

Week 8

Small Group

1. Ask what they got out of reading from the last week. (5 Minutes)
2. Beginning Discussion Questions (5-10 Minutes):
 1. Which book was your favorite of last week's readings?
 2. After reading so much of Paul. What kind of person do you see Paul as?
 3. What do you think Paul's greatest accomplishment was?
3. Video: Week 8 (14:16):

Philemon

Author: Paul

Date: 60 – 62

Place of writing: Rome

Address: Philemon (slave owner) relationship with Onesimus.

Onesimus's name means "profitable".

Paul doesn't command Philemon to free Onesimus but seeks to show him that is his Christian responsibility to do this.

Traditions say that Philemon freed Onesimus who later became Bishop of the church in Ephesus and was responsible for the gathering together of Paul's Epistles.

Hebrews

Author: Unknown

Purpose: To prepare Jewish Christians for approaching persecution.

Theme: The superiority of Christ

- Superior to the Prophets.
- Superior to the Angels.
- Superior to Moses (who gave the law).
- Superior to Joshua (who gave the promise land).
- Superior to Aaron and the Priesthood.
- Mediator of a superior covenant and sacrifice.

Four Warnings

1. Neglecting our Salvation (2:3)
2. A heart of unbelief (3:12)
3. Apostasy (falling away) (6:6)
4. Willing sinning (10:26)

The Faith Chapter: Chapter 11

James

Author: James the half-brother of Jesus and the leader of the Jerusalem Church.

Date: 45 to 62 AD

Written in: Jerusalem

Addressed: Christians that were scattered

Theme: "Practical Holiness"

James cared about consistent Christian living.

Prayer of Faith for the sick (5:13-18)

1st Peter

Author: Peter

Date: 64-66 AD

Addressed: Christians living in the Roman provinces of Asia Minor.

Theme: Suffering as Christians

Peter wanted to connect his Christian readers to their Old Testament heritage.

2nd Peter

It was his 2nd letter to Asia Minor (3:1)

Date: 66 or 67 AD

Written in: Rome

Purpose: To warn them of coming False Teachers and encourage them to be patient for the Lord's coming.

Peter addresses the Lord's return and that God keeps his promises.

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

Author: John

Written in: Ephesus

Addressed:

- 1st John: Christians.
- 2nd John: "the elect lady and her children" either some woman in a local church or, more probably, as a euphemism for the whole church.
- 3rd John: written to Gaius.

Theme:

- 1st John: Love.
- 2nd John: Beware of false teachers.
- 3rd John: Beware of false brothers (their conduct).

Test the Spirits

- Don't believe every spirit. False Teachers claim to speak for God.
- The theological test; Do they believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?
- The Social Test: Do they love their brothers?

- The Moral Test: do they keep God's Commandments?

Jude

Jude wasn't an apostle.

Author: Jude

Jude says he is the brother of James.

The Special Characteristics:

- **The nature of False Teaching**
 - It was immoral (v.4).
 - It denied Jesus as Master and Lord (v.4).
 - It was divisive (v.19).
- **The Three O.T. examples of false teachings**
 - The way of Cain (v.11).
 - The error of Balaam (v. 11).
 - The rebellion of Korah (v. 12).

4. Go over and discuss video notes with group (5- 7 minutes)

5. Questions from the Video (5-10 Minutes):

1. Why do you think there is such a strong emphasis on false teachings?

6. Discuss what they are hoping to get out of the reading this week (3-5 Minutes)

7. Prayer (5 Minutes)

- Take prayer requests.
- Pray together as a group.