

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT: EPISTLES NT512

Lesson One: Introduction to Paul

- I. The Canon of the New Testament
 - A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts
 - B. Letters of Paul
 - 1. Letters to churches (decreasing length)
 - 2. Letters to individuals (decreasing length)
 - C. Hebrews, General Epistles (James, Peter, John, Jude), Revelation
- II. Paul's Life Before His Letters
 - A. A.D. 5-10: birth in Tarsus
 - B. Age 5-12: elementary education
 - C. Age 12-14?: tentmaking apprenticeship
 - D. Age 15-18?: study with Gamaliel in Jerusalem
 - E. A.D. 32-35 (age twenty-something): conversion/call/commission
 - F. Until A.D. 47-48: "hidden years" but eventually in ministry in Syrian Antioch
- III. Theological Changes from Saul's Conversion
 - A. Christology
 - B. Soteriology
 - C. Eschatology
 - D. Ecclesiology
- IV. Paul's 4 Missionary Journeys
- V. Fixed Points in the Chronology of Acts
 - A. Ascension and Pentecost [A.D. 30] Acts 1-2
 - B. Stoning of Stephen and conversion of Saul [A.D. 32 or 33]
 - C. Paul's first Jerusalem visit [C.A. A.D. 35]
 - D. Death of Herod Agrippa I [A.D. 44] Acts 12

- E. Height of famine in Judea [A.D. 46] Acts 11:27-30
- F. First missionary journey, Apostolic Council, and second missionary journey (1+ years in Corinth) [A.D. 49]
- G. Gallio in Corinth [A.D. 51-52] Acts 18:12
- H. Third missionary journey [A.D. 52-55]
- I. 3 years in Ephesus [A.D. 53-56]
- J. Return to Jerusalem/arrest and imprisonment under Felix (2 years) [A.D. 57-59]
- K. Accession of Festus [A.D. 59] Acts 24:27
- L. Two years in Rome [A.D. 60-62]

VI. Chronology of Paul's Letters

- A. Galatians A.D. 49
- B. 1-2 Thessalonians A.D. 50-51
- C. 1 Corinthians A.D. 55
- D. 2 Corinthians A.D. 56
- E. Romans A.D. 57
- F. Philemon/Colossians/Ephesians A.D. 60-61
- G. Philippians A.D. 61-62
- H. Titus, 1 Timothy A.D. 62-?
- I. 2 Timothy \leq A.D. 68

VII. The Typical Greco-Roman Letter

- A. Salutation: "X" to "Y" greetings
- B. Prayer and/or thanksgiving
- C. Body
 - 1. Main information
 - 2. Exhortation or request
- D. Concluding Farewell

VIII. Disputed and Undisputed Epistles of Paul

- A. Undisputed
 - 1. Galatians
 - 2. Romans
 - 3. 1 Corinthians
 - 4. 2 Corinthians

- 5. 1 Thessalonians
 - 6. Philemon
 - 7. Philippians
- B. Semi-disputed
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians
 - 2. Colossians
- C. Heavily-disputed
 - 1. Ephesians
 - 2. 1 Timothy
 - 3. 2 Timothy
 - 4. Titus
- IX. Ancient Attitudes to Pseudonymity
 - A. Post A.D. 150 (largely Gentile) Christianity
 - B. Earliest (Jewish and Gentile) Christianity
 - C. Pre Christian Judaism
- X. Epistles and Canonization
 - A. Disputed books eventually accepted
 - 1. Hebrews
 - 2. James
 - 3. 2 Peter
 - 4. 2 John
 - 5. 3 John
 - 6. Jude
 - 7. Revelation
 - B. Disputed books eventually rejected
 - 1. Epistle of Barnabas
 - 2. Shepherd of Hermas
 - 3. Didache
 - 4. 1 and 2 Clement
- XI. Earliest Post-New Testament Christian Literature
 - A. Apostolic Fathers
 - B. New Testament Apocrypha

- C. Nag Hammadi Library
- D. Ante-Nicene Fathers

XII. Twelve Pillars of Pauline Thought: Blending the Best of the Old and New Perspectives

- A. Monotheism and election of Israel
- B. Human sin and failure of Israel and her law
- C. God's covenant faithfulness in mercy to Jew and Gentile
- D. Reflected in salvation through crucified Messiah
- E. Vindicated in Jesus' resurrection displaying him as Lord
- F. Already but not yet fulfillment of God's promises in Him
- G. Life in Christ solely by grace through faith
- H. Jesus and Holy Spirit spoken of in language of deity
- I. Following Jesus implies "cruciform" living
- J. Life in Spirit is foretaste, guarantee of coming glory
- K. Countercultural community is crucial
- L. Parousia and resurrection as the climax

Lesson Two: Letters of Paul

Part 1

- I. Galatians: The Charter of Christian Liberty
 - A. Acts and Galatians on Paul's Trips to Jerusalem
 - 1. Acts
 - a. Brief meeting with apostles (9:19-29)
 - b. Famine visit (11:27-30)
 - c. Apostolic council (15:1-21)
 - 2. Galatians
 - a. Brief meeting with apostles after 3 years (1:15-24)
 - b. Longer meeting with apostles after 14 years (2:1-10)
 - c. Confrontation with Peter in Antioch (2:11-14)
 - B. Galatians as an "Apologetic Letter"
 - 1. Epistolary prescript (1:1-5)
 - 2. Exordium: statement of problem (1:6-11)
 - 3. Narratio: thesis to be demonstrated and presentation of facts (1:12-2:14)
 - 4. Propositio: summary of points of agreement and what remains contested (2:15-21)
 - 5. Probatio: proofs or support (3:1-4:31)
 - a. Logical arguments
 - b. Emotional arguments
 - c. Illustrative arguments
 - d. Figurative arguments
 - 6. Exhortatio: parenesis (5:1-6:20)
 - 7. Epistolary postscript (6:11-18)
 - C. Galatians Outline
 - 1. Greetings (1:1-5)
 - 2. Defending Paul's apostolic authority (1:6-2:14)
 - 3. Defining justification by faith rather than law (2:15-4:31)
 - a. Thesis (2:15-21)
 - b. Supporting arguments (3:1-18, 4:8-31)
 - c. The purposes of the Law (3:19-4:7)
 - 4. Describing freedom in Christ through the Spirit (5:1-6:10)
 - 5. Closing (6:11-18)

D. Being Harsh vs. Being Nice

1. Nice
 - a. Jesus: welcoming outcasts
 - b. Paul: all things to all people
2. Harsh
 - a. Jesus: invective against Pharisees
 - b. Paul: invective against Judaizers

E. Paul vs. the Judaizers

1. Judaizers: faith in Christ + works of the Law = justification
2. Paul: faith in Christ = justification + works of the Spirit

F. History in Romans and Galatians

1. Promise – Abraham
2. Law – Moses
3. Fulfillment – Jesus

G. Law vs. Gospel

1. Before Christ
2. After Christ

H. Tertius Usus Legis – ("Three Uses of the Law") according to the Protestant Reformers

1. As a deterrent to sin for unbelievers
2. To point out our need for a Savior
3. As a moral guide for believers
 - a. Love
 - b. Fruit of Spirit
 - c. Law of Christ

I. Galatians 3:28

1. Equality only regarding salvation
2. Visible privileges and freedoms (e.g. baptism)
3. No distinction in roles or functions

J. Paul's Typology in Galatians 4:21-31

1. Physical descent [Judaizers' views]
 - a. Isaac (by Sarah) – Jews (present Jerusalem) {free}
 - b. Ishmael (by Hagar) – Christians (esp. Gentiles) {slaves}
2. Spiritual descent [Paul's views]
 - a. Isaac (by Sarah) – Christians (Jerusalem from above) {free}
 - b. Ishmael (by Hagar) – Non-Christian Jews {slaves}

K. Judaism vs. Paul

1. First century Judaism

- a. Legalism
- b. Covenantal Nomism
- c. Ethnocentrism/Nationalism

2. Paul

- a. Against "works-righteousness" for salvation
- b. Against redefining Christianity by rules rather than relationship
- c. Against exalting one country or race above another

Lesson Three: Letters of Paul

Part 2

II. 1 and 2 Thessalonians: A Balanced View of Christ's Return

A. Background to 1 Thessalonians

1. Acts 17:1-9
 - a. Paul's short time in town
 - b. Significant persecution by Jewish townspeople
2. Acts 17:10, 15; 18:5, 1 Thessalonians 3:1, 6
 - a. Coworkers' movements
 - b. Results in 50 or 51 in Corinth

B. 1 Thessalonians – Christ Will Return Soon

1. Greetings and thanksgiving (1:1-10)
2. Paul's ministry in Thessalonica (2:1-16)
3. Paul's concern since leaving (2:17-3:13)
4. Exhortations (4:1-5:22)
5. Conclusion (5:23-28)

C. Thessalonians and Christ's Return

1. Concern that Christ's return was delayed
2. 1 Thessalonians – "He is still coming soon"
3. Concern that Christ had already come (spiritually)
4. 2 Thessalonians – There are signs which must still occur

D. Exegetical Highlights in 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4:12

1. Sustained praise (cf. extra thanks in 2:13, 3:9)
 - a. Rationale (2:13)
 - b. Theme (4:10)
2. Motives for ministry – parental affection (2:7, 11)
3. Compare/Contrast popular philosophy and theme of imitation (e.g., 2:3, 4, 5, 6)
4. Will of God (as consistently in Scripture) = holiness/moral living (4:3-4)
5. Twofold reason for work, with godliness (4:11-12)
6. Eschatology (4:13-5:11)
 - a. Apantesis and post-tribulationism
 - b. (Matthew 25:6, Acts 28:15 are other 2 New Testament uses of term)
 - c. Encouragement vs. grief

7. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 - a. Context of testing prophecies
 - b. "Appearance" (eidos) = "kind"
- E. 3 Views of the Rapture
 1. "Pre-trib"
 - a. Church Age
 - b. Rapture
 - c. Tribulation
 - d. Second Coming
 2. "Mid-trib"
 - a. Church Age
 - b. 3.5 years of Tribulation
 - c. Rapture
 - d. 3.5 years of Tribulation
 - e. Second Coming
 3. "Post-trib"
 - a. Church Age
 - b. Tribulation
 - c. Rapture/Second Coming
- F. 2 Thessalonians – "But Not That Soon!"
 1. Intro and thanksgiving (1:1-12)
 2. Signs still to come (2:1-17)
 3. Exhortations and Conclusion (3:1-18)
- G. Background to 2 Thessalonians
 1. If Pauline and after 1 Thessalonians
 - a. A short time after 1 Thessalonians
 - b. Increased persecution
 - c. Increased problem with the idle
 2. Irrespective of authorship and order
 - a. Also from Corinth (or meant to appear that way)
 - b. Disruptions described in 2:2
 - i. Commonly seen as due to a forged letter
 - ii. But perhaps a misinterpretation of first letter
- H. Exegetical Highlights of 2 Thessalonians
 1. Literal translation of 2:2, 2:15 for background

2. 1:9 (and judgment more generally)
 - a. Regarding nature of hell
 - b. Regarding annihilationism
 - c. God's love comforting the oppressed
3. Chapter 2 – Identity of man of lawlessness restrainer
 - a. Problems with a rebuilt temple
 - b. But again meant to encourage
4. Chapter 3 (especially v. 10) – Winter, Jewett and a sociological reconstruction

Lesson Four: Letters of Paul

Part 3

III. 1 Corinthians

A. 1 Corinthians Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-9)
2. Paul responds to news from Chloe (1:10-6:20)
 - a. Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:21)
 - b. Incest (5:1-13)
 - c. Lawsuits (6:1-11)
 - d. Sexual immorality in general (6:12-20)
3. Paul responds to the letter from Corinth (7:1-16:4)
 - a. Marriage (7:1-40)
 - b. Food sacrificed to idols (8:1-11:1)
 - c. Worship (11:2-14:40)
 - i. Head coverings – men and women (11:2-15)
 - ii. Lord's Supper – use and abuse (11:17-34)
 - iii. Spiritual gifts – (12:1-14:40)
 - d. Resurrection (15:1-58)
 - e. Offering for Jerusalem (16:1-4)
4. Conclusion (16:5-24)

B. The Results of a too Sharp Division Between Body and Spirit

1. Asceticism – denying desires/humanity
 - a. False sense of maturity
 - b. Claims to special wisdom
 - c. Advocating celibacy
 - d. Forbidding certain food and drink
 - e. Believing in only spiritual resurrection
2. Hedonism – indulging desires/humanity
 - a. Sexual sin
 - b. Lawsuits
 - c. Eating food without concern for others
 - d. Requiring pay for Christian work
 - e. Drunkenness at the Lord's Table

- f. Disrespect for appearance of sexual propriety
 - g. Worship chaotic
- C. Patron/Client (Rich/Poor) Problems Behind 1 Corinthians
 - 1. Factions
 - 2. Incest
 - 3. Lawsuits
 - 4. Prostitution
 - 5. Idol meat
 - 6. Not accepting money for ministry
 - 7. Unruly women leaders
 - 8. Abuse of Lord's Supper
 - 9. Flaunting spiritual gifts
- D. Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:17)
 - 1. The problem: rival factions (1:10-17)
 - a. Exalting certain leaders (1:10-12)
 - b. The role of baptism (1:13-17)
 - 2. The necessary center of the Gospel: the wise foolishness of the cross (1:18-2:5)
 - a. Destroying non-Christian "strength" (1:18-25)
 - b. Exalting Christian "weakness" (1:26-31)
 - c. Proclaiming Christ crucified (2:1-5)
 - 3. Three kinds of People in 1 Corinthians 2-3
 - a. Natural
 - b. Carnal
 - c. Spiritual
 - d. But also...
 - i. Non-Christian
 - ii. Christian
 - 4. The necessary growth: Christian wisdom (2:6-3:23)
 - a. Spiritual vs. natural people (2:6-16)
 - b. Spiritual vs. carnal people (3:1-23)
 - i. Milk vs. meat (3:1-5)
 - ii. God's field (3:6-9a)
 - iii. God's building (3:9b-17)
 - iv. Summary (3:18-23)
 - 5. The right attitude of and for the Apostles (4:1-21)

- a. Faithfully serving (4:1-5)
- b. Scripturally based (4:6-7)
- c. Unjustly suffering (4:8-13)
- d. Specially related (4:14-21)

E. I Corinthians 5-6

- 1. Church discipline (5:1-13)
 - a. Presupposes Matthew 18:15-18
 - b. Hence no list of specially serious sins
 - c. Application especially requires contextualization
- 2. Lawsuits (6:1-11)
- 3. Sexual immorality in general (6:12-20)

F. Paul on Marriage (1 Corinthians 7)

- 1. To married Ascetics: do not deprive each other sexually (vv. 1-7)
- 2. To the widowed: remarry rather than lust (vv. 8-9)
- 3. To the married: don't divorce (vv. 10-16)
- 4. Preliminary summary (vv. 17-24)
- 5. To the unmarried: marriage is no sin (vv. 25-38)
- 6. Conclusion: marriage is a lifelong commitment (vv. 39-40)
- 7. Notes
 - a. These are the basic concerns of each section; in each case Paul permits certain exceptions.
 - b. Paul's own sympathies agree with the ascetics up to a point, but for different reasons.

G. Marriage and Divorce in Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7

- 1. Forming a marriage
 - a. Leave and cleave
 - b. Become one flesh
- 2. Rupturing a marriage
 - a. Physical presence but sexual infidelity
 - b. Sexual presence but physical desertion
 - c. Other items equivalent in destructiveness

H. On Food Sacrificed to Idols (1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1)

- 1. The problem: Christian liberty can become license (8:1-3)
- 2. The main application: food inherently neutral, but avoid hurting weaker brothers (8:4-13)
- 3. A second application: ministers earning their living by the Gospel (9:1-18)

4. The motive: all things to all men so as to save some (9:19-27)
5. The danger of license: the havoc sin can wreak (10:1-13)
 - a. The warning (10:1-12)
 - b. The promise (10:13)
6. An absolute prohibition: no feasts dedicated to idol worship (10:14-22)
7. Summary (10:23-11:1)
 - a. Freedom from legalism
 - b. Voluntary curtailment of freedom
 - c. Only if clear another would be hurt
- I. On Spiritual Gifts (1Corinthians 12-14)
 1. Recognition: acknowledge Jesus' Lordship (12:1-3)
 2. Distribution: diversity in unity (12:4-11)
 - a. Not all have the same gifts (vv. 4a, 5a, 6a)
 - b. All come from triune Godhead (vv. 4b, 5b, 6b)
 - c. All have at least one (v. 7a)
 - d. To be used for mutual edification (v. 7b)
 - e. Given by Spirit as He determines (vv. 8-11)
 3. Importance of all the gifts (12:12-26)
 4. Hierarchy of gifts (12:27-31a)
 - a. In importance?
 - b. In chronology?
 5. Love: without it the gifts are worthless (12:31b-13:13)
 - a. Examples (vv. 1-3)
 - b. Positive and negative qualities (vv. 4-7)
 - c. Timelessness (vv. 8-13)
 6. Comparing tongues and prophecy (14:1-40)
 - a. The superiority of prophecy (vv. 1-25)
 - i. Understandable without interpretation (vv. 1-19)
 - ii. Tongues as a sign of judgment (vv. 20-25)
 - b. The proper exercise of both (vv. 26-40)
 - i. Tongues (vv. 27-28)
 - ii. Prophecy (vv. 29-38)
 - iii. Conclusions (vv. 39-40)
- J. Classification of Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4)
 1. Virtues commanded of all Christians

- a. Wisdom
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Faith
 - d. Service
 - e. Exhortation
 - f. Giving
 - g. Sharing
 - h. Mercy
 - 2. Special roles for leadership
 - a. Apostles
 - b. Evangelists
 - c. Pastors
 - d. Teachers
 - e. Administrators
 - 3. "Supernatural" charisma
 - a. Healing
 - b. Miracles
 - c. Prophecy
 - d. Distinguishing spirits
 - e. Tongues
 - f. Interpretation of tongues
- K. The Resurrections of Jesus and Believers (1 Corinthians 15)
- 1. The fact of Christ's bodily resurrection (15:1-11)
 - a. Support from tradition (vv. 1-7)
 - b. Support from revelation (vv. 8-11)
 - 2. The implications for the general resurrection (15:12-34)
 - a. The credibility of Christian faith rests on it (vv. 12-19)
 - b. The chronology of the coming resurrection is established (vv. 20-28)
 - c. The concern for those who are dead and dying proves it (vv. 29-34)
 - 3. The nature of Christian resurrection (15:35-58)
 - a. Continuity and discontinuity (vv. 35-49)
 - b. The need for this re-creation (vv. 50-58)

Lesson Five: Letters of Paul

Part 4

IV. 2 Corinthians

A. The Corinthian Correspondence

1. Paul to Corinth A – 1 Corinthians 5:9
2. Corinth to Paul A – 1 Corinthians 7:1
3. Paul to Corinth B – 1 Corinthians
4. Paul to Corinth C* – 2 Corinthians 2:4, 7:8
5. Paul to Corinth D – 2 Corinthians 1-9
6. Paul to Corinth E** – 2 Corinthians 10-13

* or C=B

** or D+E were one letter interrupted by fresh news

B. The Building Blocks of 2 Corinthians

1. Introduction and travel news (1:1-2:13)
2. Major digression: Paul's apostolic ministry (2:14-7:4)
3. Minor digression: unequal yokes (6:14-7:1)
4. Travel news (7:5-16)
5. The collection for Jerusalem (8:1-9:15)
6. Warnings and defense against Judaizers (10:1-13:14)

C. 2 Corinthians Outline

1. Paul's apostolic ministry (tender tones) (Chapters 1-7); A
2. The offering for Jerusalem (Chapters 8-9); B
3. Paul's apostolic ministry (tough tones) (Chapters 10-13); A'

D. Paul's Ministry with the Corinthian Church (2 Corinthians 1-7)

1. Confidence:
 - a. In his motives (1:12-22)
 - b. In the Corinthians (7:13b-16)
2. Sorrow:
 - a. For those punished (1:23-2:11)
 - b. Among the Corinthians (7:8-13a)
3. Travel:
 - a. Upcoming travel plans (2:12-13)
 - b. Travel plans (resumed) (7:5-7)

4. Spiritual contrasts:
 - a. The Spirit vs. the Letter (2:14-4:6) [New Covenant vs. Old Covenant]
 - b. Christ vs. Belial (6:11-7:4) [Belief vs. Unbelief]
5. Afflictions:
 - a. Present afflictions vs. coming glory (4:7-5:10)
 - b. Present afflictions vs. present glory (6:1-10)
6. Core of ministry – reconciliation (5:11-21)
- E. Exegetical Highlights of 2 Corinthians 1-7
 1. 1:12ff – Changed travel plans lead Paul to reaffirm his own motives
 2. 2:5ff – Not sure same offender, but probable. Disfellowshipping always rehabilitative in design
 3. 2:14-4:6 – The series of contrasts between old and new triggered by two ways of viewing Paul's journeying
 4. Chain-Link discussion in 2 Corinthians 2:14-4:6
 - a. Letters of recommendation
 - b. Letter of Law
 - c. Spirit
 - d. Glory
 - e. Veil
 5. 4:7ff – Key text on suffering, especially given 4:7, 16-18
 6. 5:1-10 – Intermediate state
 7. 5:11ff – Reconciliation: key text on substitutionary atonement in v. 21 from which removal of estrangement follows
 8. 6:1ff – Exhortational material begins here in traditional letter outline
 9. 6:14-7:1 – Can't prove about marriage (but see 1 Corinthians 7:39) but clearly about idolatry, and possibly Torah
- F. The Principles of Giving in 2 Corinthians 8-9
 1. Sacrificial (8:1-4)
 2. Holistic (8:5-7)
 3. Promise-Keeping (8:8-11)
 4. Proportional/Graduated (8:12-15)
 5. Protected/Accountable (8:16-9:5)
 6. Rewarded: materially and/or spiritually (9:6-15)
- G. From Triumphalism to Maturity: Key Points in 2 Corinthians 10-13
 1. The context of 10:4 – winning spiritual warfare by right thinking
 2. The regions beyond principle in 10:13-14

3. The "super-apostles" as Judaizers and false representatives of the Twelve (11:5, 13)
4. Paul can match their boasts but they can't match his suffering (11:16-33)
5. 12:1-6 balanced by vv. 7-10, with v. 9 as key "red-letter verse"
6. Parental relationship again in 12:14-15
7. Failing test implies not a Christian in 13:5

H. Heaven

1. Third heaven
2. Second heaven
3. First heaven

I. How to React to Suffering According to 2 Corinthians

1. Use the comfort we receive from God in order to comfort others (1:3-7)
2. Realize we can be a more powerful witness for Christ if we let Him (4:10-15; 12:7-10)
3. Remember our coming glory is more than adequate compensation (4:16-5:5) [and recall Belleville]

Letters of Paul

Part 5

- V. Romans: The Most Systematic Exposition of Paul's Gospel
 - A. Key Places as Background for Romans
 - 1. Written from Corinth (15:25, 16:1)
 - 2. En Route to Jerusalem (15:25-27, 31-32)
 - 3. In Hopes of Coming Then to Rome (15:23-24, 1:11-12)
 - 4. And Continuing on to Spain (15:24, 28)
 - B. Timeline
 - 1. A.D. 49 – Claudius expels Jews from Rome
 - 2. A.D. 54 – Claudius dies, Jews begin to return
 - 3. A.D. 56 or 57 – Romans written
 - C. Romans Outline
 - 1. Introduction and thanksgiving (1:1-15)
 - 2. The theology of the Gospel (1:16-11:36)
 - 3. The ethics of the Gospel (12:1-15:13)
 - 4. Conclusion: Personal plans and greetings (15:14-16:27)
 - D. Romans Outline (Chapters 1-3) - The theology of the Gospel
 - 1. Thesis Statement (1:16-17)
 - a. Wright – Gospel: Proclamation of King Jesus against all rivals
 - b. Jervis on God-likeness, including the "righteousness of God"
 - 2. Universal sinfulness (1:18-3:20)
 - a. Gentiles accountable (1:18-32)
 - i. General revelation: teleological, moral arguments for God
 - ii. Idolatry producing both hetero- and homosexual sin
 - b. Jews accountable due to Law (2:1-3:20)
 - 3. Justification by faith (3:21-5:21)
 - E. Romans 4
 - 1. Promise to Abraham: Blessing for Gentiles
 - 2. Law – Moses
 - 3. Fulfillment in Jesus: Blessing for Gentiles
 - F. Romans Outline (Chapters 4-5)
 - 1. Right legal standing with God (Chapter 4)

2. Right relationship with God (Chapter 5)

- a. Reconciliation (5:1-11)
- b. Adam-Christ typology (5:12-21)
 - i. Similarities
 - ii. Differences

G. Romans Outline (Chapters 6-8)

1. Sanctification – Christian Growth (6:1-8:39)

- a. Freedom from sin (Chapter 6)
 - i. Baptism as metonymy for salvation (vv. 3-4)
 - ii. Indicative leading to imperative (vv. 6, 11-14)
- b. Freedom from law (Chapter 7)
- c. Freedom from death (Chapter 8)
 - i. The present and coming victory (vv. 1, 30)
 - ii. The correct translation/interpretation of v. 28

2. The Unbroken Chain of Romans 8:29-30

- a. Foreknowledge
- b. Predestination
- c. Calling
- d. Justification
- e. Glorification

3. Romans 8:29-39

- a. Calvinism: God's sovereignty prior
- b. Calvinianism": God's sovereignty and human freedom in balance (middle knowledge)
- c. Arminianism: Human freedom prior

H. Romans Outline (Chapters 9-11)

1. The role of Israel – Why have so many rejected the Gospel? (9:1-11:36)

- a. Principle of a remnant (9:1-29)
- b. Wrong approach to Law (9:30-10:21)
- c. To give place for Gentiles, after which they will again turn back (Chapter 11)

2. Outline Chapter 9

- a. Double predestination
 - i. Believers saved at God's initiative
 - ii. Unbelievers damned at God's initiative
- b. Single predestination

- i. Believers saved at God's initiative
 - ii. Unbelievers damned at their own initiative
 - c. Zero predestination
 - i. Believers saved at their own initiative
 - ii. Unbelievers damned at their own initiative
- 3. Corporate election in the Torah
 - a. Abraham
 - i. Ishmael
 - ii. Isaac
 - b. Pharoah
- 4. Individual election in Romans 9:22-24
 - a. Objects of wrath: Prepared for destruction (Or, having prepared themselves)
 - b. Objects of mercy: Whom he [God] prepared in advance
- 5. Outline Chapters 6-11: The double archway of Christian experience
 - a. "Whosoever will may enter here"
 - b. "Elect before the foundation of the world"
- 6. The destinies of the Jews
 - a. Living by faith in God's promises – accepting Christ as Lord and Savior – accepting Christ
 - b. Treating law as means of salvation – rejecting Christ as Lord and Savior
- 7. The destinies of the Gentiles
 - a. Could come by faith in God via natural revelation – accepting Christ as Lord and Savior
 - b. Separated from God's special revelation – rejecting Christ as Lord and Savior – full number is complete
- 8. Implications of Romans 11:25-27
 - a. At best, a prelude to fulfilling Old Testament prophecy about state of Israel
 - b. But current spiritual signs not promising
 - c. So, we dare not neglect justice for Palestinians
- I. Romans Outline (Chapters 12-16)
 - 1. The ethics of the Gospel (12:1-15:13)
 - a. Transformation (12:1-2) – recall Jervis again
 - b. Gifts (12:3-8)
 - c. Love (12:9-13:14)
 - i. Contrast 12:17-21 with 13:1-7
 - ii. Can the world distinguish the church from the government?

- d. Tolerance (14:1-15:13)
 - i. 14:1-18 [A]
 - ii. 14:19-15:6 [B]
 - iii. 15:7-13 [A]
- 2. Conclusion: Personal plans and greeting (15:14-16:27)
 - a. Note the regions beyond principle again in 15:23
 - b. Note the prominent women in 16:1,7

Lesson Seven: Letters of Paul

Part 6

VI. Introduction to the Prison Epistles

A. Character Links between the Prison Epistles

1. Philemon/Colossians

- a. Epaphras
- b. Onesimus
- c. Mark
- d. Aristarchus
- e. Demas
- f. Luke

2. Colossians/Ephesians

Tychicus

3. Philippians

B. Colossians and Philemon

1. Notes on Philemon

- a. "Fellowship of your faith" in v. 6
- b. Compare non-violent protest movements
- c. Vv. 13-16, 17, 21 crucial for Paul's intent
- d. Justice for others vs. demanding my rights
- e. Letter a key model of tact, persuasion throughout

2. Background to Colossians

- a. Authorship debate
 - i. Too different from Paul's other letters?
 - ii. Too similar to Ephesians?
- b. The problem of the heresy
 - i. Is it all Jewish (e.g. Dunn)
 - ii. Pythagoreanism (e.g. Schweizer)?
 - iii. Phrygian folk religion (e.g. Arnold)?
- c. The Colossian heresy: Christians not fully saved
 - i. Christ not fully God – must add works – various rituals for spiritual maturity
 - ii. Christ not fully human – only spirit not body – inner spirituality divorced from outward actions
- d. Colossians outline

- i. Introduction: Greeting, thanksgiving and prayer (1:1-14)
- ii. Theological exposition (1:15-2:23)
- iii. Ethical implications (3:1-4:6)
- iv. Conclusion: Final greetings (4:7-18)

C. The "Domestic Code": (Hauستafel) in the Epistles

- 1. Colossians/Ephesians (must be consistent with Colossians 3:11)
 - a. Husbands – Wives
 - b. Parents – Children
 - c. Masters – Slaves
- 2. 1 Peter
 - a. Government – Citizens
 - b. Husbands – Wives
 - c. Masters – Slaves
 - d. Elders – Rest of Church

D. "How Would You Respond to..."

- 1. Colossians 1:15 and "firstborn" as first created being?
- 2. Colossians 1:20 as teaching universalism
- 3. Colossians 1:23 used to support "eternal insecurity"
- 4. Colossians 1:24 used to support incomplete atonement
- 5. Colossians 2:8 for Christians not to study philosophy
- 6. Colossians 2:11-12 baptism equivalent to circumcision, thus appropriate for babies
- 7. Colossians 3:1-3 cultivating inner spirituality, Christian mysticism is highest priority
- 8. Sabbatarianism
- 9. Fasting as necessary part of Christian spirituality

Lesson Eight: Letters of Paul

Part 7

VII. Ephesians: Unity in Diversity as a Witness to the "Powers"

A. Ephesians Outline [General]

1. Theological exposition: The blessings of salvation (Chapters 1-3)
2. Ethical implications (Chapters 4-6)

B. Ephesians Outline [Detailed]

1. Greetings (1:1-2) – recall encyclical theory
2. Theological exposition: The blessings of salvation (1:3-3:21) – all one large prayer?
 - a. Praise God for blessings in the Trinity (1:3-14)
 - b. Prayer for understanding of hope and power (1:15-23)
 - c. The certainty of salvation (2:1-10)
 - i. The future as past: Co-resurrected and exalted (2:1-7)
 - ii. The past as present: Saved by grace which produces works (2:8-10)
 - d. The reconciliation of salvation (2:11-3:21)
 - i. Unity of Jews and Gentiles (2:11-22)
 - ii. Paul's stewardship of this unity (chapter 3)
3. Ethical implications (Chapters 4-6)
 - a. Growing up into Christian Unity (4:1-16)
 - i. The source is the Trinity (1-6)
 - ii. The method is the gifts of the Spirit (7-16)
 - b. Walking in Christian morality (4:17-5:16)
 - i. Putting on new person – renewing image of God (4:17-24)
 - ii. Putting off old person – falsehood (4:25-5:16)
 - c. Knowing God's will: the filling of the Spirit (5:17-6:9)
 - i. The main commands (5:17-18), fleshed out as:
 - ii. Praising God (v. 19)
 - iii. Giving thanks for everything (v. 20)
 - iv. Observing relationships of authority (5:21-6:9)
 - d. Standing firm against demonic realm (6:10-17)
 - i. Struggle in the "heavenlies" (10-12)
 - ii. Resistance through God's armor (13-18)
 - e. Concluding comments (6:19-23)

C. Spiritual Warfare in Ephesians

Lesson Nine: Letters of Paul

Part 8

VIII. Philippians

A. The Place of Paul's Imprisonment

1. Caesarea?
 - a. Arguments in favor
 - i. Plots against his life
 - ii. Presence of Praetorium
 - b. Arguments against
 - i. Distance from Europe
 - ii. No sense of release
2. Ephesus?
 - a. Arguments in favor
 - i. Very close by
 - ii. Fits travel plans
 - b. Arguments against
 - i. No clear biblical support
 - ii. No high level Roman leadership
3. Rome?
 - a. Arguments in favor
 - i. Dominant church tradition
 - ii. Caesar's household there
 - b. Arguments against
 - i. Future plans originally different
 - ii. Time short for travels noted

B. Key Verses for Philippian's Context

1. Paul contemplates death (1:21-28, 2:17)
2. The problem of rival teachers (1:15-18)
3. The problem of false teachers 3:2-6) [Does 3:17-19 tie in or not?]
4. Roman colonial hostility (1:27-30, 3:20)

C. Philippians Outline as a Family/Friendship Letter

1. Chapters 1-2
 - a. Address and greeting (1:1-2)

- b. Prayer for recipients (1:3-11)
 - c. Reassurance about sender (1:12-26)
 - d. Request for reassurance about recipients (1:27-2:18)
 - e. Information about movement of intermediaries (2:19-30)
- 2. Chapters 3-4
 - a. Special warnings (3:1-4:1)
 - b. Special instructions and "thankless thank yous" (4:2-20) [see esp. v. 13 in context]
 - c. Exchange of greetings with third parties (4:21-22)
 - d. Closing wish for health (4:23)
- D. The Philippian Hymn (2:6-11)
 - 1. Stanza 1: The Condescension of Christ
 - a. The Attitude
 - i. Who being in very nature God
 - ii. Did not consider equality with God
 - iii. Something to be grasped
 - b. The Abandonment
 - i. But made himself nothing
 - ii. Taking the very nature of a servant
 - iii. Being made in human likeness
 - c. The Humiliation
 - i. And being found in appearance as a man
 - ii. He humbled himself
 - iii. And became obedient to death
 - iv. EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!
 - 2. Stanza 2: The Exaltation of Christ
 - a. The Restoration
 - i. Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
 - ii. And gave him the name
 - iii. That is above every name
 - b. The Adoration
 - i. That at the name of Jesus
 - ii. Every knee should bow
 - iii. In heaven and on earth and under the earth
 - c. The Confession

- i. And every tongue confess
- ii. That Jesus Christ is Lord
- iii. To the glory of God the Father

E. Philippians 4:6-8

Lesson Ten: Letters of Paul

Part 9

IX. Pastoral Epistles

A. General Background

1. Letters to apostolic delegates
2. Stylistic differences from the rest of Paul
3. Uncertain setting in Pauline chronology
4. Doctrinal distinctives

B. Book by Book

1. Titus
 - a. Paul is free again
 - b. To Titus on Crete
 - c. Similar to heresy in Ephesus
2. 1 Timothy
 - a. Same as above but to Timothy in Ephesus
 - b. Hellenistic/Gnostic? issues clearer
3. 2 Timothy
 - a. Paul imprisoned again
 - b. Now almost certainly in Rome

C. Pseudonymity and the Pastorals

1. The Jewish world
2. The post-first-century Christian World
3. I. H. Marshall (ICC) and Allonymity

D. Titus: by Rachel Blomberg

1. Titus was a good guy
2. You should read Titus – it's short and sweet
3. Rachel likes Titus
4. Paul was smart

E. Titus Outline and Notes

1. Greetings – later abbreviated in 1 Timothy?
2. Instructions for various groups in the church (1:5-2:15)
3. Concluding exhortations – do what is good (3:1-15)

F. Titus as a Mandate Letter

1. Language of commanding (especially chapter 1)
 2. Instructions regarding office of elder (1:5-9)
 - a. Compare 1:5 and 1:7 (elder = overseer)
 - b. Compare Acts 14:23 (practice established early)
 3. Epiphany language (see especially 2:13)
 4. Warnings about the factious (especially 3:10)
- G. What's Wrong with These Interpretations?
1. Children of elders must be believers (1:6)
 2. Drugs, sex, alcohol pure for those who are pure (1:15)
 3. Women must stay at home (2:5)
 4. Baptism is necessary for salvation (3:5)
- H. Key Texts for Background to 1 Timothy
1. 1:3 and another mandate letter
 2. 1:7-11 on Judaizing
 3. 4:1-4, 6:20 on Gnosticizing
 4. 6:3-19, especially vv. 17-18 on wealthy
- I. 1 Timothy Outline - How to pastor a church and turn it away from heresy
1. The reason for the letter: Stand fast against false teaching (1:1-20)
 2. First method: Careful control over church worship and leadership (2:1-3:16)
 3. Second method: True Godliness vs. Asceticism (4:1-16)
 4. Third method: Proper respect for various kinds of people in the church (5:1-6:2)
 5. Concluding warnings (6:3-21)
- J. What's Wrong with These Interpretations?
1. 1 Timothy 4:8 as a motto for physical conditioning for Christians
 2. We don't implement the commands in chapter 5 regarding widows so why be so concerned about gender roles in chapter 2?
 3. 5:8 teaches that the man must be the primary breadwinner
 4. Can't apply 5:19 if no one saw what happened
 5. Money is the root of all evil (6:10)
 6. It is impossible to be a good steward and enjoy riches (6:17-19)
- K. The five uses of *malista* in the Pastorals
1. 1 Timothy 5:8 – Providing for relatives, namely, family
 2. 1 Timothy 5:17 – Elders, namely, those who preach and teach
 3. 2 Timothy 4:13 – My scrolls, namely, the parchments
 4. Titus 1:10 – The rebellious people, namely the circumcision group

L. The Chain of Christian Leadership: Four Key Stages of 2 Timothy 2:2

1. Paul
2. Timothy
3. Faithful teachers
4. Others also
5. Summary: Your ministry requires disciples who will train others to keep passing the torch.

M. 2 Timothy Outline: "Pass it on" (A personal parenetic letter)

1. Thanksgiving and encouragement for faithfulness (chapter 1)
2. The commitment which faith requires (chapter 2)
3. Godlessness described and opposed (chapter 3)
4. Final charge (chapter 4)

N. Exegetical Highlights of 2 Timothy

1. 1:5 – Lois, Eunice key links in teaching Judaism/Christianity
2. 2:3-7 – key metaphors for single-mindedness
3. 2:13 – God's faithfulness in our faithlessness
4. 2:15 – the need for good exegesis
5. 3:1-9 – the last days have begun (but note when!)
6. 3:12 – key text on suffering as normal!
7. 3:16-17 – key text for inspiration (and relevance!) of Scripture
8. 4:7 – the need for perseverance

Lesson Eleven: Letters of Paul

Part 10

X. Gender Roles

A. Hair

1. Greco-Roman men: long hair = homosexuality
2. Greco-Roman women: short hair = "masculine" partner in lesbian relationship
3. Jewish men: but recall Nazirites
4. Jewish women: changed penalty for convicted adulteress

B. Head Coverings

1. Greco-Roman men: Roman priest: toga pulled over head for worship
2. Greco-Roman women: "bun"/veil – sign of marriage vs. Greek priestesses in ecstatic frenzy
3. Jewish men: reverse of later use of yarmulke
4. Jewish women: "veil" – sign of marriage?

C. I Corinthians 14:26-40: General Commands Regarding Worship (esp. v. 26)

1. Tongues (27)
2. Interpretation of tongues (28)
3. Prophets and Evaluation (29-33a) [silencing the women (33b-38)]
4. Conclusion regarding prophecy and tongues (39-40)

D. 1 Timothy 2:11-15

1. Women must learn (11)
2. Paul's prohibition (12): not "a or b"
 - a. One, not two practices (Payne)
 - b. Both + or – (Kostenberger)
3. First rationale (13)
4. (Second rationale?) or setup for v.15 (14)
5. Balancing good news (15)

E. Statements of Rationale

1. Creation (I Corinthians 11:3, 7, 8-9)
2. God's sovereignty via angels? (10)
3. Redemption (11-12)
4. Propriety, nature, common practice (13, 14, 16)
5. Common practice (I Corinthians 14:33b)
6. Law (34)

7. Redemption (Ephesians 5:23, 24, 25)

8. Creation (1Timothy 2:13)

9. Fall? (1Timothy 2:14)

F. Concluding Comments

1. Need to learn to disagree in love and to make room for multiple models

2. Cf. Baptist/paedobaptist debate as an analogy

3. Gift/office distinction crucial (and controversial)

4. If prophecy includes preaching, 1 Corinthians 11:5 dare not be neglected

Lesson Twelve: General Letters

Part 1

I. James – Faith Without Works is Dead

A. The Setting of James

1. Author is Jesus' half-brother and key early church leader
2. Probably the earliest New Testament document, not consciously using Paul's language
3. Addressed to largely poor, Jewish-Christian congregations in Syria or Palestine, ironically discriminating in favor of the rich
4. Oppressed by rich absentee landlords, causing internal squabbling

B. Catchwords in James 1:2-7

1. Trials/testing (vv. 2, 3)
2. Perseverance (vv. 3, 4)
3. Not lacking/lacking (vv. 4, 5)
4. Ask (vv. 5, 6)
5. Doubt (vv. 6, 7)

C. A Chiastic Outline of James

1. Intro (1:1)
2. 3 Key themes: statement 1
 - a. Trials (1:2-4)
 - b. Wisdom (1:5-8)
 - c. Riches/poverty (1:9-11)
3. 3 Key themes: statement 2
 - a. Temptation (1:12-18)
 - b. Speech (1:19-26)
 - c. The dispossessed (1:27)
4. Expansion of theme c.
5. Expansion of theme b.
6. Expansion of theme a.
7. Conclusion (5:19-20)

D. Key Exegetical Issues in James 1-2

1. 1:2: How can I be joyful in trials?
2. 1:5-6: Is this a blank check, if I have enough faith?
3. 1:9-11, 2:1-4, 4:13-17, 5:1-6: Are any of the rich Christian?

4. 1:13: Christ's temptation, the Lord's Prayer, and the devil's role
 5. 1:25: The perfect law of liberty
 6. 1:27: Social ethics and holy separation in balance
 7. 2:5: What is God's preferential option for the poor?
- E. James on Faith and Works (2:14-26)
1. Faith
 - a. James – Jewish
 - b. Paul – Christian
 2. Works
 - a. James – Christian
 - b. Paul – Jewish
- F. Key Exegetical Issues in James 3-4
1. 3:1: Not condemnation, but accountability
 2. 3:13: Competence, content and character!
 3. 4:4: As the thesis of the letter
 4. 4:13-17: planning and the Lord's will
- G. James on Prayer
1. God's will
 - a. Unconditional
 - i. We pray [+]
 - ii. We don't pray [+]
 - b. Conditional
 - i. We pray [+]
 - ii. We don't pray [-]
 2. Not God's will
 - a. We pray [-]
 - b. We don't pray [-]
- H. James' "Militant Patience" (5:10-11)
1. Militance: Zealots – revolutionary violence
 2. Militant Patience
 - a. Old Testament prophets – Prophetic option
 - b. Jesus – Denunciatory rhetoric
 - c. James – Prayer as "rebellious against the status quo"
 3. Patience: Essenes – Passivist, Monasticism

Lesson Thirteen: General Letters

Part 2

II. Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

A. Introduction to Hebrews

1. What we don't know for sure
 - a. Author (but not Paul – see 2:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:17)
 - b. Date (though probably pre-70)
 - c. Audience (though probably Jewish Christian)
 - d. Location (though probably Rome, 13:24)
2. What we are told
 - a. 12:4, 10:32-34 (implying between 49 & 64)
 - b. 13:22 and genre of sermon

B. Hebrews Themes

1. Prologue (1:1-4)
2. Superior to Angels (1:5-2:18)
3. Superior to Moses (3:1-4:13)
4. Superior to the Priesthood (4:14-7:28)
5. Superior to the Old Covenant (8:1-10:39)
6. Superior to the Old Testament Heroes of the Faith (11:1-12:29)
7. Conclusions (13:1-25)

C. Hebrews Outline

1. Prologue (1:1-4)
2. Superior to Angels (1:5-2:18)
 - a. In sovereignty (1:5-14): so follow Him closely (2:1-4)
 - b. In suffering (2:5-13): so we are free from sin (2:14-18)
3. Superior to Moses (3:1-4:13): so don't rebel, but enter God's rest
4. Superior to the Priesthood (4:14-7:28)
 - a. So accept God's grace (4:14-16)
 - b. Comparison with Aaron (5:1-10)
 - c. Key warning against apostasy (5:11-6:20)
 - d. Comparison with Levi (7:1-28) [Jesus is like Melchizedek]
5. Superior to the Old Covenant (8:1-10:39): so perseverance is crucial
6. Superior to the Old Testament Heroes of the Faith (11:1-12:29): so focus on Jesus

7. Conclusions (13:1-25)

D. Exegetical Highlights of Hebrews 1-5

1. High Christology of 1:1-4
2. Uses of Old Testament in 1:5-14
3. Relationship between humanity and Jesus in 2:5-9
4. Implications for counseling of 2:17-18 and 4:14-16
5. Stages of Sabbath rest in 4:1-11

E. Rest in Hebrews

1. Creation
2. Sabbath
3. Canaan
4. David's day
5. In Christ, now and in the life to come

F. Can a Christian Lose Salvation? (6:4-8)

[Hypothetical View – Not Possible; but if it were...]

[The following views represent a continuum from Calvinist to Arminian]

1. Calvinist
 - a. Preconversion Jew View: Those yet to make a serious commitment
 - b. Phenomenological Unbeliever View: In community of believers, but lacks genuine faith
2. Arminian
 - a. True Believer Under Judgment: Will face discipline but not lose salvation
 - b. Phenomenological True Believer: Apostasy can cause fallen Christians to lose salvation

[Covenant Community View: Rejection of Israel as a people; has little to do with individual salvation]

G. The Superior Priesthood of Christ (According to Hebrews)

[Levitical Priesthood vs. Jesus' Priesthood]

1. Many in number vs. one
2. Finite vs. eternal
3. Foreshadowed salvation vs. complete salvation
4. Offered by sinners for their own sin vs. offered by 1 without sin, not for himself
5. Repeated vs. once for all
6. Under temporary old covenant vs. under permanent new covenant
7. In earthly sanctuary vs. in heavenly sanctuary
8. Barriers to access to God vs. intimacy with God

9. Blood of bulls and goats vs. his own blood
10. Outward cleansing vs. inward cleansing
11. Conscience still guilty vs. full forgiveness
12. Incomplete sacrifice for incomplete sanctification vs. complete sacrifice for complete sanctification
13. No eternal security vs. ??

H. Jesus as a priest like Melchizedek (Chapter 7)

1. Abraham's descendant was Levi; Melchizedek received Abraham's offering
2. Since Jesus is God, Melchizedek and the tribe of Levi were priests to Jesus.

I. A Duel of Dualisms

1. God vs. Satan
2. Good vs. Evil
3. Moral vs. Cosmological
4. Heaven (reality) vs. Earth (shadow)
5. Eschatological
 - a. Jewish: This age and the age to come are separate
 - b. Christian: This age and the age to come overlap (tension of "now" and "not yet")

J. Exegetical Highlights of Hebrews 6-13

1. The significance of 2:3, 3:19, 4:2, 10:39 and 12:25 for the Calvinist-Arminian debate [see also Mathewson and deSilva]
2. 8:8-12 – longest Old Testament quote the New Testament from longest Old Testament prophecy of New Testament (new covenant)
3. 9:27 – crucial for eschatology
4. 10:29 – and the problem of sanctification
5. 11:1 – faith as believing God's promises about the future despite the appearances of the present
6. 11:39-40 – others don't receive all that was promised, so we can!
7. 12:1-3 – and the stadium metaphor
8. 12:4-13 – fathers and discipline
9. 13:17 – submission to church leaders

Lesson Fourteen: General Letters

Part 3

III. I Peter – Perseverance Despite Persecution

A. Similarities that 1 Peter has with Hebrews and James

1. 1 Peter and Hebrews

- a. Same date and circumstances: early to mid 60's near the onset of Nero's persecution (see esp. optative in 1 Peter 3:14)
- b. Different audience ("Western Turkey") and provenance ("Rome")

2. 1 Peter and James

- a. Similar introductions (James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1)
- b. James implies Jews, 1 Peter doesn't (see especially 1 Peter 4:3-4; cf. 2:10)
- c. Both primarily exhortational

B. 1 Peter Outline (Simplest Version)

1. The Problem of Suffering (1:1-12) [N.B. purifying value]
2. First Response: Holiness (1:13-2:10) [N.B. language of "Israel" applied to "church"]
3. Second Response: Right Living in Society (2:11-3:22) [N.B. apologetic value of submission (2:12, 15, 3:1, 16)]
4. Suffering and Eschatology (4:1-19) [N.B. summary in v. 19]
5. Conclusions (5:1-14) [N.B. addition to domestic code in 5:1-4]

C. The "Domestic Code" (Haustafel) in the Epistles

1. Colossians/Ephesians

- a. Husbands/Wives
- b. Parents/Children
- c. Masters/Slaves

2. 1 Peter

- a. Government/Citizens
- b. Husbands/Wives
- c. Masters/Slaves
- d. Elders/Rest of the Church

D. 1 Peter Outline

1. Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1-12)
2. Call to Christian Holiness (1:13-2:10)
[First Christological Confession]
3. Principles of Submission (2:11-3:7)

- a. Citizens and government
 - b. Slaves and masters
 - [Second Christological Confession]
 - c. Wives and husbands
- 4. Suffering for Being a Christian
 - [Third Christological Confession]
 - [Christ announcing victory over demonic realm during ascension?]
 - [Creating significant purification for us now (4:1) and full salvation after death (4:6)]
- 5. Exhortations (5:1-12)
- 6. Closing (5:12-14)
- E. 1 Peter 3:18-22 Unpacked
 - 1. Vv. 18-19 – "by the Spirit, through whom," vs. "in the spirit, through which"
 - 2. V. 19 – "preached" as "proclaimed message," not "offered salvation" (*k_russ* vs. *euangeliz_*)
 - 3. V. 19 – "spirits in prison" as demons
 - 4. V. 20 – disobedience = role in Genesis 6 (cf. 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6)
 - 5. V. 21 – "baptism saves" as "pledge" or "response"
 - 6. V. 22 – when all this happened – during ascension
- F. Responses to Persecution and Injustice in James and 1 Peter
 - 1. James 5:7-11
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Trust in God's eschatological vengeance
 - c. Denunciatory, prophetic rhetoric
 - d. No actual justification for violence
 - 2. 1 Peter 2:11-4:19
 - a. Do good to those mistreating you (2:11-17, 3:8-16)
 - b. Bear unjust suffering as Christ did (2:18-25, 3:17-4:11)
 - c. Do not submit to authorities' anti-Christian mandates (3:1-7)
 - d. Trust in God's eschatological vengeance (4:1-19)
 - e. No actual justification for violence

Lesson Fifteen: General Letters

Part 4

IV. Jude and 2 Peter: The Forgotten Books at the Back of the Bible

A. The General Epistles and Revelation: Christian Communities' Response to Judaism

1. Observant Jewish-Christianity (James)
2. Spiritualized Jewish Christianity (Hebrews)
3. Gentile Christianity as spiritual Israel (1 Peter)
4. Gentile false teachers, Jewish backgrounds (2 Peter, Jude)
5. Anti-Gnosticism, Judaism no issue (1, 2, 3 John)
6. Anti-Roman persecution, anti-local Jewish hostility (Revelation)

B. Similar passages in Jude and 2 Peter

1. False teachers
 - a. Jude – "admission has been secretly gained...by ungodly persons who...deny our only master (v. 4)
 - b. 2 Peter – "false teachers...who will secretly bring in...heresies even denying the Master (v. 1)
2. Fallen angels
 - a. Jude – "the angels that did not keep their own position...have been kept by him...in the nether gloom until judgment" (v. 66)
 - b. 2 Peter – "God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but committed them to the pits of nether gloom...until the judgment" (v. 4)
3. Sodom and Gomorrah
 - a. Jude – "just as Sodom and Gomorrah...acted immorally...serve as an example" (v. 7)
 - b. 2 Peter – Sodom and Gomorrah...he made an example to those who were ungodly" (v. 6)
4. "Revile the glorious ones"
 - a. Jude – "these men defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael...disputed, he did not" (vv. 8-9)
 - b. 2 Peter – "those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority...are not afraid to revile the glorious ones, whereas angels do not" (vv. 10-11)
5. "Irrational animals"
 - a. Jude – "by those things that they know by instinct as irrational animals do, they are destroyed" (v. 10)
 - b. 2 Peter – "these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, will be destroyed" (v. 12)

6. Balaam

- a. Jude – "Balaam's error...blemishes...waterless clouds, carried alone by winds...for whom the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved forever" (vv. 11-13)
- b. 2 Peter – "blemishes...the way of Balaam...waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the nether gloom of darkness has been reserved (vv. 13-17)

C. Key Observations from Jude

1. 2 Peter probably depends on Jude
2. *Ad hominem*, *ad hoc* tirade against libertines
3. Key reminder of "limits of tolerance"
4. Interesting use of pseudepigrapha

D. Uniformitarianism vs. 2 Peter

1. Chapter 1 vs. no prophecy: no inspiration of Scripture
2. Chapter 2 vs. no judgment: no need for moral living
3. Chapter 3 vs. no parousia: no solution to the problem of evil

E. 2 Peter

1. 1:15 and issue of authorship, testamentary genre
2. Still conceivable in 60's if countering Epicureanism or Stoicism
3. One chapter per issue defending delay of parousia (see how 3:2, 3, 4 unite these concerns)
4. 2:20-22 important in "eternal security" debate
5. 3:8-10 most enduring legacy and key to a Christian theodicy

Lesson Sixteen: Letters of John

Part 1

I. The Epistles of John

A. Emphases in John's Writings

[John's gospel vs. 1 John]

1. Deity of Christ vs. Humanity of Christ
2. Empowering believers to keep commands vs. Reminder against claims of sinlessness
3. Realized eschatology vs. Future eschatology
4. Guidance of the Holy Spirit vs. Test the spirits

B. Gnostic Doctrines vs. John's Tests of Life

1. Perfectionism vs. keep the commandments
2. Antinomianism vs. commandments and love
3. Docetism vs. belief in Christ's full humanity

C. The Tests of Life (1 John)

1. Keeping God's commandments
 - a. Cycle 1 - 1:5-2:6
 - b. Cycle 2 - 2:28-3:10
 - c. Cycle 3 - 5:16-21
2. Loving one another
 - a. Cycle 1 - 2:7-17
 - b. Cycle 2 - 3:11-24
 - c. Cycle 3 - 4:7-21
3. Believing in Jesus as the God-man
 - a. Cycle 1 - 2:18-27
 - b. Cycle 2 - 4:1-6
 - c. Cycle 3 - 5:1-15

[Each test entails the other two (3:23-24)]

D. Additional Notes on John's Letters

1. 1 John 1:9 - salvation vs. fellowship
2. 3:2 - moral not physical similarities
3. 4:4 - Spirit in us more powerful than Satan
4. 4:18 - love casting out fear
5. 5:6-7 - the Johannine "comma" and the meaning of the remaining text

6. 5:13 – present tense belief
7. 5:16 – not commanding prayer vs. commanding no prayer
8. 3 John 2 – spiritual vs. physical health

E. Gems from John (or are they??)

1. 1 John 3:6-9
2. 1 John 2:3-6
3. 1 John 2:16
4. 1 John 2:19
5. 1 John 2:20-23
6. 1 John 2:27
7. 1 John 3:17-18
8. 1 John 3:19-24
9. 1 John 4:1-4
10. 1 John 4:7-12
11. 1 John 5:16-17
12. 2 John 10-11

F. The Johannine Community

1. Gospel: contra schismatics
2. 1st Epistle: schismatics have begun to secede
3. 2nd Epistle: secessionists attacking from outside
4. 3rd Epistle: orthodoxy an embattled minority
5. Revelation: lost their first love

Lesson Seventeen: Letters of John

Part 2

II. Revelation: God's Plan for Cosmic History (Part 1)

A. Background to the Revelation

1. John in mid-90's on Patmos under Domitian
2. Writing to encourage persecuted churches in Asia Minor to "overcome"
3. Three-fold genre
 - a. Apocalyptic
 - b. Prophetic
 - c. Epistolary
4. A preterist-futurist approach
5. A historic (classical) premillennial approach

B. Revelation Time Line

1. Past: Intro (Chapter 1)
2. Present
 - a. Chapters 2-3: Letters to 7 churches
 - b. Chapters 4-5: Heavenly Praise
3. Future
 - a. Chapters 6-19
 - i. 7 Seals
 - ii. 7 Trumpets
 - iii. 7 Bowls of God's Wrath
 - b. Chapters 20-22
 - i. Millenium
 - ii. New Heavens and New Earth

C. Revelation 1-6

1. Chapter 1 – Rich theology, especially Christology
2. Chapters 2-3 – The whole spectrum of churches, good and bad (from Philadelphia to Laodicea)
 - a. Note also 2:9 and 3:9 and the *birkath-ha-minim*
 - b. Note Philadelphia vs. Smyrna
 - c. Not three abused texts (3:10, 3:15, 3:20)
3. Chapters 4-5 – Heavenly praise to prepare us for what comes next: the lion who is a Lamb (5:5-6)

4. Chapter 6 – Seals as precursors to tribulation
- D. Unsealing a scroll
- E. Approaching the Abyss
 1. Seals
 2. Trumpets
 3. Bowls
 4. The End
- F. Revelation 7-11
 1. Chapter 7 – First interlude; Jews who represent the whole church
 2. Chapters 8-9 – Plagues like in Egypt
 - a. 1/3 the key fraction
 - b. Woes: overtly demonic
 - c. Believers still protected (9:4)
 - d. Intended for repentance (9:20-21)
 3. Chapters 10-11 – Second interlude
 - a. The little, bittersweet scroll (but now no more delay)
 - b. The powerful witness (progressive polarization)
 4. Progressive polarization before the End (Chapter 11)
 - a. Successful evangelism
 - b. Increase of evil
- G. The Tribulation of Revelation (7) 8-16
 1. Scenario 1
 - a. First three years
 - i. First (2) cycles of plagues (chapters 7-10)
 - ii. Testimony of the two witnesses (chapters 11-12)
 - b. Second three years
 - i. Persecution of God's elect (chapters 13-14)
 - ii. Final cycle of plagues (chapters 15-17)
 2. Scenario 2 (3 years)
 - a. Testimony of the two witnesses
 - b. Persecution of God's elect

Part 3

H. The Tribulation – 2 possible scenarios

- ## I. Christian History

- [Notice too how similar they are]

20 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

400 300 200 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30

K. Revelation 12-16

1. Chapters 12-14
 - a. The Satanic Trinity (666 < 777)
 - b. The State as demonic, not divine (cf. Romans 13)

- c. Salvation and judgment of nations
- 2. Chapters 15-16
 - a. Final plagues – no limit
 - b. Believers still protected (16:2) – "eternal security?"
 - c. Gathering for Armageddon (16:16-17)
 - d. Seventh plague (v. 17) – "It is done!"
- L. Revelation 17-19
 - 1. Chapters 17-18
 - a. Final interlude
 - b. What went wrong (17)
 - c. Lament (18)
 - 2. Chapter 19
 - 3. Heavenly triumph
 - 4. Two meals
 - 5. Armageddon ends, before it's begun!
 - 6. Seamless narrative into chapter 20
- M. 3 Views of the Millennium
 - 1. Premillennialism
 - a. Church age ending with 2nd coming
 - b. Millennium ending with judgment
 - c. New heaven and new earth
 - 2. Amillennialism
 - a. Church age = millennium? – ending with 2nd coming and judgment
 - b. New heaven and new earth
 - 3. Postmillennialism
 - a. Church age includes millennium
 - b. Millennium ends with 2nd coming and judgment
 - c. New heaven and new earth
- N. Revelation 20-22
 - 1. Chapter 20 – Two key objections to premillennialism
 - a. Anticlimactic?
 - b. Mixture of resurrected and unresurrected?
 - 2. Chapters 21-22 – New Heavens and New Earth
 - a. Perfect intimacy with God (no temple)
 - b. Perfect Christian community

- c. Key inclusions with beginning of Genesis
- d. From garden to city
- e. History is going somewhere
- f. Ultimately only two kinds of people; which are you?