

DIG DEEP

A BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH
OF THE PHILIPPINES

With the mission to “know God, love people, and make disciples”, we strive to study the Word of God to know Him and follow His ways.

DIG DEEP is the 3-Year Bible Reading program of Christian Bible Church. By following this schedule, you will finish the whole Bible within 3 years.

This is the fourth **DIG DEEP** booklet where we will be studying 21 books – from the book of 1 Corinthians to Revelation – over the course of six months. This guide provides insight and context to understand each book and is available in both English and Chinese.

For earlier volumes of **DIG DEEP**, you may ask for free copies from the church office.

JULY

✓ 1 CORINTHIANS

Divisions in the Church Due to

- ☐ 1-2 Worldy Wisdom
- ☐ 3-4 Carnal Co-Laborers
- ☐ 5 Moral Misconduct
- ☐ 6 Unjust Judges

Counsel and Commands About

- ☐ 7 Marriage
- ☐ 8 Offered Food
- ☐ 9 Ministers
- ☐ 10 Murmuring
- ☐ 11:1-16 Women's Role in Church
- ☐ 11:17-34 The Sanctity of Communion

Spiritual Gifts

- ☐ 12 In Question
- ☐ 13 In Love
- ☐ 14 In Church

Problem of Disbelief

- ☐ 15 Concerning the Resurrection
- ☐ 16 Concerning Collection for the Needs of the Saints

2 CORINTHIANS

Paul's Understanding of Ministry

- ☐ 1-2 A Ministry of Comfort
- ☐ 3-4 A Ministry of Glory
- ☐ 5 A Ministry of Reconciliation

✓ 2 CORINTHIANS

Paul's Motivation and Model

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | A Ministry of Purity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | A Message of Praise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | A Ministry of Giving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | A Method of Giving |

Paul's Authority of Ministry

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | Authority Declared |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | Authority Defended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | Authority Dramatized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | A Visit Described |

1 CORINTHIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*1 Corinthians 1:1; 16:21*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

This was written during the apostle Paul's second missionary journey in about 54 A.D. – 55 A.D. at Ephesus.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The book was written to the Church in Corinth and the saints scattered around its vicinity (*1 Cor 1:2*).



REASONS FOR WRITING THE LETTER

- (1) Some members of Choe's household told Paul about the divisions in the church (*1 Corinthians 1: 11-12*) and so he wrote these four chapters to persuade them not to exalt anyone.
- (2) There were also reports of sexual immorality and disputing (*1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:1*); he used 2 chapters to persuade them to avoid immorality and contentiousness.
- (3) Paul also answered questions they had brought up regarding: marrying and remaining single (*chapter 7*), eating food sacrificed to idols (*chapters 8-10*), women covering their heads and the manner of partaking the Lord's supper (*chapter 11*), spiritual gifts (*chapters 12-14*), the issue of the resurrection from the dead (*chapter 15*), as well as collection from God's people and other matters (*chapter 16*).



KEY VERSE

1 Corinthians 1:30

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."



CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Introduction	1:1 - 9
2. Divisions in the Church	1:10 - 4:21
3. Immorality in the Church	5:1 - 6:20
4. Answers to the Church's Two Questions	7:1 - 11:1
A. On Marriage and Singlehood	7:1 - 40
B. On Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols	8:1 - 11:1
5. Various Issues on Worship in Church	11:2 - 14:40
6. On Resurrection	15
7. Paul's Final Greetings	16

2 CORINTHIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*see 1:1; 10:1*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

It was most likely written somewhere in 57 A.D. in Philippi, Macedonia (2:13; 7:5).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The book was written to the Church in Corinth together with the believers throughout Achaia (1:1).



REASONS FOR WRITING THE LETTER

- (1) To explain the reasons why Paul had not fulfilled his promised visit to them,
- (2) To explain the principles he abides by in his interpersonal relationships and in his ministry,
- (3) To encourage the Corinthian believers to recognize false prophets and to keep away from them,
- (4) To encourage the Corinthian believers to forgive the repentant sinner,
- (5) To encourage the Corinthian believers to participate in helping the poor believers in Jerusalem,
- (6) To show through various evidences that he is a true apostle of Christ and has the authority of an apostle,
- (7) To ask the disobedient ones to repent so that he will not have to use his authority on them a third time when he returns.



RELATION BETWEEN 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

- (1) The first book tackles the various issues within the church; the second book tackles the various problems within the believers' hearts
 - (2) The first book tackles the believers' misuse and misunderstanding of spiritual gifts; the second book tackles the believers' ignorance and misunderstandings regarding ministry
 - (3) The first book helps the church resist the influence of the world and paganism; the second book helps the church resist the influence of false apostles and false religions
 - (4) The first book illustrates the truth and principles of Christian love; the second book illustrates what true Christian love is in example and in deeds
 - (5) The first book focuses on solving the problems between believers; the second book focuses on solving the problems between believers and workers.
-



CONTENT OUTLINE

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Introduction and Explanation | 1:1 - 2:13 |
| 2. Paul's Example in Serving the Lord | 2:14 - 7:16 |
| 3. Encouraging Believers Towards Giving
and Doing It in Love | 8:1 - 9:15 |
| 4. Defense of His Own Apostolic Authority | 10:1 - 12:21 |
| 5. Exhortations and Final Remarks | 13:1 - 14 |

AUGUST

✓ GALATIANS

Freedom in Christ

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:1-10 | Perverter's Renunciation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:11-2:21 | Paul's Apostleship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3:1-4:20 | Law Cannot Set Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:21-31 | Grace Sets Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5:1-12 | Peril to Freedom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5:13-6:18 | Practice in Freedom |

EPHESIANS

The Christian's Wealth

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | Thanksgiving for Wealth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Wealth of Salvation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Wealth of the Church |

The Christian's Walk

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:1-16 | Walk at Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:17-5:21 | Walk in Holiness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5:22-6:9 | Walk at Home and Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6:10-24 | Walk in Warfare |

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice in God's Will

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:1-26 | Rejoicing in Affliction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:27-2:30 | Rejoicing in Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3:1-4:1 | Rejoicing in Jesus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:2-23 | Rejoicing in Blessings |

✓ COLOSSIANS

Christ, the Lord of the Universe

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:1-12 | Prayer to Father of Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:13-2:3 | Supremacy of Christ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2:4-23 | Sufficiency of Christ |

Christ, the Lord of Life

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3:1-17 | New Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3:18-4:1 | Home Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:2-6 | Christian Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4:7-18 | Conclusion |

GALATIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*Galatians 1:1; 5:2; 6:11*).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This book was written to the churches in Galatia (*Gal 1:2*). Galatia was a province of the Roman Empire (part of today's Turkey).



DATE WRITTEN

This was written in approximately 46 A.D.



BACKGROUND

At that time, there were Judaizers claiming to be Christians who came to the churches in Asia Minor and attacked Paul's teachings:

- (1) They slandered Paul and questioned his apostleship
- (2) They believed that Gentiles must be circumcised and convert to Judaism in order to be saved
- (3) They objected to Paul preaching only about grace and not the Law. They insisted that apart from grace attention must be given to deeds or conduct. They insisted that Christians must observe Jewish rituals and rules.

Paul used this book to guide and exhort them to discard the wrong teachings and return to the truth. This is the Book of Galatians.



UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- (1) No words of praise. Other letters written by Paul were packed with praises for the recipients in the greetings section.
- (2) No words of thanksgiving. Paul was accustomed to giving thanks to God for the believers to whom he was writing; Paul thanked the Lord even for the corrupt Corinthian church (*1 Cor 1:4*).

Thus it can be seen that bankruptcy of faith is worse than moral corruption.

- (3) Words are severe and sharp. The wording in the book is very straightforward, relentless, reprimanding; he even cursed the heretics, wishing those people to emasculate themselves (*Gal 1:8 - 9; 5:12*).
- (4) Personally written with large letters (*Gal 6:11*).
- (5) This book is a thesis against legalists.



KEY VERSE

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



CONTENT OUTLINE

- 1. Paul defends his apostleship and his authority **1:1 - 2:21**
to preach the Gospel of grace
- 2. Paul reiterates the content of the gospel **3:1 - 4:31**
of grace, confirming that grace is the only
way to be saved
- 3. Paul pointed out the outcome of the gospel **5:1 - 6:18**
of grace – escape from the law and life
of freedom in grace

EPHESIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*Ephesians 1:1; 3:1; 4:1*).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The book was written to the saints in Ephesus (1:1). Ephesus was the capital of a province in Asia Minor, located along the eastern coastal plains of the Aegean Sea and was a Roman colony.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

This was written approximately in 61-63 A.D. Paul was imprisoned in Rome (*Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20*) when he wrote the Book of Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon, all these are called "The Prison Letters".



BACKGROUND

At that time, the number of Gentile Christians was gradually increasing in churches in Asia Minor. The Apostle Paul had a burden in his heart, he wanted to take the revelation he had received from God regarding the mystery of the church and explain it to the believers through this epistle. Through this book, he wanted them to know the plan and purpose of the Lord for the church and also to understand its origin, nature and witness, etc.



MAIN THEME

The subject of this book is "the church" (*Eph 1:22; 3:21; 5:32*). The book reveals God's purpose in this generation and that is to build "the Body of Christ" which is "the church in its glory." From this book we learn: the position of the church in God's glorious plan and how the church is the witness of Christ on this earth. The Book of Ephesians gives us the highest revelation about the church.



KEY VERSES

Ephesians 1:22-23

"...the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

Ephesians 2:22

"And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."



CONTENT OUTLINE

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|--|------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 2 |
| 2. The Blessings the Church Has in Christ | 1:3 - 14 |
| 3. The Things the Church Has in Christ | 1:15 - 23 |
| 4. The Identity the Church Received in Christ | 2:1 - 22 |
| 5. The Revelation the Church Received in Christ | 3:1 - 13 |
| 6. How the Church Live Out What It Had
Received in Christ | 3:14 - 21 |
| 7. The Things Christ Gives to the Church | 4:1 - 32 |
| 8. Christ's Manifestation in the Church | 5:1 - 6:20 |
| 9. Concluding Remarks | 6:21 - 24 |

PHILIPPIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*Philippians 1:1*). Also see: summary on Galatians.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This book was addressed to the saints in Philippi as well as the overseers and deacons (*Philippians 1:1*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

According to its content, this book was written by Paul in about 61-62 A.D. when he was imprisoned in Rome.



BACKGROUND

There are four aspects as to why Paul wrote this book:

- (1) When Paul was in prison, the Philippians sent him gifts with a visit from Epaphroditus. The faithful Epaphroditus fell ill and almost died. The news reached the Philippian church and they were very concerned about him. Paul sent Epaphroditus back to spare both parties the sorrow and also to send through him a letter for the Philippian church.
- (2) When the Philippians learned of Paul's imprisonment, they were very concerned about his circumstances. They mistakenly thought that Paul's imprisonment was a major blow to his gospel work (*Phil 1:12-14*). And so through this letter, Paul sought to inform them of his situation, to ease their concern, and to assure them further that his imprisonment had actually served to prosper the gospel.
- (3) Through this letter, Paul also expressed his gratitude to the Philippian church for the gifts they sent him.
- (4) Paul found out that the Philippian church were mistaken with regards to some spiritual matters and doctrine, and so he took this opportunity to correct them.



MAIN THEME

Christ is our all in all. This is the central revelation of this book. He is our life (*Phil 1*), example (*Phil 2*), goal (*Phil 3*), and strength (*Phil 4*).



KEY VERSES

Philippians 1:20-21

"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 2:5

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."



CONTENT OUTLINE

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Introduction | 1 - 2 |
| 2. To live is Christ – desire for Christ
to be exalted in my body | 1:3 - 30 |
| 3. To live by emulating Christ
– have the same attitude as Christ | 2:1 - 30 |
| 4. To live is to gain Christ – consider knowing
Christ as my greatest treasure | 3:1 - 21 |
| 5. To live by relying on Christ – I can do all things
through Christ who gives me strength | 4:1 - 20 |
| 6. Conclusion | 4:21 - 23 |

COLOSSIANS



AUTHOR

This was written by the apostle Paul (*Colossians 1:1*).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This book was addressed to the saints in Colosse (*Colossians 1:2*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

This book and the books of Ephesians, Philippi, and Philemon were written by Paul between 61-62 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome (*Col 4:3*); thus, Bible scholars call these four epistles, “The Prison Letters”.



BACKGROUND

Shortly after the establishment of the Colosse church, it was infiltrated by heretics attempting to deceive the believers with their words. Epaphras consulted with Paul in Rome regarding the matter which prompted Paul to write this letter. He refuted the heretical errors while guiding the Colossians towards a deeper knowledge of Christ. He made the contrast between the heresies and the truth about Christ, so that they may know in which matters they are to stand their ground and on what matters they may give in.



MAIN THEME

“Christ is all, and is in all.” (*Col 3:11*) This is the central message of the book. Christ is the image of God, the firstborn over all creation. He is the head of the body, the church; in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.



KEY VERSE

Colossians 1:18

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."



CONTENT OUTLINE

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|--|-----------|
| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 2 |
| 2. What the Colosse Church Has Received
in the Past | 1:3 - 29 |
| 3. What the Colosse Church Should Know Presently | 2:1 - 23 |
| 4. What the Colosse Church Must Do in the Future | 3:1 - 4:6 |
| 5. Concluding Remarks | 4:7 - 18 |

SEPTEMBER

✓ 1 THESSALONIANS

Building Personal Relationships with the Thessalonians

☐ 1 Paul's Memories

☐ 2-3 Paul's Methods

Giving Practical Instructions to the Thessalonians

☐ 4:1-12 Paul's Directions

☐ 4:13-5:11 About Christ's Return

☐ 5:12-28 Practical Reminders

2 THESSALONIANS

Work While Waiting for Christ's Return

☐ 1 Strengthening the Stressed

☐ 2 Comforting the Confused

☐ 3 Disciplining the Disorderly

1 TIMOTHY

Organization in the Church

☐ 1 Law and Grace

☐ 2 Worship and Women

☐ 3 Elders and Deacons

Operation of the Church

☐ 4 False Teaching in the Church

☐ 5 Age Groups in the Church

☐ 6 Areas of Conflict in the Church

2 TIMOTHY

Steadfastness in Ministry

☐ 1 Hold Fast to the Gospel

☐ 2:1-13 Pass On the Gospel

Steadfastness in Doctrine

☐ 2:14-3:17 Protect the Gospel

☐ 4 Preach the Gospel

✓ TITUS

Duties of Church Leaders

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:1-9 | Elders Designated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:10-16 | Heresy Described |

Duties of Church Members

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | Live Out the Gospel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Heretics Denounced |

PHILEMON

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1:1-25 | Forgiveness in the Church |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------|

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS



AUTHOR

This book was written by the Apostle Paul (*1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1*). Although initially the letter heading included Silas and Timothy, it was actually written by Paul alone (*1 Thess 2:18; 3:2; 5:27-28; 2 Thess 2:5; 3:17*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

It is generally acknowledged that the books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians were Paul's two earliest letters. The first epistle was most likely written in 50-52 A.D., while the second was written maybe half a year later.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This book was written to the Church of the Thessalonians (*1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1*).



REASON FOR WRITING THE FIRST AND SECOND LETTERS

After Paul and the others were forced to flee Thessalonica as a result of persecution, this new church was also persecuted. Paul sent the young Timothy to return to visit and help the saints there. Later, they learned from Timothy that they did not succumb to the persecution but continued to stand firm (*1 Thess 1:6-7; 2:14; 3:4-6; 2 Thess 1:4*). While Paul is relieved at the news he was concerned for their spiritual lives, because he had not worked long among them, he feared that their knowledge of the truth was not strong enough to withstand all kinds of influence from the outside world, and so he wrote these letters to exhort them.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LETTERS

Among the letters Paul had written, the books of "1 & 2 Thessalonians", "Romans", and "Ephesians" are referred to as major doctrinal books. Each book emphasizes the importance of the three major virtues for believers –

“faith, hope, love”. (1) “Romans” emphasizes faith – “made righteous by faith”; (2) “Ephesians” emphasizes love – “established in love”; (3) “1 & 2 Thessalonians” emphasize hope – “hope of the Lord’s return”.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LETTERS

Every chapter in the Book of 1 Thessalonians ends with the message on the Lord’s return (1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 13-18; 5:23-24). The Book of 2 Thessalonians contains detailed explanation of the Lord’s Day.



KEY VERSES

1 Thessalonians 1:3

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3

“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS



1 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 2 |
| 2. His Thanksgiving and Longings | 1:3 - 3:13 |
| 3. Exhortation and Comfort | 4:1 - 5:22 |
| A. Exhorted the believers to avoid sexual immorality and be holy | 4:1 - 8 |
| B. Exhorted the believers to work with their own hands and to conduct themselves appropriately | 4:9 - 12 |
| C. Consoled the believers not to be sad, for the Lord will surely come again | 4:13 - 18 |
| D. Exhorted the believers to be sober and await the Lord's return | 5:1 - 11 |
| E. Exhorted the believers to be kind to one another, respect the Lord's servants | 5:12 - 22 |
| 4. Final Remarks | 5:23 - 28 |
-



2 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Gave thanks for the believers' lives | 1:3 - 4 |
| 2. On God's judgment day, the position of the persecuted and the persecutor will be reversed | 1:5 - 10 |
| 3. Prayed that the Lord Jesus may be glorified in the believers | 1:11 - 12 |
| 4. Things that will occur before Christ's return | 2:1 - 12 |
| 5. Gave thanks, encouraged and prayed again | 2:13 - 17 |
| 6. Prayers for one another | 3:1 - 5 |
| 7. Beware of idle and disruptive people | 3:6 - 15 |
| 8. Final remarks | 3:16 - 18 |

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



AUTHOR

This book was written by the Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The recipient of this letter is most probably Timothy (1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2). Timothy was from Lystra; he was much younger than Paul and had likely converted when Paul made his first missionary journey to Lystra (Acts 14:6-7, 21), so Paul regarded him as a son. His father was Greek and his mother was Jewish.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The first letter was written in Macedonia in 64-65 A.D. after Paul was released from the Roman prison and before he was arrested again. The second letter was written in Rome after he was arrested again and imprisoned there in about 67 A.D.



REASON FOR WRITING THE LETTER

Paul wrote the first letter when he had to proceed to Macedonia and leave Timothy to shepherd the church in Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3). One, Timothy was still young (1 Tim 4:12) and lacked enough experience in doing pastoral work; secondly, various heresies were being popularized; so Paul wrote this letter to instruct Timothy on how to resist wrong doctrines, how to manage and shepherd the church, and also to train himself to be a good servant of Jesus Christ.

The second letter was written because Paul was abruptly arrested while in the middle of his missionary journey; he was again imprisoned in Rome. He knew that he did not have much time in this world (2 Tim 4:6) and felt compelled to write down some important matters. The letter was his final instructions; it contained his instructions on how the ministry was to be continued after he departs.

1 & 2 TIMOTHY



COMPARISON OF 1 TIMOTHY AND 2 TIMOTHY

When the first book was written, the church was the household of God, the pillar and foundation of truth (1 Timothy 3:15). When the second book was written, the church had become a large house, with precious articles as well as common articles (2 Tim 2:20). While the first book was being written, everything was well, there was no opposition nor persecution, so workers paid attention to establishing the church. During the writing of second Timothy, there was persecution; so the theme emphasized on the workers' faithfulness to the gospel. When the first book was being written, the church didn't experience too many problems, they were still in the brewing stage. During the writing of the second book, the church was filled with problems. Many people deserted Paul (2 Tim 1:15). Some of the people's faith became corrupted (2 Tim 2:17-18). The first book addressed the church elders and deacons; while the second book focused on faithful individuals. The first book predicts the corruption of the church; in the second book, corruption was a reality. The first book instructs us to train ourselves in godliness; the second book declares that all who seek to live godly lives will suffer persecution. The first book emphasizes the submission of workers to authority; the second book finds the servant using gentleness to exhort the people.



KEY VERSES

1 Timothy 1:15-16a

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy..."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."



1 TIMOTHY *Church Servant, Ministry, and Testimony*

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 2 |
| 2. False Teachers in the Church | 1:3 - 2:7 |
| 3. Church Life, Administration and Testimony | 2:8 - 3:16 |
| 4. How to Be a Good Deacon of Christ | 4:1 - 6:21a |
| 5. Final Remarks | 6:21b |
-



2 TIMOTHY *The Blameless Worker*

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 2 |
| 2. God's Blameless Worker | 1:3 - 2:26 |
| 3. Danger of the End-Times
and the Worker's Duties | 3:1 - 4:5 |
| 4. The Worker as a Role Model
and His Final Testimony | 4:6 - 18 |
| 5. Final Remarks – Greetings and Blessings | 4:19 - 22 |

TITUS



AUTHOR

This book was written by the Apostle Paul (*Titus 1:1*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

When this book was written, Paul had not yet arrived in Nicopolis (3:12) and therefore it could be concluded that it must have been written after his first imprisonment in Rome. It was most likely written between 64 – 65 A.D. in Macedonia, probably in Philippi.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The Book of Acts does not mention Titus' name, but Paul mentioned him repeatedly in his letters. Titus was an uncircumcised Greek (*Gal 2:3*), who is from Antioch and had once gone to Jerusalem with Paul and Barnabas (*Gal 2:1*) as a representative of the Antioch Church in the Jerusalem Council (*Acts 15*).



REASON FOR WRITING THE LETTER

At that time, Titus was laboring for the Lord in Crete, and Crete at that time was the most corrupt place in the world. Pastoring there was extremely difficult. The letter was written for the following purposes: (1) To guide Titus on how to appoint elders (1:5-9); (2) To instruct him to rebuke false teachers and guard the Truth (1:10-16); (3) To instruct him to teach believers to live a pure and blameless life and to honor the Word of God (*chapter 2*); (4) To ask him to hurry and meet him in Nicopolis (3:12).



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS LETTER

Apart from the "Book of Philemon", "Titus" is one of the shortest letters by the Apostle Paul, yet it is rich in its content. It is a pocket-sized and practical "pastoral handbook" suitable for all generations.



MAIN THEME

The central message of this book is “the truth that leads to godliness (1:1). “Godliness” and “Truth” are equally important, and this message can be found throughout the book.



KEY VERSE

Titus 2:7-8

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”



CONTENT OUTLINE

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Duties of God's Workers | 1 |
| A. The origin and objectives of their duties | 1:1 - 4 |
| B. The active duties of God's workers | 1:5 - 9 |
| - the appointment of true church leaders | |
| C. The passive duties of God's workers - rebuke | 1:10 - 16 |
| the person who teaches heresy | |
| 2. The Message of God's Workers | 2:1 - 3:11 |
| A. To preach the pure truth to all believers | 2:1 - 15 |
| B. To teach believers to live out in society | 3:1 - 8 |
| the message of salvation in word and deed | |
| C. To teach believers to avoid those in the church | 3:9 - 11 |
| who turn away from the true faith | |
| 3. Final Remarks and Greetings | 3:12 - 15 |

PHILEMON



AUTHOR

This book was written by the Apostle Paul (*Philemon 1:1*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Written between 61 A.D. - 63 A.D. while he was in the Roman prison.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

There are four recipients of this letter (*Philemon 1-2*): (1) "*Philemon*" - Paul's dear friend and fellow worker Philemon was the one in charge of the church during that time ; (2) "*Apphia our sister*" - According to church traditions, Apphia was Philemon's wife while some say Philemon's sister; (3) "*Archippus our fellow soldier*" - According to church traditions, he was Philemon's son but some say he was Apphia's husband, and yet some say he was Philemon's brother in law; (4) The church that meets in Philemon's home, this would be the Colossian Church.



REASON FOR WRITING THE LETTER

There was a slave in Philemon's home, Onesimus, who stole his master's belongings and ran away (*see v.18*). He fled to Rome and became incarcerated in the same prison as Paul. As a result of hearing the gospel from Paul, he repented, confessed and became a believer of the Lord Jesus (*see v.10*). After Paul came to know of his situation, he encouraged Onesimus to return to his master to face the consequence of his crime. Paul wrote this letter for Onesimus to bring back with him to his master.



MAIN THEME

The main theme of this book is "love's action", to put "doctrine" into "practice". When God's love and salvation transforms a believer's life, no matter his past, he has become a part of the body of Christ, and he is as equally significant as the other members of the body.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS BOOK

The characteristics of this book are as follows:

- (1) This is the shortest among the letters the Apostle Paul had written.
- (2) This is Paul's personal letter to Philemon. Although Paul must have been the one who had led Philemon to the Lord (v.19), he addressed the latter politely. He appealed to him as a friend and penned his request skillfully and tactfully.
- (3) This book contains the social concept of respect for human rights. Although it did not attack the system of slavery at that time, there was a seed hidden in between the lines laying an indelible foundation for future social equality.
- (4) Although there is no mention of specific theological doctrines in the book, it contains the concept of "in Christ", that is, all who had received the grace of God should also treat others with the same grace.



KEY VERSE

Philemon 1:15-16

"Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord."



CONTENT OUTLINE *Love Your Brother*

1. Greetings	1 - 3
2. Praise and Prayer	4 - 7
3. Plea and Appeals	8 - 17
4. Commitments and Guarantees	18 - 22
5. Farewell and Blessings	23 - 25

OCTOBER

✓ HEBREWS

Christ, Superior to the Angels

- ☐ 1 Message and Messenger
- ☐ 2 Savior and Sufferer

Christ, Superior to Moses and Joshua

- ☐ 3 He Is the Son, Not the Servant
- ☐ 4 He Passes the “Rest Test”

Christ, Superior to Aaron's Priesthood

- ☐ 5 A Better Priest
- ☐ 6 A Better Response
- ☐ 7 A Better Priesthood

Christ, Superior to the Mosaic Law

- ☐ 8 A Better Covenant
- ☐ 9 A Better Tabernacle
- ☐ 10 A Better Sacrifice

Christ, Supreme Example of Faith

- ☐ 11 Requirement for Fellowship
- ☐ 12 Pattern for Fellowship
- ☐ 13 Proof of Fellowship

JAMES

Tests of Faith

- ☐ 1:1-18 Trials and Temptations
- ☐ 1:19-27 Test of Attitude Towards the Bible
- ☐ 2:1-13 Test of Social Distinctions
- ☐ 2:14-26 Test of Works
- ☐ 3 Test of Self-Control
- ☐ 4:1-5:12 Test of Reactions to the World
- ☐ 5:13-20 Test of Prayer

HEBREWS



AUTHOR

Because there is no mention in the whole book, the authorship of this book has continued to be a mystery for more than a thousand years. The opinions of early and modern commentators are varied. Some people think that Paul wrote it, some believe it was Barnabas. Some say it was written by Apollos, while others say it was written by Luke.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The book's date of completion according to evidences within the book as well as external documents is conjectured as follows:

- (1) Many rituals such as sacrificial offerings in the temple have been mentioned in the book. The verbs used are all in the present tense (5:1-3; 7:27; 8:3-5; 9:6-9; 10:1-2, 8, 11; 13:10-11) indicating that the temple was still there and the priests were still serving. Therefore, the book must have been written no later than 70 A.D. (the year the temple was destroyed).
- (2) The book indicated that some of those who preached God's word to them had already been martyred (13:7) and that Timothy has been released from prison (13:23). These two incidents are most likely related to Nero's persecution of believers in 64-68 A.D. Thus, this book's date of completion must not be earlier than 64 A.D. It is most likely written between the years 65 to 69 A.D.

As for the location, it can be inferred from Hebrews 13:24 "*...those from Italy send you their greetings*" that this must have been written in a place where Italians lived (such as Corinth and Ephesus, etc.).



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The recipients of this book are the children of Abraham (7:4); the word "ancestors" (1:1) shows that they were Jewish believers and familiar with the ancestor of the faith in the Old Testament (11:24-34) as well as with Old Testament laws and rituals (7: 4-8).

HEBREWS



REASON FOR WRITING THE BOOK

The Hebrew believers at that time were facing two major crises of faith: externally, there was the persecution by the Roman empire ordering them to give up their faith in Christ; and then, there were the Jews urging them to return to the Old Testament Law. Therefore, the primary purpose of this book is to persuade Hebrew believers (13:22) to stand firm in their faith and not be shaken.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

The book quotes extensively from Old Testament scriptures, events, and lessons such that it can be called an “Annotation to the Old Testament”. If we want to understand the truth of the Old Testament, we should use this book as a primer to correctly discover many of the Old Testament treasures that are beneficial to our spirituality.



MAIN THEME

The theme is how Jesus Christ the Son of God surpassed the angels and all the great characters in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, he has accomplished a new covenant better than the Old Testament one. We who are believers in New Testament times have in Him, through a better sacrifice, entry into a better temple and into the presence of God.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS BOOK

The book contains all over it a backdrop of the Old Testament such as the religion, rituals, theologies, and terminologies. It is akin to the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament. The message of this book is closely related to the Pentateuch in the Old Testament, especially the book of Leviticus. Leviticus foreshadowed the salvation that was to come, while this book is about the substance of the salvation foreshadowed in Leviticus; it shows that the real thing is much more beautiful and complete than what was

foreshadowed. This book is superior to the book of Leviticus, thus it is also called the New Testament Leviticus.



KEY VERSES

Hebrews 4:14

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess."

Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."



CONTENT OUTLINE

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. The Superiority of Jesus Christ Above All Others | 1:1 - 10:39 |
| A. The Superiority of His Ministry | 1:1 - 3 |
| B. His Superiority Over the Angels | 1:4 - 2:18 |
| C. His Superiority in Administering God's House,
Greater Than Moses | 3:1 - 6 |
| D. His Superiority Is Greater Than Aaron
as High Priest | 4:14 - 7:28 |
| E. The Covenant He Established is Greater Than
the Covenant of the Old Testament | 8:1 - 10:18 |
| 2. Model of Faith, Hope and Love; Admonishment
and Exhortation | 11:1 - 13:6 |
| A. Definition and Example of Faith | 11:1 - 40 |
| B. Exhortation to Hope and Warning | 12:1 - 17 |
| C. Exhortation to Love | 13:1 - 17 |
| 3. Conclusion | 13:18 - 25 |
| A. Request for Prayers | 13:18 - 19 |
| B. Blessing | 13:20 - 21 |
| C. Announcement | 13:22 - 23 |
| D. Final Greetings | 13:24 - 25 |

JAMES



AUTHOR

The author of this book claims to be called “James” (1:1). This name was quite common among Jews and Christians in the first century. He was the biological brother of the Lord Jesus, James (*Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3*).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

According to the contents of this epistle, there are two different views as to the date of its writing. One is it was written not later than 50 A.D. The second says that it was written later than that, but not later than 62 A.D. (the year James was martyred). Each view has its reasons to support them. Most commentators agree that the book is an early work. The book was approximately written in 45-50 A.D. and it cannot be later than 62 A.D. As far as the writing of this book is concerned, it could be in Palestine, and highly likely in Jerusalem.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This letter is written to “*the twelve tribes scattered among the nations*” (1:1) and this refers to Jewish believers scattered throughout the Palestinian area (2:1).



REASON FOR WRITING THE LETTER

James gave at least two reasons for writing this letter:

- (1) To correct wrong ideas in the church. Some people claim that they believe in the Lord Jesus, but their conduct do not correspond with the gospel of Christ. Their faith is nothing more than lip-service, they identify themselves as Christians but their behaviors are no different from that of unbelievers.
- (2) To put forth the true Christian faith. All genuine Christian faith begins with the divine planting of the Word of God in a person's heart.

From this, the fruit of new life is born. To know if a person's faith is genuine, one needs to only look at whether his faith produces behavior that matches it.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

This book provides Christians with practical caution, pointing out that ancient and modern believers both have a dangerous tendency to concentrate only on building spiritual castles in the air and ignore the down-to-earth life such they say one thing and do another, as such they fail to give glory to God.



MAIN THEME

True faith will surely manifest itself in one's life and experience. In other words, faith without manifestation in deeds will not be beneficial to Christians, instead it will lead to the judgment of God.



UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS BOOK

- (1) Its style of writing is like a compilation of precepts. It uses many proverbs, simple sentences, etc. in a simple format.
- (2) Its content seems to make many references to Jesus' *"Sermon on the Mount"*.
- (3) The author emphasizes that men are justified by their actions. Galatians emphasizes that men are justified by their faith. One emphasizes the behavior after salvation, the other emphasizes faith before salvation. One says that true faith will inevitably produce action, and the other a man's deeds cannot save him without true faith.

JAMES



KEY VERSES

James 1:22

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 2:26

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."



CONTENT OUTLINE *True Faith*

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction and Greetings | 1:1 |
| 2. True Faith's Various Manifestations | 1:2 - 5:20 |
| A. Faith as It Encounters Trials and Temptations | 1:2 - 18 |
| B. Faith and the Word of God | 1:19 - 25 |
| C. Faith in Relating to Others | 1:26 - 2:13 |
| D. Faith and Behavior | 2:14 - 26 |
| E. Faith and Speech | 3:1 - 12 |
| F. Faith and Desires | 3:13 - 4:10 |
| G. Faith and Self-Reliance | 4:11 - 5:6 |
| H. Faith and Various Circumstances | 5:7 - 20 |

NOVEMBER

✓ 1 PETER

Courage in Suffering

- ☐ 1:1-12 Christian Salvation
- ☐ 1:13-2:10 Sanctification
- ☐ 2:11-3:12 Christian Relationships
- ☐ 3:13-4:19 Christian Suffering
- ☐ 5:1-14 Christian Discipline

2 PETER

Warning Against Heretical Teachers in the Church

- ☐ 1 True Knowledge: Grow Up
- ☐ 2 False Knowledge: Watch Out
- ☐ 3 Grow in Expectation of Christ's Return

1 JOHN

Fellowship with God

- ☐ 1:1-2:2 Basis of Fellowship
- ☐ 2:3-17 Obedience of Fellowship
- ☐ 2:18-28 Truth vs. Error
- ☐ 2:29-3:24 Purity vs. Impurity
- ☐ 4:1-6 Fact vs. Falsehood
- ☐ 4:7-16 God's Love
- ☐ 4:17-5:5 Our Love
- ☐ 5:6-21 Witnessing

2 JOHN

- ☐ 1-13 Fellowship with Enemies

3 JOHN

- ☐ 1-15 Hospitality, Haughtiness, and Holiness

JUDE

Contending for the Faith

- ☐ 1-16 Why Contend for the Faith
- ☐ 17-25 How to Contend for the Faith

1 PETER



AUTHOR

The author refers to himself as “*an apostle of Jesus Christ*” (1:1). He is the lead apostle of the Lord Jesus’ 12 apostles. His original name was Simon; the Lord changed his name to Cephas (Aramaic), which when translated to Greek is Peter (*John 1:42*). The Bible often calls him Simon Peter (*see Matt 16:16*).



DATE & TIME WRITTEN

According to reliable historical data, Peter was martyred for the Lord, killed by the tyrant Nero somewhere in 65-67 A.D. As a result, Peter’s two letters must have been written shortly before his martyrdom. The two letters were written not far in between (*see 2 Peter 3:1*) one another. And so it is surmised that 1 Peter might have been written in 64 A.D.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

This letter was written to “*God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia*” (1:1). These 5 places are located in the area called “Asia Minor” (now Turkey), these were provinces under the Roman Empire at that time. The five provinces, listed in a clockwise direction, are located between the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea.



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

Peter himself says, “*I have written to you ...encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it*” (5:12). This clearly states the two objectives of this book:

- (1) This letter gives the recipient a deeper understanding of the grace he has received from God. This grace includes the salvation received by the believer in the past (1:2-3, 19-20, 23), and what he currently

experiences, the salvation of his soul and the complete salvation he will receive in the future.

- (2) To warn believers of the evil age they are in and the impending persecution and suffering they face, that they must rely on God's grace to stand firm and be a testimony of the Lord's glory.
-



MAIN THEME

The main theme of this book is to exhort the believer that he has a living hope and he must be prepared to suffer, to obey God's will, to wholeheartedly do good and give glory to God as he lives the rest of his life on earth. Even if we are suffering, we must follow Christ's example, endure injustice, and submit ourselves to God. Today, if we suffer with Christ, we must rejoice because the glory of the Lord is revealed in us, and then we will enjoy His eternal glory.



KEY VERSE

1 Peter 1:7

"These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."



CONTENT OUTLINE *Stand Firm On the True Grace of God*

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Know the True Grace of God | 1:1-12 |
| 2. God's True Grace and the Christian's Life | 1:13-2:10 |
| 3. God's True Grace and Christian Living | 2:11-4:6 |
| 4. God's True Grace and the Christian's Hope | 4:7-5:14 |

2 PETER



AUTHOR

The author of the book refers to himself as “*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ*” (1:1); the same author as the Book of 1 Peter (see 2 Peter 3:1; 1 Peter 1:1).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Apparently, the book was written shortly before the apostle Peter’s martyrdom. It is believed that the apostle Peter died in Rome under the hand of the tyrant Nero (54-68 AD). Therefore, it is reasonable to speculate that this book was written in Rome between 66-68 A.D.



RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

The recipients of this book would be the same as that of the first book of Peter, that is why it says in 2 Peter 3:1, “*this is now my second letter to you.*” The first book was written “*to God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*” (1 Peter 1:1).



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

The Apostle Peter must have foreseen that he is about to be martyred for the Lord, and so he addressed the crisis that the church was about to face, that is, the rise of “*false teachers*” who will secretly introduce destructive heresies (see 2:1). He wrote this letter to remind them to stand firm in the truth and to grow in grace and knowledge (see 1:12 - 15; 3:18).



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

This book provides the church with important principles and unique spiritual knowledge: (1) the progression of life and godliness; (2) understanding the mysteries of the Scripture; (3) mystery of the last days and judgment day; and (4) the heavens and earth will be burned.



MAIN THEME

To know that the Savior Jesus Christ has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Therefore, we must be especially diligent in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. We must make every effort to add upon them so that we may receive a rich welcome into His eternal kingdom. Knowing the truth, we must hold on to the scriptures and to the Lord's promises, and not allow ourselves to be deceived by the heresies introduced by false teachers. In this way, we will be kept safe and blameless until we see the Lord face to face.



KEY VERSE

2 Peter 1:3

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life..."



CONTENT OUTLINE *Increase in True Knowledge*

1. The Origin, Benefit and Nature of True Knowledge **1:1 - 4**
2. The Pursuit of True Knowledge **1:5 - 11**
3. The Implication and Virtues of True Knowledge **1:12 - 21**
4. Opposition to True Knowledge – False Teachers and False Teachings **2:1 - 22**
5. The Outcome of True and False Knowledge **3:1 - 13**
– Destroyed by Fire or Last Eternally
6. Be Diligent in Growing in True Knowledge **3:14 - 18**

1 JOHN



AUTHOR

The books of 1, 2, & 3 John do not identify the author and the recipients, but the Church has always thought that these three books were written by the apostle John. Since the content, wording, and concept of the letters are very similar to John's gospel, scholars generally agree that these three letters and John's gospel were written by the same author, the apostle John.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The heretical ideas that this book points out emerged and influenced the church at the end of the first century. The tone of writing, which is that of an elder addressing the younger generation, shows that this book is the work of the apostle John in his later years. According to Early Church traditions, the apostle John lived in Ephesus for a long time when he was old; the book may have been written there. It was most likely written at the end of the first century, maybe between 90 to 99 A.D.



RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK

The book does not have specific recipients. It is an official letter written to believers in various churches, they are referred to as "*dear*" or "*brethren*."



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

Because the churches in Asia Minor at that time were being influenced by the heretical doctrine of "Gnosticism," the apostle John wrote this letter to point out its errors and refute its teachings so that the believers could distinguish the truth from the false teachings.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

This book is an indispensable document for the church down through history in its fight against false teachings; with it, the pure Christian faith is preserved. The book is extremely valuable and its value can be compared

to Paul's numerous letters. Furthermore, the book uses a positive approach in instructing Christ's followers towards virtuous conduct; it provides correct teaching that enables us to have a deeper understanding of life, interpersonal relationships, love, and truth.



MAIN THEME

The central theme of this book is the “life of fellowship”. Starting from the origin of fellowship, the purpose, conditions, obstacles, restoration, crisis, countermeasures, maintenance and progress of fellowship are enumerated. The essence of the life fellowship is holiness, righteousness, goodness, sincerity/honesty, and love. Because believers have the pure faith, they have what is necessary for the life of fellowship. Therefore, as long as they practice and demonstrate these qualities, they will obtain a delightful end.



KEY VERSE

1 John 1:3

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”



CONTENT OUTLINE *Fellowship In Life*

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Establish the Source of Fellowship - The Word of Life | 1:1 - 4 |
| 2. Keep the Conditions of Fellowship | 1:5 - 2:11 |
| – Fellowship in the Light | |
| 3. Safeguard the Elements of Fellowship | 2:3 - 4:6 |
| – Fellowship in Knowledge/Truth | |
| 4. Enhance the Essentials of Fellowship | 4:7 - 5:3 |
| – Fellowship in Love | |
| 5. The Path of Fellowship | 5:4 - 21 |

2 JOHN



AUTHOR

The Apostle John.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

According to historical anecdotes, this book was written by the Apostle John in Ephesus after he was released from his exile in the Island of Patmos (see *Revelation* 1:9), during the first century, in about 90 A.D. After finishing the book of 1 John, he wrote this book. This book was most likely written during 90 -99 A.D.



RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK

"*The lady chosen by God and her children*" (see v. 1) may refer to two possibilities: (1) It refers to a godly female believer and her "family" who were members of a local church at the time; (2) It may mean "wife", implying a local church, and "her children" referring to members of that church.



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

Just as in the book of 1 John, the churches in Asia Minor were under attack from the heresy of "Gnosticism," so the author purposefully wrote this letter to warn its readers. He taught that Christians must obey the Lord and his command to "*love one another*" (see v.5), but love must be in accordance with the principles of truth (see v.1-2); and he warned that false teachers who do not acknowledge the teachings of Christ (see vv. 7, 9) must not be received in order to avoid having a share in their wicked work (see vv. 10-11).



SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BOOK

This book can be called a supplement to the book of 1John. It is emphasized in the 1John that "loving one another" is the natural

manifestation of life (see 1 John 4:7; 5:1). Anyone who does not love remains in death (see 1 John 3:14); but to avoid “over-loving” or indulgent love, it must be subject to the restraint pointed out in this book, that is, to love one another in truth.



MAIN THEME

Believers should love each other, but they must not push it to the extreme of loving false teachers, so that they do not become partakers of evil works, thus causing them to lose their reward.



KEY VERSE

2 John 1:2

“because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever”



CONTENT OUTLINE *Walk in the Truth*

1. Loving One Another in the Truth Will Bring Blessings **1 - 3**
2. Walk In Obedience to the Truth, This is Love **4 - 6**
3. Do Not Welcome Those Who Run Ahead **7 - 11**
of Christ’s Teachings
4. Fellowship With and Greetings to Those **12 - 13**
Who Keep the Truth

3 JOHN



AUTHOR

The Apostle John.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The Book of 3 John was written also in Ephesus and at roughly the same time as the book of 2 John which was in about 90-99 A.D.



RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK

The letter is addressed to a person named “*Gaius*” (1:1).



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

Before this letter, the apostle John had written a brief letter to the local church, but was rejected by Diotrephes (v. 9). Diotrephes was probably not a false teacher but because of his desire to be “first” (v. 9) he did not submit to John’s authority. John did not take drastic measures against him, and instead put up with it. He meant to call attention to what Diotrephes was doing when he sees him face to face (v.10). Diotrephes, based on his misunderstanding of the apostle John, not only “*spread malicious nonsense about him and his coworkers*”, but also forbade local believers from welcoming John’s co-workers. He in fact “*put them out of the church*” (v. 10). The apostle John was forced to address this problem and write this letter.



MAIN THEME

To encourage believers to do good and receive in love the strangers who went forth to work for the truth. Also, to forbid believers from doing evil and remind them that those who have authority do not have absolute power in the church.



KEY VERSE

3 John 1:11

"Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God."



CONTENT OUTLINE *Examples and Warnings*

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Gaius' Example of Love in Receiving Believers | 1 - 8 |
| 2. Warning on Diotrephes' Example of Refusal to Receive Believers | 9 - 11 |
| 3. Demetrius' Testimony of Good Deeds | 12 |
| 4. Conclusions and Greetings | 13 - 15 |

JUDE



AUTHOR

The author of the book refers to himself as *"a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James"* (v.1). The author of this book is Jude the brother of the Lord Jesus. He is also the brother of James.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

- (1) The book would be dated later than the book of 2 Peter.
 - (2) At the time, apart from the apostle John, the other apostles probably had already been martyred for the Lord. Therefore, this book must have been written between 80-90 A.D. As for the place where this book was written, there is no information available.
-



RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK

The book's recipients are *"those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ"* (v.1). This letter does not name a specific believer nor church as its addressee. It was written to all whom God had called, loved, and saved by his grace.



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

In light of the great crisis (some false teachers have "sneaked in" to change the essence of God's salvation and deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ) all Christians with whom he shared salvation are facing, the author wrote this letter; to call upon them to stand up for the pure and true faith, so that the church does not repeat the mistakes of the Israelites.



MAIN THEME

The theme of this book is striving for the true faith. Worldly warfare employs both defense and offense; while spiritual warfare has two aspects: knowing the enemy and establishing oneself. If we are to succeed

in the warfare for the true faith, on the negative aspect, we must clearly understand the nature, methods, and the end of the teachers of heresies, and use them as warnings. On the positive end, we must keep ourselves in the love of God. And there are three essentials: (1) ground oneself in the most holy truth; (2) pray in the Holy Spirit; and (3) look to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.



KEY VERSE

Jude 1:20-21

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life."



CONTENT OUTLINE *Defending the True Faith*

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Introduction – Greetings | 1 - 2 |
| 2. The Reasons for the Defense | 3 - 16 |
| – Because There Are False Teachers in the Church | |
| 3. Equipment for the Defense – Deal With Self
and Deal With Others | 17 - 23 |
| 4. Concluding Words – Praise | 24 - 25 |

DECEMBER

✓ REVELATION

Letters to Seven Churches

- ☐ 1 Standing Among the Churches

Speaking to the Churches

- ☐ 2 Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira
- ☐ 3 Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea

Opening the Seven Seals

- ☐ 4 The One Who Sits on the Throne
- ☐ 5 The Lamb Who Opens the Scroll
- ☐ 6 The Plagues of the Seven Seals
- ☐ 7 Sealed and Saved

Blowing the Seven Trumpets

- ☐ 8-9 The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets

Describing the Seven Signs

- ☐ 10 The Small Scroll
- ☐ 11 The Two Witnesses
- ☐ 12 The Terrible Conflict
- ☐ 13 The Two Beasts

Pouring Out the Seven Bowls

- ☐ 14 The Judge is Coming: Lamb of God
- ☐ 15 Judgement is Coming: Wrath of God
- ☐ 16 Judgement is Here: Bowls of God's Wrath

Destroying God's Enemies

- ☐ 17 Babylon's Description
- ☐ 18 Babylon's Destruction
- ☐ 19 Salvation From the Lord and a Feast For the Lamb

Making All Things New

- ☐ 20 The End of the Devil and Death
- ☐ 21 The Beginning of a New Heaven and Earth
- ☐ 22 A Final Warning: "I Am Coming Soon"

REVELATION



AUTHOR

The author of the book refers to himself as “John” (*see* 1:1, 2, 4, 9; 22:8). At the end of the first century, only the apostle John was still alive among the Lord’s 12 apostles. Only the apostle John was mentioned in the churches. Everyone knows the apostle John and so there is no need to introduce him anymore.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

It is very likely that the apostle John wrote this as he saw the vision (*see* 10:4). After he was released from the Patmos Island and returned to Asia (*see* 1:9), the book was compiled. It is presumed that the book was written in 95-99 A.D. on the island of Patmos and in Ephesus.



RECIPIENTS OF THIS BOOK

This book was written to all His (the Lord’s) servants (*see* 1:1) and the angels of the seven churches (*see* 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14), but it was also for the Church as a whole (*see* 1:4), so that all the saints can read, hear, and obey (*see* 1: 3).



REASON FOR WRITING THIS BOOK

This book is the culmination of the entire Bible. Without this book, the Bible would have a beginning but no ending; there would be no answers to the difficult questions found in the other books. This book is a book of hope. Without this book, the promises and hopes contained in the other books would have no fulfillment. This book announces the end of Satan and his followers. Without this book, many believers would be unable to understand the power and plan of God.

REVELATION



MAIN THEME

This book brings believers to heaven and the spiritual realm. First, it helps them see the greatness of the Lord in many ways as well as his relationship with us. It also helps them know themselves through the church's history, as well as through real life situations. Then, it makes known the mysteries of heaven – from it we learn that everything on earth happens according to God's eternal plans; the world is gradually moving towards its final end. If believers do not wake up, they will be left behind on earth and face various distresses; but if they will be faithful unto death, they will reign with the Lord for a thousand years.



KEY VERSES

Revelation 1:19

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later."

Revelation 22:20

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."



CONTENT OUTLINE *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

- | | |
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| 1. Introduction | 1:1 - 8 |
| 2. What You See – Vision of the Glorious Christ | 1:9 - 20 |
| 3. The Present Things – The Seven Churches | 2:1 - 3:22 |
| 4. Things That Will Come in the Future | 4:1 - 22:17 |
| – The Last Days and Eternity | |
| A. The Scene in Heaven | 4:1 - 5:14 |
| B. Opening of the Seven Seals | 6:1 - 8:5 |
| C. Sounding of the Seven Trumpets | 8:6 - 11:19 |
| D. Pouring of the Seven Bowls | 15:1 - 16:21 |
| E. The Millenium and the Two Women, Two Cities,
Two Feasts Before and After the Millenium | 17:1 - 22:5 |
| 5. Conclusion | 22:6 - 21 |