifice of Christ is much greater than the sacrifice of animals. If the sacrifice of the animals had been enough to take away sin, there would have been no need to continue to offer animals as sacrifices. Instead, the people of the Old Testament had to continue to offer sacrifices every year. They were reminded every year that their animal sacrifices were not enough. If the blood of animals had taken away their sin, they would not have had to continue to be reminded of their sin.

22. Read Hebrews 10:1-18 and write what the blood of animals cannot do.

23. Explain why the blood of animals could never take away sin.

24. Explain why it would be difficult for you to have inner peace if you had to continue to be reminded that the penalty for your sin had not yet been paid.

The blood of animals only covered the sins of men. That blood was only a temporary covering until the blood of Christ removed those sins. Those sacrifices were only temporary. They were only to show that men had faith in God. Many people offered sacrifices even though they had no faith in God. As a result, their sacrifices meant nothing. However, Christ offered Himself as the one sacrifice that would remove sins forever.

25. Read Hebrews 10:1-18 and write what Christ did after He offered His life as a sacrifice for sins.

26. Explain what the one offering of Christ did for all those that have placed their trust in Christ.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that Christ became the offering for your sin.

Today, Christ is in heaven sitting on the right hand of the Father. He is speaking to the Father for us. He was the perfect sacrifice so there is no need for any more sacrifices. Now, Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us these things. Christ promised that He would send the Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit would teach us and write the Word of God in our hearts and minds. Christ paid the penalty for our sins. As a result, the Father no longer holds our sins against us.

28. Read Hebrews 10:1-18 and write what God promises that He will no longer do with our sins and our iniquities.

29. Explain the difference between God forgetting our sins and God no longer remembering or holding our sins against us.

30. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that God has forgiven your sins and no longer holds them against you.

Since the blood of Christ paid for our sin, we can come directly to God through Christ. Christ is our high priest who speaks to the Father for us. We know for sure that our sins were forgiven at the moment we placed our trust in Christ. We also know for sure that we have been given eternal life. Since we know those two things, we should stand fast because we have this hope and confidence in Christ for our future. We do not need to spend our time worrying or wondering whether we are saved. Christ has promised us that we have eternal life and we know that our hearts have been cleansed from an evil conscience.

31. Read Hebrews 10:19-39 and write what we are told to do for one another.

32. Explain why Christians can be filled with hope once they understand what the death of Christ did in providing our eternal salvation.

33. Explain why it gives you peace in your life to know that God has forgiven your sin because of what Christ did and that no one can take that life from you.

We see that we are to encourage one another as Christians. This will strengthen our love for

one another and cause that love to grow. We are also to encourage one another in our work for Christ. We are not to neglect meeting together with other Christians. Today, there are some Christians who seldom get together for Bible study with other Christians. They do not take the time to encourage one another from the Word of God. As a result, they are weak Christians. We are all to teach and encourage each other so that we will be able to serve God more effectively. Then, we read about the judgment of those that do not follow Christ.

34. Read Hebrews 10:19-39 and write what is a fearful thing.

35. Explain why Christians are told both to get together and also to encourage one another when they get together.

36. Explain why you have found in your own life that it is important to get together with other Christians to encourage one another from the Word of God.

We see that these verses give a real warning to those who continue to walk in sin instead of following Christ. God is a loving God who gives people many opportunities to become Christians. However, God is also a holy God and must judge sin. That judgment will be an eternal judgment for those who reject the forgiveness that Christ offers and choose to pay for their own sin. All who fail to put their trust in Christ will be judged for their sin. They will be judged in the lake of fire and brimstone that will burn forever. There will be no escape from that terrible judgment.

37. Read Hebrews 10:19-39 and write who will bring vengeance on sin for all who reject Christ.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment of those that reject Christ and continue to live in sin.

39. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to warn your relatives and friends about coming judgment if they do not place their trust in Christ.

We also have some words of encouragement in the final part of this chapter. We are to rejoice when people laugh at us and speak against us. We do not need to worry. Instead, we know that God will do exactly as He has promised. If we are following Christ, He will give us eternal life. We are to wait patiently for our reward. Christ is coming soon. It will not be long until we receive that reward. We are not to hear the Word of God and then draw back. Instead, we are to obey the Word of God.

40. Read Hebrews 10:19-39 and write how the just will live.

41. Explain why the promises in these verses can give Christians great confidence.

42. Explain what it means to you in your life to have patience because you know that you are doing the will of God.

Now, re-read Hebrews 9:1-10:39 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 17

Hebrews 11:1-12:29

In our study today, we will learn about the meaning of faith. Then, we will have this faith shown to us by many examples from the Old Testament. As we see the faith of these men in the Old Testament, we have an example of the true kind of faith that we should have as Christians. As Christians, we are to put aside the things that are hindering us and serve Christ fully. We are to keep our eyes on Him at all times. Because Christ loves us, He will discipline us when we go our own way because He wants to bring us back into fellowship so that we can walk in His love.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain the meaning of faith.

Tell why we are given these examples of faith from the Old Testament.

Explain why God disciplines Christians.

Tell why we depend on Christ instead of the law.

As we begin these chapters, the first thing we see is the definition of faith. We see that faith knows for sure that God will do the things that He has promised. Faith is to know this even though we have not yet seen the proof. We are given an example of this faith in our own lives and then we will see many examples of faith from the Old Testament. We know for sure that God formed the world just by speaking the word. We know for sure that the things that we see are actually made from the things that are so small that they cannot be seen.

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-22 and write the name of the first man of faith that is mentioned.
2. Explain why true faith is to know for sure that God will do exactly as He has promised us.
3. Tell how you would explain the meaning of faith to a family member or to someone that is a friend.

Abel showed his faith in God by offering a blood sacrifice when his brother, Cain, brought a sacrifice of fruit and vegetables. God accepted the sacrifice of Abel but not the sacrifice of Cain because Abel showed that he had faith in the promises of God. In contrast, Cain brought the best of his own efforts from his crops in the field. Enoch did not die because he had faith in God. Instead, God took Enoch directly to heaven. Noah showed his faith in God by building an ark so that he and his family would be spared from the flood. The faith of Noah also meant that those who did not have faith were condemned to judgment by the flood.

4. Read Hebrews 11:1-22 and write what kind of a city Abraham looked for because of his faith in God.
5. Explain the difference between faith in the promises of God (shown by Abel) and dependence upon our own efforts (shown by Cain).
6. Explain why you think that God says that without faith it is impossible for a person to please God.

God told Abraham to leave his country and go to another country where he had never been. Abraham obeyed and went. He was not just looking for a place to build a city here on this earth. Instead, we see that he was looking forward to the eternal city in heaven. His wife, Sarah, also had great faith. When Abraham and Sarah were far beyond the age when they could have a child, God promised that they would have a son. They believed the promise of God even though humanly speaking they were too old to have a child born to them.

7. Read Hebrews 11:1-22 and write what Abraham offered as a sacrifice by faith.
8. Explain why Abraham was looking for a city with foundations whose builder and maker is God.

9. Explain what it means to you in your life to have a faith that looks beyond this world to the promises that God has given concerning the future.

Abraham was willing to obey God and offer Isaac to God as a sacrifice. He was willing to do this even though God had promised that Isaac would become a great nation of people. Abraham had faith in God and knew that God would raise Isaac back to life again if Abraham obeyed the instructions of God. After Abraham showed that he had complete faith in the promises of God, then God provided another sacrifice instead of Isaac. We also see in these verses that the faith of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph are mentioned to us.

10. Read Hebrews 11:1-22 and write how Joseph showed his faith in the promises of God.

11. Explain why the faith of the people mentioned in these verses showed that they viewed themselves as strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

12. Explain some of the ways that you are demonstrating your faith in the promises of God by the choices that you make for your own life.

We go on to read about the faith of Moses and his parents. Because his parents had faith, Moses was raised in the house of Pharaoh, the Egyptian king. However, he refused to remain a part of the family of Pharaoh. Instead, Moses made a choice. He chose to suffer with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin that only last for a short while. Because of the faith of Moses, God used him to lead the nation of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Here, we see that God will be able to use our lives for His work if we have faith in His promises.

13. Read Hebrews 11:23-40 and write what city the Jews marched around by faith.

14. Explain some of the ways that Moses demonstrated his faith by the choices that he made in his life.

15. Explain how the faith that you have in your own life has caused you to think more about the eternal results of your actions rather than just think about the present results of those actions.

Instead of trying to destroy the city of Jericho by fighting, Joshua and the army of Israel obeyed God by faith. They marched around the city of Jericho for seven days by faith. Then, God destroyed the city of Jericho. The only people that were protected in Jericho were Rahab and her family. They were protected because Rahab hid the spies by faith. We read of the faith of many others also. Through faith men had victory over their enemies. They received promises. They closed the mouths of lions. They stopped fires. They escaped from their enemies. Even though they were weak in themselves, God gave them strength.

16. Read Hebrews 11:23-40 and write what some women received by faith.

17. Explain why people that are weak are made strong when they walk by faith and allow God to work in and through their lives.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about walking by faith from the examples of the people that are given in this chapter.

We see a real picture of the persecution that many of the people that had faith in God received. We read of many evil things that were done to those people. Here, we see how we should act and feel when people persecute us for speaking about Christ. Instead of getting angry or feeling like God has forgotten us, we should have complete faith in God knowing that He is allowing all of these things are happening for a purpose even though we may not know the purpose.

19. Read Hebrews 11:23-40 and write what these people from the Old Testament had not received even though they walked by faith.

20. Explain why true faith in God and his promises will cause His followers to accept suffering when it comes.

21. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the faith of these men and women.

As we go on chapter twelve, we see a challenge to live for Christ. These Old Testament examples provide us an example of the way that the Lord can work through our lives as we learn to walk by faith. Life is compared to a race. In order to win a race, a person does not let

anything slow him down. In the same way, we are not to let any hindrances or obstacles slow us down as we live for Christ by faith. We are to confess all sin so that we do not have any sin that will slow us down. We are to keep our eyes on Jesus and not on people. Then, we will have His wisdom to serve the Lord in the right way. We will have His example to follow. This will prevent us from following those that would lead us astray.

22. Read Hebrews 12:1-13 and write what the Lord does to those that He loves.

23. Explain why Christ is both the One who gives us our faith and also the One that brings our faith to completion.

24. Explain what it means to you in your own life to keep your eyes focused on Jesus.

We see that the Lord disciplines the ones that He loves. The parent that loves a child will discipline that child. Otherwise that child will grow up feeling that he or she can do whatever the child wants to do. As a result, that child will get into much trouble and possibly end up in jail. As Christians, we will also grow the wrong way unless God disciplines us. God disciplines us because He loves us. He wants us to grow and become strong Christians instead of continuing to be weak, sinful Christians.

25. Read Hebrews 12:1-13 and write how people feel about chastening (discipline) at the time that they are receiving it.

26. Explain why discipline done in love will help a person to become strong while punishment by an angry person will be destructive instead.

27. Explain why you are thankful in your own life that God disciplines you to help you become spiritually strong.

When we are disciplined, it hurts. However, we realize later that the discipline helped us and was just the thing that we needed. As we learn to be obedient children of God, we find that we have a life that is full of peace and joy. The discipline that we received from God helped us to grow into the kind of person that God wants us to be. That is why we can rejoice as we see how the Lord used His discipline to develop godly character in our lives.

28. Read Hebrews 12:1-13 and write what kind of paths we are to make for our feet.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the reason that the Lord disciplines Christians in their lives.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that God uses His discipline to develop godly character in our lives.

We see that as Christians we are to try and live in peace with all people. Otherwise there is a danger that a root of bitterness may develop in our lives that will cause many others to stumble and fall. In fact, bitterness can even prevent people from coming to Christ for eternal life. A root of bitterness is one of the worst kinds of roots that a Christian can have in his or her life. A Christian that becomes bitter will lose the joy that he once had in Christ. That bitterness will also have a negative effect on the other Christians that they hurt with their bitterness. A Christian that has bitterness in his or her life will have an empty and meaningless life.

31. Read Hebrews 12:14-29 and write who is called a profane person.

32. Explain how bitterness can be very destructive in the life of any person.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the danger of letting bitterness take root in your life.

The life of Esau gives a real warning to those that are pretending to be Christians but have never followed Christ. He sold his birthright for a little bit of food to satisfy his hunger at that moment. The birthright would have made him the spiritual leader of his family. However, he was only concerned about satisfying his physical needs. He had no interest in being the spiritual leader in his family. Because he chose to satisfy himself rather than follow God, his life became empty and meaningless. Later he did not receive the blessing.

34. Read Hebrews 12:14-29 and write what mountain we are to come to instead of the mountain

where the law was given.

35. Explain why the life of Esau provides an example of the consequences of choosing to live to satisfy self instead of living to please God.

36. Explain why you realize that a life lived just to satisfy self will become a life that is empty and meaningless.

When Moses was given the law, the people were not to touch the mountain or come close to it or they would die. The law will always bring death. However, we are to come to Mount Zion. Mount Zion is the city of God. It is the heavenly Jerusalem. It is the place where all those that have followed Christ will go. It is the place where we will spend eternity with God because we have come to Him through Christ. Of course Christ is the One that made it possible for us to come to the Father because He paid the penalty for our sin and He now speaks for us.

37. Read Hebrews 12:14-29 and write what we are told not to do.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the way that Christians are to live while they are here on this earth.

39. Explain why you are looking forward to spending all eternity in the heavenly Jerusalem with Christ.

As we come to the end of this chapter, we are given a warning to those that are not following Christ. Since the nation of Israel was judged when they turned away from God as He spoke on the earth, those that turn away from God when He speaks from heaven will receive a greater judgment. God shook the earth when He judged Israel. Now, He will one day shake both the heavens and the earth when He destroys the wicked. The shaking will be so great that not a single evil person will remain. However, those who follow Christ will not even be moved.

40. Read Hebrews 12:14-29 and write what God is called for those who fail to follow Christ.

41. Explain what these verses warn about those who turn away from the One that speaks from heaven.

42. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the way that you should serve the Lord.

Now, re-read Hebrews 11:1-12:29 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James
Lesson 18
Hebrews 13:1-James 1:27

Today, we will be completing the book of Hebrews and beginning the book of James. The book of James was written by the half brother of Christ. For many years he had been one of the leaders in the church at Jerusalem. He wrote this letter to the Jews that were living in other parts of the world. In our last lesson, we learned many lessons about faith. As we study the book of James, we will learn that we show our faith in Christ by working for Christ. Faith must come first. However, we should show our faith in Christ by working for Him.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what we learn about the fact that Christ never changes.
- Explain what Christ teaches us about obedience.
- Tell what causes us to sin.
- Explain why we should want to work for Christ.

As Christians, we are to continue to show Christian love to others. As we begin Hebrews 13, we see that one of the ways that we show Christian love is to invite others to eat and sleep in our home. In the Old Testament, we read of several people that had angels visit them in their homes. They did not realize that their visitors were angels until they served them a meal. In addition to showing hospitality to visitors, we are also to remember those that are in jail and those that are suffering.

1. Read Hebrews 13:1-9 and write what these verses say about marriage.
2. Explain why Christians are encouraged to remember those who are in chains and those who are suffering.
3. Explain some ways that you have found helpful in your life to minister to those that are suffering.

We see that marriage is good. Sexual relationships in marriage are also good. However, sexual relationships outside of marriage are sin and God will judge all sin. We are also reminded not to covet or desire the things that other people have. Instead, God wants us to be satisfied with the things that we have because we know that Christ is with us all of the time. He will supply our needs. That is why we are encouraged to be content with the things that we have. We also know that the Lord helps us so we do not need to be afraid of the things that people might do to us.

4. Read Hebrews 13:1-9 and write the verse that shows that Christ never changes.
5. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to be content with the things that the Lord has provided them.
6. Explain what it means to you in your life to know that the Lord is with you and He will not forsake you.

We are told not to forget those that have taught us the Word of God. Their lives should be an example for us. We should follow their example and teach others the things that we have learned. We also see that Christ never changes. He will always be the same. He will always love us as much as the day that He died for us. Since Christ never changes, we should not try to change the Word of God and teach false teachings. Instead, we need to teach what the Word of God teaches. Then, we will know that we are teaching the right things. Because Christ never changes, His Word will not change either. This is the reason that we can know that we are teaching the right things when we teach the Word of God.

7. Read Hebrews 13:1-9 and write with what our hearts are to be established.
8. Explain what these verses teach us about the fact that Christ has never changed and He will

never change in the future.

9. Explain what you learn for your own life about the danger of strange doctrines that can deceive people.

In the Old Testament, the bodies of the animals that were sacrificed were burned outside of the camp. When Jesus was put to death on the cross, He was put to death outside the wall of the city. As Christians, we must be willing to follow Christ even if people speak against us and leave us outside of their group. We need to be willing to suffer for Christ. We are looking for a future city that is much greater than anything that the world can offer to us. As a result, our hearts should be filled with thanks and praise to the Lord all of the time. When we have this attitude in our hearts, it will be our desire to do good and share with others.

10. Read Hebrews 13:10-25 and write what we are told to do to our rulers.

11. Explain why Christians are encouraged to offer up the sacrifice of praise to the Lord continually.

12. Explain what these verses teach you for your life about the importance of doing good and sharing with others.

We are to obey those who rule over us. God had established governments and given them the responsibility to watch over those under their supervision. One day, they will give an account to the Lord for the way that they led others. Just as God has established the governments in the world, God has also given us leaders in the church so that they can guide us in the way that Christ wants us to go. They are to guide us the right way so that they will have joy and not sorrow. God also encourages us to pray for others so that they can serve the Lord with a good conscience.

13. Read Hebrews 13:10-25 and write what Christ is called in these verses.

14. Explain why Christians are to submit themselves to the church leaders that God has placed in the world.

15. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that God has established the leaders in churches so that they can help you live in peace.

Here, we see another reason why we should obey the leaders in the church. Christ is the great Shepherd. The leaders of the church are to work under the leadership of the great Shepherd so that they can equip every Christian to work for Christ. This is also the reason that Christian leaders are to be servants and not dictators. Christ is the One that is the great Shepherd and they are to serve Him as they lead in the church. As our leaders help us learn to serve under the great Shepherd, He wants to use them to equip us for every good work so that we can carry out His will in the world.

16. Read Hebrews 13:10-25 and write to whom all glory belongs.

17. Explain what these verses teach about submission and obedience to the leaders that the Lord has placed over us.

18. Explain what lessons you learn about the way that Christ wants to equip you and prepare you for His service.

As we begin the book of James, we will learn several important lessons about the way that we should live our lives each day. First, we are told to consider it all joy when we fall into various trials or temptations. To consider it all joy means that we make it a choice to recognize that the Lord is going to work through any trials. These trials of our faith help us to grow stronger and strengthen our faith. This helps us to become more patient and willing to suffer a long time. As a result, Christ is bringing our lives to spiritual maturity.

19. Read James 1:1-16 and write what we should do if we lack wisdom.

20. Explain why trials and tests help to strengthen the lives of Christians if they yield their lives to the Lord and ask for His strength.

21. Explain some of the ways that trials and tests have helped you to grow in your own spiritual

life.

We see that God is very glad to help us learn to think His thoughts so that we continue to grow in our spiritual lives. When we ask for wisdom, He will give us more than we ask. However, we are told to ask in faith believing that God will answer our prayers. If we do not have faith, we see that our prayers will not be answered. Today, some Christians wonder why God does not answer their prayers. Here, we see that one reason that God does not answer their prayers is due to their weak faith. We are also warned not to have a double mind (a mind that thinks two different ways). Instead, we are to yield our lives to Christ and let Him guide and develop our lives so that our thoughts become Biblical and in agreement with the Word of God.

22. Read James 1:1-16 and write what the poor man is told to do.

23. Explain what these verses teach us about the desire of God to give us godly wisdom in our lives.

24. Explain how the Lord has helped your thinking to develop so that you see more and more of the things in life from the viewpoint of God.

We see that God lifts up those who are poor and weak. God brings down those who are rich and proud. The rich and the proud will dry up like a piece of grass that has been cut. However, as Christians, Christ will help us to develop new ways of thinking. He will also help us when we are tempted. Then, we will receive a crown of life. This crown of life is promised to all those that love Christ. Here, we have the promise again that we will receive eternal life if we follow Christ.

25. Read James 1:1-16 and write how people are tempted.

26. Explain why those that depend on worldly riches or human wisdom will find that their lives are quickly gone.

27. Explain what you learn for your own life about the reward that you will receive if you will learn to endure temptation.

We read that God never tempts any person. Every person is tempted by his or her own lusts and desires. The person follows those lusts. Then, those lusts cause the person to sin. Finally, that sin will cause death. Here, we see that we all face choices in our lives. We can yield our lives to sinful lusts and desires. Then, those lusts and desires will lead us to do evil things because we have let them control our lives. Those sinful desires will finally lead to death. In contrast, we can choose to yield to God and He will give us victory over temptation and we will experience His blessing in our lives as we follow and serve Him.

28. Read James 1:1-16 and write what the writer of the book of James calls those to whom he originally wrote this letter.

29. Explain what these verses teach us about the danger of following our own lusts and yielding to sin.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to have victory over temptation.

Just as lusts and evil desires come from our hearts, those things that are good and perfect come from God. The things that are good and perfect come from God because He never changes. He is the One that has made us His children. Here, we see again that we cannot be saved by our own efforts. God is the One who makes us His children as the moment we place our trust in Christ. God is also the One that speaks the truth. He is the One that does all good things.

31. Read James 1:17-27 and write what we are told to be swift to do.

32. Explain why Christians can enjoy the things that are good and perfect when they make the choice to yield their lives to God.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about how to enjoy the good and perfect things that come from God.

We are always to be listening to the things that God says. In our communication with others,

we also need to learn to really listen to them so that we understand the things that they are saying. We are to give them the freedom to give their own opinions even if we do not agree. When we give them the freedom to share their opinions, we will understand what they are actually saying. Then, the Lord will give us His strength not to get angry because our anger does not complete the purpose of God. Many Christians have not learned to let Christ give them control over their anger. Sometimes their anger even shows when they are speaking to others about Christ. As a result, they are not effective witnesses. We are to get rid of evil in our lives and receive the Word of God instead. The Word of God helps us live the right way and do the right things.

34. Read James 1:17-27 and write why we are told to be doers of the word.

35. Explain why Christians are to learn to yield to Christ so that they will be slow to speak and slow to wrath.

36. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life about the importance of learning to listen to others.

We see that we are only tricking ourselves when we hear the Word of God but do not do what it says. We are like a man who looks in a mirror and then immediately forgets what he sees. If we want to receive real blessing, we make the choice to obey what God tells us to do and not just listen to the Word of God. We make the choice to live our lives in obedience to the Word of God. Today, many Christians know what the Word of God teaches about their responsibility to serve Christ. However, they are not serving Christ. Instead, they are just sitting.

37. Read James 1:17-27 and write what we are told to do after we look into the perfect law of liberty.

38. Explain why genuine Christianity is demonstrated by what we do and not by what we hear.

39. Explain what lessons these verses teach you for your own life about the importance of obeying the Word of God and not just hearing and then forgetting it.

If we are true Christians, we will let Christ control our tongues. He will give us the words to speak so that we say the right things. If Christ does not control our tongue, we are only deceiving ourselves. If we are true Christians, we will want to keep away from sin and confess it immediately when we do sin. Part of our obedience to the Word of God includes visiting those whose fathers or husbands have died. This will encourage and strengthen them.

40. Read James 1:17-27 and write the last thing that we are told to do in this chapter as true Christians.

41. Explain why the way that Christians speak tells you whether a Christian is yielding to the Lord or deceiving his or her heart.

42. Explain what the Lord has taught you from these verses about the way to speak in a way that will bring glory to Christ.

Now, re-read Hebrews 13:1-James 1:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James

Lesson 19

James 2:1-3:18

James is a very practical book because it teaches us about the way that we should live and walk in our Christian life. Today, we will be learning several important lessons about either the way we should live or the way we should talk. We know that we cannot work to earn our salvation. God gives our salvation to us as a free gift. After we become Christians, however, we should want to work for the Lord because of our love for Him. We work for the Lord because of our love for the Lord. This love can only come after we have become Christians.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why we should not treat the rich with favoritism.
- Explain why we should want to work for Christ as Christians.
- Explain why we should learn to control our tongues as Christians.
- Explain why the wisdom of God is greater than the wisdom of man.

Many times it is easy to show respect to rich people and try to impress them. In these verses, we see that it is wrong to show kindness and favor to a rich man and not show that same kindness and favor to a poor man. Apparently some of the Christians were keeping the better seats for the rich and making the poor either stand or sit on the floor when the church met in their home. They were treating those with expensive clothing or jewelry in a different way than the way they treated those who had ragged clothing. This will always create problems in a church.

1. Read James 2:1-13 and write what Christ calls us when we show favor to one person and not to another person.
2. Explain why some Christians might be tempted to show favoritism to those who appear to be rich.
3. Explain what these verses teach you for your own life about favoring those who have expensive clothing or fancy jewelry.

Many times the people that are the poorest have the greatest faith. They will receive a great reward when they get to heaven. We can learn many lessons about faith from those who are poor. Often it is the rich that cheat others or take others to court. Often it is also the rich people that speak against Christ. They are depending on their money instead of depending on Christ to get them to heaven. Of course we know that such people will not get to heaven because their money will mean nothing when they stand before Christ. The things that are important are learning to follow Christ and then learning to serve Christ in thanks for what He has done for us. These are the things that will count when we stand before the Lord.

4. Read James 2:1-13 and write what is called the royal law.
5. Explain why Christians are not to be partial in their thoughts and actions or judge others by having evil thoughts about them.
6. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life from some of the poor that are rich in their faith.

These verses give us a very important commandment. We see that if we love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we will be doing the right things to them. We will not be kind to one and mean to another. Instead, we will show Christian love to both. In contrast, we see that we are actually breaking the law of God and committing sin when we are kind to one person and mean to another. We see that to favor certain people over others in our attitudes toward them is actually breaking the law of God. We do not love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

7. Read James 2:1-13 and write what happens if we keep all of the laws except one.

8. Explain why Christians are to have a love for all people whether those people are rich or poor.
9. Explain what you learn from these verses about the danger of judging others if you focus on what they have or do not have.

Here, we see that if we could live lives that were so good that we only committed one sin in our entire life, we would still be guilty of breaking the entire law of God. One sin is enough to condemn a person. Of course we know that we have committed many sins and that is true of every person. As a result, we know that all people are condemned before they place their trust in Christ. However, once we become Christians, it should be our desire to please Christ and avoid sin. This means that we should never favor or respect a person because that person is rich. Instead, we should show kindness and Christian love to all people.

10. Read James 2:1-13 and write by what law we want to be judged.
11. Explain why a person is guilty of breaking the entire law of God even if it were possible for that person to only commit one sin in his or her entire life.
12. Explain what it means to you to know that you are now free to love all people because Christ has set you free from your sin.

We go on to learn how we should work as Christians. We saw at the beginning of our lesson that we are saved by faith alone. However, the faith that we have in Christ should give us a desire to work for Christ. If we see a brother or a sister that has a need, we should not just tell that person that we will pray for that person. Instead, this is an opportunity to show our love for Christ by doing what we can to help meet that need in the life of the other Christian. Everything that we have belongs to Christ and should be used in the way that Christ wants it used.

13. Read James 2:14-26 and write what James says about faith if works do not follow that faith.
14. Explain why Christians choose to do good works and minister to other Christians because of their faith.
15. Explain some ways that the Lord has used you to minister to the needs of other Christians.

We are to show our faith in Christ by the works that we do to serve Him. The demons believe in the existence of Christ but they do not obey Christ because they have not followed Him. In fact, the demons also believe in coming judgment and are filled with fear because they know that they will go to that judgement. However, although the demons believe in these things, this does not cause them to change and follow Christ. This is due to the fact that they do not have their faith in Christ. Their lack of faith is shown by the fact that they continue to do their evil works.

16. Read James 2:14-26 and write the name of the man whose life is given as an example of faith and works.
17. Explain why demons can believe in the existence of God but that does not mean that they have their faith in God.
18. Explain what you learn about the difference between believing in the existence of something and have a true faith in Christ.

Abraham was made right with God because he believed God. We read that God put faith to the account of Abraham as righteousness. Then, Abraham showed that he believed God by doing the works that God wanted him to do. Rahab also showed her faith by doing the works that God told her to do. She showed her faith in God and His promises by hiding the spies of the nation of Israel. Just as our bodies are dead when our spirits leave them, we also have a dead faith unless we show that faith in God by our works that we do as His children.

19. Read James 2:14-26 and write what Abraham was called.
20. Explain why Christians are able to demonstrate their faith by what they do after they place their trust in Christ.

21. Explain how both Abraham and Rahab help you to understand by their choices that works are the result of true faith.

We go on to learn about the way that we should control our tongue. We are warned not to be teachers unless we can control our tongue. However, at the same time we see that God wants us to grow and mature and teach others the things that we have learned. The only way that we can control our tongue is to ask Christ to take control of our lives so that the words that we speak will bring honor and glory to Him. If we are trying to teach others and Christ does not control our tongue, we will be judged because the things that we are saying will not agree with what we are doing. If our tongue is controlled by sin, it is like a fire that is out of control. If Christ controls our tongue, it is the result of the fact that we have chosen to give Him the control of our life so that He can work through our life to draw others to Himself and help them grow.

22. Read James 3:1-12 and write how we control a horse.

23. Explain why these verses teach that a Christian that is mature will be able to control his or her tongue.

24. Explain what you learn for your own life about the importance of yielding the control of your tongue to Christ.

A little piece of metal that is called a bit is able to control a large horse when we put that bit in the mouth of a horse. We are able to control a car or even a very large boat with a small steering wheel. The tongue is also very small but it has great control over our lives. It is able to boast about great things. If our tongue is controlled by sin, it is like a fire that is out of control. It causes our whole body to sin and do evil. As a final result, it will bring judgment.

25. Read James 3:1-12 and write how our tongue is different from animals.

26. Explain why the tongue can be so destructive when it is controlled by sin instead of being yielded to the Lord.

27. Explain why you want to use your tongue to speak words that will bring glory to God in all that you say.

If we work with animals, we can tame them and teach them to obey us. However, it is impossible to tame our tongue so that we can control it. If Christ does not have control of our tongue, we will speak many evil things that will cut and hurt others. People can even cause divisions in a church by the things that they say. In fact, the things that people have said have divided many churches. Our tongues can be filled with poison if Christ does not control them.

28. Read James 3:1-12 and write what James said should not come out of the same mouth.

29. Explain why it is important for Christians to learn to let Christ control their tongues so that the things they say will help others.

30. Explain why you realize that your tongue can defile your whole body if you do not yield the control of your tongue to the Lord.

When we do not let Christ control our tongue, we will bless God one minute and speak against people the next minute. We will bless and we will curse. These things should not be done in our lives. A fountain cannot have two different kinds of water coming out at the same time. A fig tree does not produce olives. A grapevine does not produce figs. Every one of these plants will produce the kind of fruit that each plant is. When we curse or speak evil of others, we are showing what we are really like on the inside. Our lives are filled with evil.

31. Read James 3:1-12 and write what James says to those who are blessing and cursing with the same mouth.

32. Explain why James says that something is wrong when the same mouth is giving both blessing and cursing.

33. Explain what you learn about the fact that you show what you are on the inside by the way that you speak.

We also see the way to speak the wisdom of God instead of having evil words coming from our mouth. God wants us to speak His words and show His works. We should not let the devil have an opportunity to cause us to think and talk the wrong way. The devil wants us to envy others and wants us to desire the things that they have. The devil wants us to have hate in our hearts. He wants us to be proud and tell lies. If the devil can get us to do these things, he is happy.

34. Read James 3:13-18 and write from where the wisdom that causes us to do these things comes.

35. Explain what these verses teach us about the wisdom that does not come from God.

36. Explain why these verses teach you will do if you are a wise person that is endowed with knowledge.

All of the evil things that people speak and do actually come from the devil. They are spoken and done by people that are not yielding the control of their lives to Christ. The devil wants to cause confusion. He wants his evil works done on the earth. This is why the devil encourages people to think evil thoughts. This is why he tries to get people to satisfy their own evil desires. He will do everything possible to get evil spirits to take control of people. When this happens, people live in fear. They have no peace. They do not know what is right.

37. Read James 3:13-18 and write what there is where there is envying and confusion.

38. Explain why the wisdom that the devil offers to people is earthly, sensual and demonical.

39. Explain why you want your heart to be controlled by godly wisdom rather than earthly wisdom.

We see that God works in a completely different way from the devil. The wisdom of God is pure and holy. His wisdom brings inner peace to those who have their trust in Christ. God is full of love and kindness. He is eager to listen when we pray to Him. He shows His kindness by producing good fruit in our lives. He treats all people equally and does not give some a special advantage. God does things the right way. Now, we are to take this message to others so that they can be right with God.

40. Read James 3:13-18 and write how the message that people can be right with God should be planted.

41. Explain why the wisdom of God that He promises to give us when we ask Him will change our thoughts, attitudes and actions.

42. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life as you have learned to let the wisdom of God lead you instead of the wisdom of the world.

Now, re-read James 2:1-3:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Colossians through James
Lesson 20
James 4:1-5:20

As Christians, we have been set apart to worship and serve God. We are different than the people of the world. Christ has placed the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we have both the desire to serve Him and the power to serve Him as we yield to the Holy Spirit. For this reason, we should no longer live like the people of the world. Instead, we should learn to yield our lives to Christ so that He can work through us. Then, we will be able to serve Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and not in our own strength. In our lesson today, we will learn about several things that will happen as we choose to let Christ control our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why there are times when our prayers are not answered.
- Explain how to let Christ control our lives.
- Tell about the warning that is given to the rich.
- Explain what we are taught about healing in these verses.

Today, there is much war and fighting going on in the world. We see that the reason for this fighting is the fact that people want to satisfy themselves. There will never be peace as long as there is sin. Sin causes people to want to satisfy themselves because they think of themselves before they think of others. However, they are never satisfied. Even though people desire things, they do not get the things that they want. Some people will even kill others to try and get what they want. However, they are still not satisfied.

1. Read James 4:1-6 and write why people do not have what they need.
2. Explain why James warns those who claimed to be Christians and continued to follow the ways of the world.
3. Explain what these verses teach you for your own life about the importance of not thinking and acting like the world.

We see that we do not have what we need for several reasons. First, we see that some do not have what they need because they fail to pray. Then, we see that many who do pray are praying for things to satisfy themselves. They do not pray for strength to do the will of God or the work of God. If we are only trying to satisfy ourselves, God will not answer our prayers. When Christians are trying to satisfy themselves, they are also doing things the way that the people of the world do things. As a result, they do not do things in a Biblical way.

4. Read James 4:1-6 and write what God says about those who are friends of the world and its ways.
5. Explain why the purpose of prayer is not to be viewed as something we do to satisfy our own desires.
6. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life about the danger of trying to be a friend of the world and the ways of the world.

We cannot please both God and the people of the world at the same time. We must choose to follow God or we are choosing to follow the way of the world. It is one way or the other way. It cannot be both ways. If we follow Christ, He will give us His strength. He will show us His grace. Although God punishes the proud, He shows His love and mercy to those who follow Him. This is a wonderful promise to all those that are following Christ. This is also the reason that we should choose not to think the way that the world thinks.

7. Read James 4:1-6 and write what these verses say that God does to the proud.
8. Explain why God has chosen to resist all those that are proud and are depending on themselves and their own efforts.

9. Explain why you want to follow Christ in your life instead of thinking the way that the world thinks.

We are also told how we begin to change the way that we think and act in our lives if we want our lives to be transformed. First, we choose to let God have the control in our lives. Then, we ask the Lord to give us His strength to resist the temptations of the devil. When we depend on the strength that the Lord provides, we see that the devil will be forced to flee. Then, we come close to God so that we can have fellowship with Him in our lives as a pattern of life. We realize that this only happens as we ask Him to forgive our sins each day so that they do not hinder our fellowship with Him. We also ask Him for His wisdom so that we can learn to think the way that He thinks.

10. Read James 4:7-17 and write what group is told to purify their hearts.

11. Explain why drawing near to the Lord and enjoying fellowship with Him will change and transform the life of any Christian.

12. Explain what it means to you in your own life to depend on the strength that Christ provides instead of your own strength.

We see that the doubleminded are told to purify their hearts. A doubleminded person is a person that is thinking two different ways. Such a person is trying to live for the things of this world while at the same time trying to please the Lord in his or her own strength. Such a person will continually experience inner conflict so that is why such people are encouraged to purify their hearts. We are also encouraged to be sorry for our sins so that we choose to turn from them. We are to get rid of our pride and realize that we are nothing in ourselves. We are not to speak evil of others. God is the One who is the judge of what is good and evil. God is the one who gave the law so He knows who obeys it and who disobeys. He is the One who either gives life or punishes sin.

13. Read James 4:7-17 and write what our life is like.

14. Explain why many Christians experience inner conflicts in their hearts.

15. Explain what God promises to do for you if you will humble yourself in His sight.

We need to realize that our life is short and can end at any moment. As a result, we should not spend all of our time thinking about the things that we buy or sell. Those things are not eternal. When we die, those things will no longer belong to us. We have the opportunity to choose to do the things that will have an eternal value. The Lord has told us many things that we can do that have eternal value. Scripture tells us many times that the Lord wants us to tell others how to become Christians and then teach those Christians so that they will become stronger. We see that when we fail to do the things that God has called us to do that we are sinning.

16. Read James 4:7-17 and write what these verses say is the result when we know what is the right thing to do and fail to do it.

17. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of Christians developing Biblical priorities for their lives.

18. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from these verses about the importance of doing things that have eternal value.

As we come to chapter five, we see that this chapter begins with a warning to those that are rich. They are warned about what will happen to them if they depend on those riches. Rich people are often the most unhappy people in the world. Instead of having inner peace, they often live in fear most of the time because they are afraid that people will steal their money. They do not experience peace or joy because money cannot buy either inner peace or joy.

19. Read James 5:1-6 and write what happens to the riches of the rich.

20. Explain why worldly riches can be a hindrance to the spiritual life of those Christians that have worldly riches.

21. Explain what lessons you have learned for your own life about the importance of being

content rather than seeking worldly riches.

Many rich people have become so involved with their money that they will do almost anything to get more money. As a result, some even begin cheating and stealing from others in order to gain more money. One day, such people will be judged and their money will be a testimony against them. Many have saved up lots of riches and so they think that they can have a good time during the last part of their lives. However, those riches will do them no good when the time of judgment comes because they cannot take their riches with them when they die.

22. Read James 5:1-6 and write how the rich men of that day were cheating the people who worked for them.

23. Explain why their riches will be used as a testimony against those that have cheated and stolen to get those riches.

24. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to focus on eternal riches instead of worldly riches.

We see that the rich will even cheat those that work for them. They do this so that they can live in pleasure and satisfy themselves. Such people do not care what is right as long as they get what they want and have a good time in their lives here on this earth. The rich will even kill those that are doing right in order to get what they want. We see that the attitudes of the people of the world have not changed through the years. Today, we still live in a day when many people are trying to get rich and satisfy themselves by getting the things of this world.

25. Read James 5:1-6 and write what the rich have often done to the just throughout the history of the world.

26. Explain the warning that God gives to such people in these verses.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your life to seek the glory of God rather than to seek the temporary pleasures of this world.

The Lord is coming soon. We are to be patient as we wait for His coming. The Lord has waited a long time so that every person that He has chosen will have the time and the opportunity to place his or her trust in Christ. Just as Christ has been patient for a long time, we are also encouraged to be patient. We are to use the time that the Lord gives us to strengthen other Christians and ourselves. We are to use the time to tell others how they can become Christians. Then, our time on this earth will not be wasted.

28. Read James 5:7-20 and write what is coming soon.

29. Explain why God wants every Christian to learn to be patient.

30. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from those who showed patience in the Old Testament.

Because the coming of the Lord is soon, we are to spend the time that we have remaining to serve the Lord. We are not to use that time to complain and speak against one another. If people do evil things to us, we are to follow the example of the prophets and suffer patiently. We will be happy if we endure suffering as Job did. Since the coming of the Lord is soon, we are not to swear by either the heaven or the earth. Instead, we are to make it our choice to do what the Lord tells us to do. We are to have an attitude in our hearts that will cause us to pray and sing songs.

31. Read James 5:7-20 and write what we should do if someone is sick.

32. Explain why Christians are encouraged to pray when they are afflicted.

33. Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the fact that Christians are not to swear by either the heaven or the earth.

Today, we have many individuals who claim that they have the power to heal. Here, we see that God explains how He heals. The elders of the church are to come and pray for the person that is sick. Then, they are to anoint the person with oil in the name of Christ. As the elders

pray, we read that the elders are to pray in faith. God says that He will reward their faith and that He will heal the person that is sick. If that sickness was caused by sin, God says that He will also forgive the sin. If there is a group of men that are praying, then the glory will go to God instead of to a man.

34. Read James 5:7-20 and write what Christians are encouraged to do about particular sins in their lives with which they struggle.

35. Explain why the kind of prayer for the sick emphasized in these verses will bring glory to God instead of glory to a particular person.

36. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that God can heal if He chooses to do so.

We are encouraged to confess our faults to each other so that we can pray for one another. If we do this, we are told that we will be healed. Today, we are often so busy that we never take time to share ourselves with others. We never encourage others by praying for them. We are too proud to admit our failures so that they can pray for us. Instead, we pretend that we are all right and that everything is going fine. As a result, we do not help one another through prayer. Here, we see that the prayer of a person that is right with God will have great results. God works through the prayers of Christians to complete His work on this earth.

37. Read James 5:7-20 and write the name of the man who prayed and God answered His prayer with great power.

38. Explain what these verses teach us about the importance of praying for one another to have victory when we struggle with certain sins.

39. Explain why it is important to you to know that God wants you to pray for other Christians and wants other Christians to pray for you in those areas of your life where you struggle with sin.

Elijah was a man just like each of us. He was tempted the same way that we are tempted. However, he asked God to forgive his sins so that he was right with God. Then, he prayed that God would stop the rain. God did stop the rain and it did not rain again until three and a half years later when Elijah prayed that it would rain. Here, we see what can happen if we are right with God as we pray. We are also encouraged to warn the wicked to turn from their sin.

40. Read James 5:7-20 and write what happens when we help a sinner to realize his or her sin so that the person turns from their sin to Christ.

41. Explain what these verses teach us about the importance of praying that people will turn from their sin and receive forgiveness of sins.

42. Explain why it is important to you in your life to know that God will answer your prayers as your life is right with Christ.

Now, re-read James 4:1-5:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.