

Great Commission



Baptist Church

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher



Encouragement to Stand in the Faith Adult Sunday School Curriculum

June/July 2016



Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Lesson I

Date: June 5, 2016

Lesson Scriptures: 1 Peter 5: 1 - 4

Lesson

The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

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A. The Witness

(1 Peter 5 vs. 1)

B. The Word

(1 Peter 5 vs. 2)

C. The Walk

(1 Peter 5 vs. 3)

D. The Welcome

(1 Peter 5 vs. 4)

Lesson II

Date: June 12, 2016

Lesson Scriptures: 1 Peter 5: 5- 9

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(1 Peter 5 vs. 5 - 6)

B. Be Calm

(1 Peter 5 vs. 7)

C. Be Cautious

(1 Peter 5 vs. 8 - 9)



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Lesson III

Date: June 19, 2016

Lesson Scriptures: 1 Peter 5: 10 - 14

Lesson

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No Sunday School
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(Those who serve in all the ministries)



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Lesson I

Date: June 5, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

1Peter 5:1-4

Lesson Outline

A. The Witness
(1Peter 5 vs. 1)

B. The Word
(1Peter 5 vs. 2)

C. The Walk
(1Peter 5 vs. 3)

D. The Welcome
(1Peter 5 vs. 4)

Great Commission Baptist Church
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The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

The purpose of the local church is to function as the body of Christ to advance God's kingdom in the world by displaying God's glory, God's wisdom and the authority and power of Christ. All New Testament churches had elders. We have scriptural principles and practical considerations to train, choose, and establish a framework for the ministry of elders so they can encourage and lead individuals and the church as whole to live out their faith in the community.¹

God has ordained the existence of officers in the church, some of whom are charged under Christ with the leadership of the church. The leaders of the church should be people who are spiritually mature and exemplary, gifted for the ministry given to them, have a sense of divine urging, and are in harmony with the duly established leadership of the church.²

The leadership structure of the Lord's church is spelled out in the pages of the New Testament. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), which He purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). In particular localities where congregations of the Lord's church meet, the inspired text explains that men who are called shepherds (or pastors), elders, or bishops are to direct the activities of each individual congregation (Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-4). These terms are used interchangeably to describe the same position of leadership in the local church. The multiple terms are used in order to provide a complete picture of what these leaders are to do and be.³

1. What do you know about Church leadership?

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson I
Date: June 5, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 1 Peter 5:1 - 4

Lesson Aim: To understand that the Under Shepherd (pastor, minister etc) is placed in the church and given the responsibility to lead, guide, nurture and protect the people of God.⁴

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⁴Earline Franklin

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

1 Peter 5:1 (KJV)

¹ The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1 Peter 5:1 (NIV)

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

A. The Witness

(Verse 1) Peter wrote this letter just before Emperor Nero began cruelly persecuting Christians in Rome and throughout the empire. About thirty years earlier, Peter, fearing for his life, had three times denied even knowing Jesus (John 18:15-27). Since then, having learned how to stand firm in an evil world, Peter encouraged other Christians, who were facing pressure to deny their faith. Peter believed and lived what he wrote in this letter—later, he was executed by the Romans, for believing in and preaching Christ. In this last chapter he begins to remind the believers to stand firm in the faith.¹

In this verse he begins to list responsibilities for the under shepherd. He says, “the elders which are among you”. The word elders can mean as an adjective, older, aged, or a senior. In this verse, the word elder is used as a noun and in the masculine form, which means it is talking about the office or position of one who is the leader of the affairs and management of the church and had the responsibility to feed the sheep. Two other words are synonyms to this word elder, which are bishop and pastor-teacher. Each of these words is not listed in a hierarchy, but they are equal and used interchangeably in scripture to describe the office and position in the church (Acts 14:23).²

Peter then says, “who am also an elder”. Here Peter, who was one of the twelve disciples and also one of the three who shared in the inner circle of Christ, does not put himself above them, but addresses that he is also a co-laborer with them. He does not identify and say that he was an apostle, he shares with them, even though he is an apostle, they share the same office of being an elder.³



Lesson I

Date: June 5, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

I Peter 5: 1 - 4

Filthy: The rendering of several Heb. and Gk. words meaning “foul matter” or “anything that soils or defiles.” In 2 Chron. 29:5 and Ezra 6:21 the filth or “uncleanness” and “impurity” from which the Jews were to cleanse the Temple and themselves was the abomination of idolatry. Filth is used as the equivalent of *moral impurity* (Ezekiel 36:25; James 1:21). In 1 Cor. 4:13 it is used to denote *out-sweepings*, that which is worthless, i.e., “the scum of the world.”⁴

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⁴ New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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1 Peter 5:1-2 (KJV)

¹The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

1 Peter 5:1-2 (NIV)

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:
² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

A. The Witness.

(Verse 1) Peter then says, “and a witness of the sufferings of Christ”. The word "witness" is not a command. Rather, it is a natural result of the Holy Spirit within a person. So is power. The Lord says very simply that a Spirit-filled person has power and becomes a witness for Him throughout the world. This is important, for it makes power and witnessing trademarks of Christian believers. A genuine believer possesses both the Spirit and power in his life and becomes by nature a witness for the Lord. Peter also was an eyewitness to the hardship and pain that Christ suffered, even though he did not follow him as he carried the cross. He was with Christ in the garden; he was with him when he was apprehended, and he was with him in the high priest's hall. He saw the emotional suffering of Christ, being accused of a crime that he had not committed (John 15:26-27).¹

Peter then says, “a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:” a witness who stood forgiven, who stood restored, who basked in the warmth of God's grace. This is why he described himself as one who also will share in the glory to be revealed, the future glory that will come to all believers when Christ returns. Peter was a spiritual leader, a pastor, who had sinned, repented, and been restored (Luke 22:60-61).²

B. The Word

(Verse 2) This verse says, “Feed the flock of God which is among you”. Peter's command that the elders care for the flock of God echoed Jesus' words to Peter himself, “Take care of my sheep” (John 21:16).³



Lesson I
Date: June 5, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 1- 4

Shepherd: The duties of a shepherd in an unenclosed country like Palestine were very onerous. "In early morning he led forth the flock from the fold, marching at its head to the spot where they were to be pastured. Here he watched them all day, taking care that none of the sheep strayed, and if any for a time eluded his watch and wandered away from the rest, seeking diligently till he found and brought it back. In those lands sheep require to be supplied regularly with water, and the shepherd for this purpose has to guide them either to some running stream or to wells dug in the wilderness and furnished with troughs."³

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³ Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

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1 Peter 5:2-3 (KJV)

² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV)

² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

B. The Word

(Verse 2) The same Greek word is used in both places, meaning "to shepherd," "to tend," or "to take care of," "to pastor." The "flock" is the believers; elders had charge over individual churches and thus over a certain part of God's "flock". Elders were to be like shepherds who lead, guide, and protect the sheep under their care. Believers would need good leaders as they faced persecution. This passage describes three possible problems that elders might face and how they should respond: The this verse says, "Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly". Pastors should not respond to this position with the wrong motivation. Pastors should serve out of love for God. Peter called upon them to make God's will their own, eagerly seeking to please God in it. Pastors and elders should serve willingly in churches today. Too often a slate of elders becomes hard to fill because of unwillingness by people in the congregation to serve (Psalm 78:71-72).¹

They should not respond with the wrong message. This verse ends with, "not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind". The opportunity to abuse the trust was very real. Thus, both Peter and Paul explained that elders were to be paid adequately and were to be trustworthy with money (1 Tim. 5:17-18). Instead of money, elders were to focus on serving. The word for "eager" is very strong in the Greek, expressing great zeal and enthusiasm.²



Lesson I
Date: June 5, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 1 - 4

Questions:

1. How does your under shepherd lead and guide you?
2. What is most encouraging or growth provoking for you in his shepherding?

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1 Peter 5:3-4 (KJV)

³Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:3-4 (NIV)

³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The Responsibilities of the Under Shepherd

C. The Walk

(Verse 3) This verse says, “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage”. Elders lead by example, not force. “Lording it over” means “forcefully domineering or subduing.” Elders also must fight the temptation to abuse their authority and hurt the church under their care. The formula Jesus used was always that those who led were to be the best servants (Mark 10: 42-45). The leaders were to be examples of humility and servanthood. Leaders must not bully or steamroll people. They were to be examples of righteous living.¹

D. The Welcome

(Verse 4) Elders were to be shepherds of God’s flock, but they were answerable to the head Shepherd (also called “the good shepherd” in John 10:11, 14 and “great Shepherd” in Hebrews 13:20). The word comes refers to Christ’s second coming, when he will return to judge all people. This Is why the pastor of the church is called the under shepherd, because there is only one true shepherd and that is Jesus Christ.²

Summary: An under shepherd is placed in the body of Christ (the church) ,to lead, nurture and protect God’s people by being a witness for Christ and by teaching and preaching the Word of God. He is to prove himself as an example for the flock to follow, as he follows Christ. God promises that the reward for faithful and willing shepherding will be the crown of glory when He returns.³



Lesson II

Date: June 12, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

1Peter 5:5-9

Lesson Outline

A. Be Compliant
(1Peter 5 vs. 5-6)

B. Be Calm
(1Peter 5 vs. 7)

C. Be Cautious
(1Peter 5 vs. 8-9)

Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
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The Responsibilities of the Sheep

God's design for the church is a "pasture based" church, as opposed to the "feedlot style" church found in most church building based churches today. The Bible often refers to us as the sheep of God's pasture (ex. Psalm 23, Psalm 79:13, Psalm 100:3). In John 21:15-17 when Jesus commanded Peter to feed His sheep, the Greek word Jesus used that is translated "feed" means "to pasture, to graze". Jesus was commanding Peter to pasture the sheep and let them graze. In the Old Testament usually when it refers to pastors or "shepherds" feeding the people, the word for "feed" is "to pasture". You will shortly see why "pasture feeding" is so important when it comes to spiritual food. ¹

The concept of a shepherd feeding the flock by leading them to fresh green pasture is very different from the way a feedlot owner feeds his livestock. In order for people to feed on green spiritual pasture they have to read the Bible for themselves. There needs to be adequate understanding after feeding on one doctrine or section of Scripture. Misunderstanding in one area causes Christians to go into spiritual error by putting a focus on one doctrine over others. When we feed on one doctrine or passage of Scripture, and then go on to something else, and later come back to that same doctrine or passage of Scripture, we are able to glean even more from that passage (of Scripture). The Bible needs to be read and studied on a repeated basis by the Christian in order for it to become more nutritious for him/her. Each time he/she comes back it is fresh pasture again. When a person stays on one doctrine or passage of Scripture, it becomes boring and repetitive. The people need a shepherd to guide them where to feed. ²

1. Explain from a biblical perspective a sheep's responsibility.

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson II
Date: June 12, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 5-9

Lesson Aim: To understand that God has given responsibilities to the young to submit to their elders and all members of the flock are to clothe themselves with humility toward one another.³

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I Peter 5:5 (KJV)

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

I Peter 5:5 (NIV)

⁵ Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

The Responsibilities of the Sheep

A. Be Compliant

(Verse 5) This word "compliant" means to comply, obeying, and yielding. Peter now turns the attention to those who are younger in the church and he now explains their responsibility. Peter is still talking about submission, being humble specifically to the young men in the church, however, we may apply it to all members as they follow their spiritual leaders (Heb. 13:17). Church leaders were usually older members. The younger members were to place themselves willingly, under the authority of those who had been given the responsibility of leadership. Some church members believe they have a right to sabotage pastoral leadership, to speak critically of pastors, to slander them, to castigate them simply because they don't like them or their leadership. God has not given the members of the flock this responsibility. When they take this upon themselves, they allow Satan to use them as his tool for division and destruction in the church. The message here is clear: when pastor-shepherds lead their congregation with responsible and godly leadership and members of the flock resist this leadership, those members are in disobedience to the Lord and have opened the door for Satan.¹

To be clothed with humility means to be controlled by a humble spirit. God resists the arrogant, self-seeking persons, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). "To clothe" refers to a slave or servant putting on an apron or towel to serve someone else. This image was forever ingrained in Peter's mind. He had firsthand knowledge of this kind of humility. The same night on which Peter denied Christ, Jesus took a towel and washed the feet of the disciples (see John 13). True humility does not involve an attitude of self-depreciation. As Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self." Humility is to be aware of personal strengths and to be thankful to God for them.²



Lesson II
Date: June 12, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 5-9

The Hand as Power:

The hand in the sense of power and authority: (compare Assyrian idu, "strength"); Josh. 8:20 margin, "The hand of the house of Joseph prevailed"; Ps. 76:5, "The hand of *Yahweh* came upon him"; Ex. 14:31, "Israel saw the great hand (the Revised Version (British and American) "work") which *Yahweh* did upon the Egyptians"; Deut. 34:12, "in all the mighty hand which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel."³

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³ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

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I Peter 5:6-7 (KJV)

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

I Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

The Responsibilities of the Sheep

A. Be Compliant

(Verse 6) Because God sets himself against the proud and shows favor to the humble (5:5), Peter admonished the believers to humble themselves. This would be an act of the will; humility does not come naturally. But when the believers humbled themselves under the mighty power of God, they were actually submitting to his care and protection. They must humble themselves even in the face of persecution because God would honor them. Being “honored” refers to a reversal of past misfortunes and troubles, triumph over their oppressors, and participation in Christ’s glory. The honoring may be in this life or in the next. In any case it will be in his good time; that is, in God’s perfect time. Most likely, Peter was thinking of that last day, when the head Shepherd would appear (5:4) and all those who have faithfully followed would be exalted and given eternal glory.¹

B. Be Calm

(Verse 7) The word (casting) is an [apt-Aorist Participle] in the grammatical notation, it expresses simple action as opposed continuous action. Cast all, (past, present and future) cares to the Lord Casting all your care upon him. The word “cares” translated means “anxiety, the state of being pulled apart.” When circumstance are difficult, it is easy for us to be anxious and worried; but if we are, we will miss God’s blessing and become poor witnesses to the lost. Barnes' Notes on the New Testament. [Comp. Psalms 55:22, from whence this passage was probably taken. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved," Compare, for a similar sentiment, Matthew 6:25-30. The meaning is, that we are to commit our whole cause to him. If we suffer heavy trials; if we lose our friends, health, or property; if we have arduous and responsible duties to perform; if we feel that we have no strength, and are in danger of being crushed (nxt pg)²



Lesson II
Date: June 12, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 5-9

Sober: When believers feel alone, weak, helpless, and cut off from other believers, they can become so focused on their troubles that they forget to watch for danger. In those times, believers are especially vulnerable to Satan’s attacks, which come in various forms, often at a person’s weakest spot—temptation, fear, loneliness, worry, depression, persecution. Therefore, Peter and Paul urged the believers to always be alert for Satan’s tricks.⁴

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⁴ Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary

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I Peter 5:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

I Peter 5:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

The Responsibilities of the Sheep

B. Be Calm

(*Verse 7*) by what is laid upon us, we may go and cast all upon the Lord; that is, we may look to him for grace and strength, and feel assured that he will enable us to sustain all that is laid upon us.] (Psalm 142: 24-25)¹

C. Be Cautious

(*Verse 8*) Who would know better than Peter the prowlings of Satan! Several times Jesus warned Peter that Satan was after him but he fails to heed the warning. Satan is called a “adversary,” which means “one who accuses you at court. The Devil has other names—Satan, Accuser, Beelzebub—but he is the source of all evil in the world. He hates God and is God’s archenemy; thus he also hates God’s people and is their enemy as well. While Satan has no power against God, he does what he can to harm God’s people. Peter described him as prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Lions attack sick, young, or stragglers; they choose victims who are alone or not alert. Lions prowl quietly, watching and waiting, suddenly pouncing when their victims least suspect it.²

Peter warned believers to be alert for Satan, especially in times of suffering and persecution, for he walks up and down the earth (Job 1:7) seeking whom he or his demons can attack and defeat. When believers feel alone, weak, helpless, and cut off from other believers, they can become so focused on their troubles that they forget to watch for danger. In those times, believers are especially vulnerable to Satan’s attacks, which come in various forms.³



Lesson II
Date: June 10, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 I Peter 5: 5 - 9

Questions:

1. How do the young demonstrate that they are subject to the elders in our church?

2. How is humility demonstrated toward one another in our church?

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²Earline Franklin

Questions by Earline Franklin

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1 Peter 5:9 (KJV)

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

The Responsibilities of the Sheep

C. Be Cautious

(Verse 9) Lions attack sick, young, or straggling animals; they choose victims who are alone or not alert. Peter warns us to watch out for Satan when we are suffering or being persecuted. Feeling alone, weak, helpless, and cut off from other believers, so focused on our troubles that we forget to watch for danger, we are especially vulnerable to Satan's attacks. During times of suffering, seek other Christians for support. Keep your eyes on Christ, and resist the Devil. Then, says James, "he will flee from you".¹

Summary: The young are to be subject to their elders and all within the flock are have humility toward one another. All are to mature in Christ. They are to humble themselves in submission under the mighty hand of God no matter what good or evil may exist at any given time. In times of suffering, they are to trust God and cast their burdens or anxieties upon Him. They are to be assured that God cares for them and in due time will exalt them. Above all believers are to be alert of Satan's tactics and resist him. The sheep's responsibility is to stay focused on God's Word and His plan for their lives.²



Lesson III

Date: June 19, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

1Peter 5:10-14

Lesson Outline

A. The Completion
(1Peter 5 vs. 10-11)

B. The Commitment
(1Peter 5 vs. 12)

C. The Church
(1Peter 5 vs. 13)

D. Display Charity
(1Peter 5 vs. 14)

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The Benediction

Some have thought the benediction was the last hymn the congregation sang before returning to the world; they didn't know it was God's blessing on his people. When the Pastor close the service, He is not just sending us out to face the world on our own; He is asking God to continue to pouring out His blessing and Spirit on us so that we would be better prepared to face the world."

Benedictions have become one of many Pastor's pastoral privileges. Many declare they can't imagine ending a worship service with, "See you next week," or "You're dismissed," when I can offer a congregation God's blessing instead.

There are many kinds of benedictions. Some pastors write a unique blessing for each Sunday, drawing from the texts of the morning. Scripture itself provides the church with many blessings, including Paul's familiar, "Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ." But one blessing is the source and summary of all others.

In Numbers 6:23–26, God instructed Moses that Aaron and his sons were to bless the Israelites in this way: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

This blessing has come to be called a benediction—from the Latin for "to speak well of." The benediction is a good word. The best of words, actually. Unfortunately, it comes off sometimes as a kind of churchy, Hallmark sentiment ¹

1. Explain what you understand about the benediction.

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson III
Date: June 19, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 1 Peter 5: 10 - 14

Lesson Aim: Students will be determined to keep standing firm in their faith with patience, endurance, and courage, in the mist of this evil world.³

¹⁻²Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³Emma Stevens

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All editing by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.

Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

1 Peter 5:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. ¹¹ To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

A. The Completion

(Verse 10) As we look at this word completion, it means the final stage or the state of being finished. As Peter completes this first letter, he completes it in the form of a benediction. This favor is a benediction or blessing, which Peter gives his readers as he closes the letter. The benediction is most instructive spiritually. That is why at the end of a worship service, it is always important to stay for the benediction, not only is the benediction a blessing, but the benediction can also give further instruction on the next step that you should take. The beginning of this verse says, "The God of all grace". This word "God" in this verse is "Theos" and is where we get our English word theological, which is the study of God. This word means the supreme magistrate. Our day is concerned about rights and merits. It is the wrong concern in regards to God. Any blessing we get from God is all of grace. That is why we should not take it for granted that we get up every morning, because the supreme magistrate does not have to allow us to rise and see a new day. That is why every day we are able to open our eyes, is a blessing from God; we are only still here by His Grace as we receive His New Mercy, every morning. So we should not be so consumed with what is right, because if we got what we deserved, all of us would have been wiped out a long time ago (Rom. 15:5).¹

The next phrase we see is, "who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus". Here are some details about the Gospel. The calling in the Gospel. "Called." "Called" is not just an invitation, it is also a Divine summons, a command (Acts 17:30). Look who has called us it says, "By Christ Jesus". Take Christ out of the Gospel and you have no Gospel. This is why those who practice Judaism is still looking for Jesus to come. They are still talking about the kingdom is at hand and have not realized that Jesus has already came.²



Lesson III
Date: June 19, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 1 Peter 5: 10 - 14

Suffering: Anything causing pain or distress; calamity. From the biblical viewpoint, affliction began with the entrance of sin into the world. Both mankind and all creation were afflicted with "thorns and thistles," sin, death, and decay (Gen. 3:16-19; Rom. 8:18-21). Because of sin, misery is a common human experience, and our short life is full of trouble (Job 14: 1-6).³

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²Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M. All editing and copying by permission only.

³ Tyndale Bible Dictionary.

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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1 Peter 5:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. ¹¹ To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

A. The Completion

(Verse 10) The next phrase we see in this verse is, "his eternal glory by Christ Jesus". It will be a shame for so many to think that Jesus has not come and end up in the lake of fire for eternity. Just believing that Jesus came, died, was buried, and rose on that third day morning can allow them to live eternally with Christ. This is the glory that we as believers live day to day, longing for that day when we will be absent from the body and present with the Lord. Then we see, "after that ye have suffered a while make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you". God will make followers of Christ strong or stable, providing us with courage to go on. He will make us firm and steadfast, so that our foundation in him is secure. "Made strong" (*steridzo*) is a word Jesus used in talking to Peter years before. may be a partial fulfillment of Christ's earlier word to him in Luke 22:31: "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen (*steridzo*) your brothers".¹

(Verse 11) This verse says, "To him be glory... for ever and ever. Amen". Man prefers to honor himself and not God. Our land is not interested in honoring God and have made it illegal to do so in some places. But woe be he who stands in the way of God's glory. Peter praised Christ who has all power for all time (Rom. 11:36; 1 Tim. 6:16). Certainly He has the power to strengthen His own as they undergo persecution". Man prefers to honor himself and not God. Our land is not interested in honoring God and have made it illegal to do so in some places. Woe is the man who stands in the way of God's glory.²



Lesson III
Date: June 19, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 1 Peter 5: 10 - 14

Babylon: Babylon was the Greek name of the city written in the cuneiform script of the Babylonians, bab-ili, which means in Semitic, "the gate of god." The Hebrews called the country, as well as the city, Babel. This name they considered came from the root, *bālal*, "to confound" (Gen. 11:9).³

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³ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

1 Peter 5:12-13 (KJV)

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. ¹³ The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

1 Peter 5:12-13 (NIV)

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. ¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

The Benediction

B. The Commitment

(Verse 12) Many of the letters in our Bible, close with the writer's personal greetings to friends and colleagues in the letter's destination. In this case, Peter's letter would be carried along to various churches, so Peter greeted no one in particular, but rather sent greetings from those with him in Rome. No doubt, the letters of Peter, Paul, James, John, and Jude offered great comfort to the Christians scattered across the world. Believers realized a unity in Christ, a bond of love, and a common future together that could help them survive whatever the world might bring. Silas was Peter's faithful and trustworthy associate. This is the same Silas, no doubt, who traveled with the apostle Paul during some of his missionary work (Acts 15:40). Peter trusted Silas enough to have him deliver this letter to his readers. The basic thrust of the letter is summarized: a testimony or witness designed to encourage and exhort the readers to grasp the true grace of God and to recognize that God's grace includes room for suffering and persecution, while at the same time offering strength to endure.¹

C. The Church

(Verse 13) Peter was writing to churches and said she is chosen together with you, probably "she" refers to the church (which is a feminine noun *ekklēsia*). If so, Peter was sending greetings from the church in "Babylon" to the churches in Asia Minor. Mark, also called John Mark, was known to many of this letter's readers because he had traveled widely (Acts 12:25) and was recognized as (nxt pg)²



Lesson III
Date: June 19, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 1 Peter 5: 10 - 14

Questions:

1. What Christian conduct has suffering produced in your life?

2. True or False Trials come to refine our faith?

¹⁻²Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³Emma Stevens

³Questions by Emma Stevens.

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

1 Peter 5:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.
¹⁴ Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1 Peter 5:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The Benediction

C. The Church

(Verse 13) a leader in the church (Col. 4:10). Mark knew Peter well, and Peter looked on him as a son, a close associate in Christ's service. Tradition holds that Peter was Mark's main source of information when Mark wrote his Gospel.¹

D. The Charity

(Verse 14) Peter wanted his readers to express their Christian love to one another, for they would need each other for strength in the days ahead Peter's final words, peace be to all, underscore what was most needed by the Christians: peace in the middle of turmoil. They could not count on worldly peace, for it was not to be. Instead, they would find peace within, by resting in God's grace. Only those who are in Christ can have such peace.²

Summary: Christians still suffer for what they believe. We should expect persecution, but we do not have to be terrified by it. At the end of the day, when it's all said and done, the fact that we will live eternally with Christ should give us the confidence, patience, and hope to stand firm even when we are persecuted. In 2016, as we endure suffering, we must remember that Christ is both our hope in the midst of suffering and our example of how to endure suffering faithfully. When you are questioned or ridiculed because of your faith, remember that while you may be on trial before your accusers, they are on trial before God. Be encouraged in knowing suffering and the second coming of Christ produce service and hope, humility and patient.³



Date: June 26, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

No Sunday School on This Sunday

SERVANTS APPRECIATION SUNDAY !!!



Lesson IV

Date: July 3, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 1:1-4

Lesson Outline

A. God's Personality

(2Peter 1 vs. 1)

B. God's Poise

(2Peter 1 vs. 2)

C. God's Power

(2Peter 1 vs. 3)

D. God's Promises

(2Peter 1 vs. 4)

Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

The Great Gift of God

The gift of salvation is available to all. The word "whosoever" applies to everyone and is not qualified as only referring to a group of people who alone have been selected to receive salvation. Those who receive salvation do so as a result of first believing on Jesus. It is a choice that each individual must make for himself. God does not make the choice for him. That the world through him might be saved. Salvation is available to everyone by God's choice and decision. God's will is that everyone believes on Jesus will have everlasting life.

The Pharisees saw Jesus but did not believe. They did not receive eternal life because they did not believe on Jesus. It was the one step that they had to choose to do. The free gift of salvation is available to all people, to everyone. Some have tried to explain that "all men" does not mean "all men" but "all Christians". But the context does not allow that interpretation. "All men", not just the Christians, received the sinful nature from Adam and have sinned and will receive God's judgment. The same, "All men" have the free gift of salvation available to them. Jesus died for everyone in the world, both Christians and those who rejected Him, not just Christians as the followers of Calvin believe.

We are saved by faith in Jesus, not by any good works on our part. We cannot do enough good deeds, service, disciplines, or pay money to cancel out our sins.

1

1. Explain what it takes to be saved and have eternal life.

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson IV
Date: July 3, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 1 - 4

Lesson Aim: Students will grip the fact that the power to lead a godly life comes *only* from God. We do not have the resources to be truly godly on our own.⁴

¹⁻³Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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⁴Emma Stevens

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

The Great Gift of God

A. God's Personality

(Verse 1) Unlike his opening in 1 Peter, where he identifies himself simply as Peter, here Peter chose to introduce himself with his full name, Simon Peter. In doing so, he suggested the transformation that had occurred in his own life. Simon was his old name before he became a follower of Christ. Peter was his new name, a name given to him by Christ (Matt. 16:18) and identifying the transformation in Simon's life. "Peter" means "man of rock." That is the kind of character God ultimately built into Simon's life as he followed Christ. He became rock-like— courageous, steady, persistent, and bold for Christ. The word "personality" means, someone's character, quality or behavior. This verse says, "that have obtained like precious faith with us". Peter wasted no time in reassuring them of the validity of their faith, introducing at the end of verse 1 the wonderful expression, a faith as precious as ours.¹

"Faith" means the trust or belief that brings a person to embrace Jesus Christ as personal Savior from sin. We place our faith and trust in Christ for eternal salvation. "Precious" means that their faith is equal in honor, privilege, and standing. "Precious" was used to describe foreigners in a country who asked for and then received equal citizenship in that country. Christians have been given equal rights of citizenship in the kingdom of God; our faith is on the same footing as the faith of the apostles, like Peter. Our faith is as precious in the eyes of God as the faith of the apostles.²

The reason for this is because our faith is through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. "Righteousness" frequently refers to the righteous act of God in Christ which brings salvation to us through the cross and identifies us as righteous in his sight because of Christ's death. Peter in this verse and (nxt pg)³



Lesson IV
Date: July 3, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 1 - 4

Gift: Simply a thing given (Mat 7:11; Luke 11:13; Eph 4:8); sacrificial (Mat 5:23, 24; Mat 8:4); eleemosynary (Luke 21:1); a gratuity (John 4:10; Acts 8:20). In Acts 2:38 the generic word *dorea* is rendered "gift." It differs from the charisma (1Co 12:4) as denoting not miraculous powers but the working of a new spirit in men, and that spirit from God.⁴

¹⁻³Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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⁴ Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

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Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:2-3 (KJV)

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

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

2 Peter 1:2-3 (NIV)

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

The Great Gift of God

A. God's Personality

(*Verse 1*) elsewhere used "righteousness" as an ethical term, referring to the fairness or justice of God. The righteousness or fairness of God refuses to make distinctions among those who receive his grace. God does not play favorites with his grace. Everyone is given the same opportunity of grace through Christ.¹

B. God's Poise

(*Verse 2*) This word "poise", mean a graceful controlled way of performing action. The apostle's lofty prayer for his readers is that grace and peace might be multiplied to them in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. He wants them to have this knowledge by the sustaining, empowering grace of God in their everyday lives. He wants their hearts to be guarded by the peace of God that passes all understanding. But this is not to be given in small doses! He desires these blessings to be multiplied in volume, not added in small segments. The persecuted and suffering believers may have been feeling very little favor and an absence of peace. But Peter reassured them that both favor and peace could be theirs (Num. 6: 24-26).²

Peter was concerned that the believers' faith remain sound and steadfast. Only by getting to know Jesus better and better could they remain faithful in the face of false teaching (a theme in this letter). But knowledge must not remain static; that is, believers must not have knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Their knowledge must lead to changed behavior (or "godliness"), as is explained in the next verse (1 John 5:20-21).³



Lesson IV
Date: July 3, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 1 - 4

Lust: Sinful longing; the inward sin which leads to the falling away from God (Rom 1:21). "Lust, the origin of sin, has its place in the heart, not of necessity, but because it is the centre of all moral forces and impulses and of spiritual activity." In Mark 4:19 "lusts" are objects of desire.³

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³ Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:3-4 (KJV)

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The Great Gift of God

C. God's Power

(Verse 3) The same one who calls us, that is, who invites us by grace to be a part of his kingdom, also enables us to change or to grow spiritually. Life and godliness together are best understood as referring to a godly life. This is the destination toward which the transformation will take a follower of Christ. A godly life includes two primary ideas. First, it describes an attitude of reverence in the presence of one who is majestic and divine. Secondly, a godly life describes actions of obedience. At the heart of godly living and spiritual transformation is an attitude of reverence toward God and actions of obedience. The source of strength that enables the believer to move in this direction is His divine power. These words describe the work of God's Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. He provides the believer with gifts and the ability to use those gifts. God's design is that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the believer is assisted in living a godly life (1 Cor. 1:9).¹

This process is assisted through our knowledge of him who called us. As in verse 2, this refers to the believer's personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and to a growing relationship with him. The more we come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way, the more we begin to understand who he really is and what he has done for us. The phrase, he has called us to receive his own glory and goodness, explains what attracts people to Jesus in the first place. Jesus' glory (the impact of who he is, his splendor) and his goodness (also translated "moral excellence") draw sinful, seeking people to him.²



Lesson IV
Date: July 3, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 1 - 4

Questions:

1. How would you explain the nonnegotiable facts of your faith in God?

2. True or False If our faith is real, it will be evident in our godly behavior.

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²Emma Stevens

Questions by Emma Stevens

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:4 (KJV)

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

2 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The Great Gift of God

D. God's Promises

(Verse 4) His very great and precious promises refers to the promises Jesus gave during his earthly life, particularly the promises he made regarding the enabling and purifying ministry of God's Holy Spirit in the life of the believer (John 14:15-17). In John's Gospel Jesus promises the believer the continual presence of the Holy Spirit to assist in obedience. In fact, the common designation of the Holy Spirit as the "Counselor" affirms that understanding since the term "Counselor" (paraclete) means "the one called alongside to help."¹

Summary: Many believers want an abundance of God's special favor and peace, but they are unwilling to put forth the effort to get to know Him better through Bible study and prayer. To fully enjoy the privileges and all the gifts God offers us freely, we must come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, more and more. To keep growing we need to know God, keep on following him, and remember what he taught us. We must remain diligent in faithful obedience and Christian growth.²



Lesson V

Date: July 10, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 1:5-11

Lesson Outline

A. The Christian's
Computation

(2Peter 1 vs. 5-7)

B. The Christian's Character

(2Peter 1 vs. 8)

C. The Christian's
Commitment

(2Peter 1 vs. 9-11)

Great Commission Baptist Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Ingredient's for a Successful Life

The Great Commission has two parts: evangelism and discipleship. It is important that we witness to people and help them accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. After they accept Christ, it is equally important that we teach them to do everything that Jesus has commanded us in the Bible to do. We need to teach them to remain faithful, and live in obedience to Christ the rest of their lives so that they are ready to meet Christ when He comes to take them home. What is success? Most people define success in terms of achieving goals, acquiring wealth, and having prestige, favor, status, and power. "Successful" people enjoy the "good life" - being financially secure, emotionally secure, being surrounded by admirers, and enjoying the fruits of their labor. Their example is emulated and their accomplishments are noticed. Most people's definitions of success only deal with the "here and now" of this life. Even in many churches today the definition of success is in terms of numbers, size, dollars and prestige.

But success is measured and defined differently by God. God's measure of success involves our obedience and faithfulness to Him, regardless of opposition and personal cost. His measure of success is whether or not we are being loyal to Him in our personal relationship with Him and in our life, and whether we are accomplishing His goals & purposes for our life. Some examples in the Bible: Jeremiah was an absolute failure when judged by people's definition of success. For 40 years he served as God's spokesman, but when he spoke no one listened and responded. He was rejected by his neighbors, his family, the priests and prophets, friends, his audiences, and the kings. He was poor and underwent severe deprivation to deliver God's messages. He was thrown into prison and into a cistern. But in God's eyes he was a success. He faithfully and courageously proclaimed God's word and His messages, and he was obedient to his calling. ¹

1. Do you consider your life successful, please explain.

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson V
Date: July 10, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1:5-11

Lesson Aim: To understand that the basis of a successful Christian life is faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to the Word of God. ³

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:5-7 (KJV)

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

Ingredient's for a Successful Life

A. The Christian's Computation

(Verse 5) There is something beyond salvation, it is not enough for a man to be born into God's family; he must also grow up in spiritual things. Peter then lists the spiritual characteristics that ought to be seen in the believer's life. Since God has made all the necessary provisions for our spiritual maturity, we are to try our best to incorporate godly qualities into our lives. Our election by God for salvation is a sure thing, but we can experience it to the full in this life only as we consistently practice godliness. This Greek phrase, "also for this very thing, means, and beside this. For the actual participation in the divine nature and escape from the world's corruption, we need to give all diligence to add [or, supply] to your faith several aspects of the divine nature. All Christians begin with a deposit of the equally-precious faith (1:1). But each Christian is responsible to draw upon the divine power and divine nature to add the characteristics of the divine nature to his or her actual living. virtue—means "moral excellence," an attribute not innate to any human—it is a divine attribute available for the believer's appropriation. knowledge—Greek, "personal and experiential knowledge" of God and his Son, Jesus Christ (1:1; cf. John 17:3). temperance—self-control. patience—or, endurance. godliness—or, piety.¹

(Verse 6) Knowing God leads to self-control, a word used only here and in Acts 24:25 and Galatians 5:23 (as one of the fruits of the Spirit). Self-control refers to mastery over sinful human desires in every aspect of life. This was another highly prized virtue for the Greeks. Their focus, of course, was entirely on self-effort, but the problem was that self-effort always fails in the long run (nxt pg)²



Lesson V
Date: July 10, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 5-11

Brotherly Love:

It is the Christian's duty, like God, to maintain his disposition of love and benevolence to those that hate and curse him (Luke 6:27-28). But within the Christian community, love should respond to love, and find its fulfillment, for there all men are, or should be, God's sons actually, "because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts, through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).⁴

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⁴International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

2 Peter 1:7-8 (KJV).

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ingredient's for a Successful Life

A. The Christian's Computation

(*Verse 6*) because it may control the body but does not affect inward desires. We know from Romans 8:13 and Galatians 5:22-23 that Christians have the Holy Spirit's help to gain self-control. The quality of self-control must then lead to patient endurance, the ability to steadfastly endure suffering or evil without giving up one's faith.¹

(*Verse 7*) If godliness includes right attitudes toward others, then godliness should lead to love for other Christians. In non-Christian circles, this word referred to affection between family members. Peter extended its meaning in this letter to include the family of believers. It is an especially intense love (Hebrews 10:24) that considers others as brothers and sisters. Showing love for other believers should translate into genuine love for everyone. While Christians must exhibit love for other believers, their love must also go deeper than mere affection. That affection should grow into the kind of love that always puts others first, seeking their highest good. The Greek word *agape* refers to self-sacrificial love. It is the kind of love God demonstrated in saving us. Such love among believers allows for weaknesses and imperfections, deals with problems, affirms others, and has a strong commitment and loyalty. Such a bond will hold the believers together no matter what persecutions and suffering they may face.²

B. The Christians Character

(*Verse 8*) The eight qualities mentioned above(nxt pg)³



Lesson V
Date: July 10, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 5-11

Purification: The term “purification,” in its legal and technical sense, is applied to the ritual observances whereby an Israelite was formally absolved from the taint of uncleanness, whether evidenced by any overt act or state or whether connected with man’s natural depravity.³

¹⁻²Commentary compiled by Bobby J. Williams Sr., Diploma(SBI)
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³ New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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2 Peter 1:8-9 (KJV)

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

2 Peter 1:9-11 (NIV)

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Ingredient’s for a Successful Life

B. The Christians Character

(*Verse 8*) ought to be part of every believer’s life, but they are not static. Believers don’t merely “have” these qualities; instead, they grow in these qualities by practicing them in the rough-and-tumble of daily life. As these characteristics increase, they help believers become productive and useful in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our faith must go beyond what we believe; it must become a dynamic part of all we do, resulting in good fruit and spiritual maturity (Matt. 13:22).¹

C. The Christian’s Commitment

(*Verse 9*) In contrast to believers who are increasing in the positive qualities Peter mentioned above, believers who fail to develop these virtues, who are not growing in these qualities, are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. Peter had harsh words for believers who refused to grow. The word for shortsighted can mean “to blink” or “to shut the eyes.” Peter may also have meant that these believers were intentionally closing their eyes to Christ’s light, thus causing spiritual blindness. That they have forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin pictures those who deliberately put out of their mind all that Christ had done in erasing the sins they committed before they were saved. A believer who is “forgetful” of this and refuses to grow becomes unfruitful for God. A shortsighted person is one who looks only at earthly and material values—what is close at hand—and does not see the eternal spiritual realities. Concerned only with this present life, such a person becomes blind to the things of God.²



Lesson V
Date: July 10, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 5-11

Questions:

1. How do you guard your personal live in obedience to God?
2. How does the world describe a successful life?
3. How does God describe it? Which description define your life?

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³Earline Franklin

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2 Peter 1 :10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

2 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ingredient's for a Successful Life

C. The Christian's Commitment

(Verse 10) Peter urges his readers to confirm call and election, not memory. It does not seem likely that a person could forget it if his sins had been washed away by the atoning death of Christ, but the whole matter could escape his notice if he were not urged to make sure about it. We cannot be sure of call and election if we have not been purged (v. 9) from our former sin. This does not mean that you will never have a problem or that you will never sin again. The picture is that of a march, and the point here is that the true believer will never fall out of the march to heaven. You will never be left behind, but you can be assured of a glorious welcome into your eternal home.¹

(Verse 11) God will never change his mind about you, nor will he alter the means by which you get to heaven. True believers can be assured that God will never send us away from heaven because we are not good enough (Rev. 22:12).²

Summary: God has given the believer everything that is needed for spiritual growth and a successful life. The redemptive work of Christ endows the believer with the righteousness of Christ. Knowledge of him is made possible by the Holy Spirit teaching ministry (the Word). Believers are urged to guard their personal lives in obedience to the Lord. Christian life demands diligence in pursuing moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and selfless love.³



Lesson VI

Date: July 17, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 1:12-15

Lesson Outline

A. The Immorality
(2Peter 1 vs. 12)

B. The Inspiration
(2Peter 1 vs. 13)

C. The Instructions
(2Peter 1 vs. 14-15)

Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

The Word of God Part I

The reason we believe that there is such a thing as truth is that we believe God exists and has thoughts about everything, and those thoughts are the truth about everything. God understands everything perfectly, and fully, and this understanding is the truth about everything. And when he speaks, that truth is made available to us. And he has spoken — in his written word, the Bible, and, finally, in his incarnate Word, our Lord Jesus, whom we can only know because of his written word. God has created us in his image with minds that can construe meaning, and so understand language and be understood through language. And he created a material and spiritual universe as the theater of his own self-revelation. And in that theater, he reveals himself through nature and history and Scripture. But Scripture is unique, because Scripture is God's own interpretation of the ultimate meaning of nature and history. Nature and history are the voice of God's glory — the display of his manifold perfections. And Scripture is God's infallible and authoritative explanation, in human language, of what it all means in relation to the eternal plan of redemption. Until you are able to value God's Word as it affects the choices available to you, you will not be able to make quality, godly decisions. Some people esteem the Word highly. They feed upon it, treasure it, and keep it in their hearts allowing it to become a part of their lives. They have learned to place such a high value on the Word of God and on the Spirit of God that it means more to them than life itself. But others treat the Word as just another book. It is a shame that they hold God's Word in such low esteem. They might say they believe that the Bible is God's Word, but they do not "esteem" it. It has no value, no depth nor meaning to them. In the same way, many believers hold the gifts of the Holy Spirit in low esteem. Because they do not recognize the value of the gifts, they will not ever gain any benefit from them.¹

1. Please explain God's Word worthy.

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson VI
Date: July 17, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 12 - 15

Lesson Aim: Students will be encouraged to always pay attention to scripture – The Word of God.³

¹⁻²Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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2 Peter 1:12-13 (KJV)

¹² Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and be established in the present truth.
¹³ Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

2 Peter 1:12-13 (NIV)

¹² So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.
¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,

The Word of God Part 1

A. The Immorality

(Verse 12) Through their preaching and teaching, the Apostles and New Testament prophets laid the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20) and we in later generations are building on that foundation. However, the men were not the foundation; Jesus Christ is the Foundation (1 Cor. 3:11). He is also the chief Cornerstone that ties the building together (Eph. 2:20). If the church is to last, it cannot be built on mere men. It must be built on the Son of God. Our Lord had told Peter when he would die and how he would die. "When thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not" (John 21:18). This explains why, shortly after Pentecost, Peter was able to sleep in prison the night before he was scheduled to be killed; he knew that Herod could not take his life (Acts 12:1). Tradition says that Peter was crucified in Rome. Like all of God's faithful servants, Peter was immortal until his work was done.¹

The word "immorality" means, defying moral principles, wickedness, depravity, sin and corruption. This word "negligent", mean to be careless of or to make light of. The sense of responsibility Peter felt throughout his ministry was intensified as he saw death approaching. He was determined not to be negligent. He knew a minister cannot safely assume his hearers will remember what he has taught them and that it is necessary to repeat familiar truths again and again. Peter did not want the believers to forget about the foundation that was established with the word and turn back to immorality.²



Lesson VI
Date: July 17, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 12 - 15

Stir Up: Used transitively and intransitively to indicate inner, concentrated movement; translates a number of Hebrew and Greek verbs, each of which has its different shade of meaning. Thus, e.g. in Psalm 39:2, we have *‘ākhār*, "to be troubled," "excited"; in Song of Solomon 2:7, *‘ūr*, "to awake," "disturb" (by the festal dances and songs).³

¹⁻²Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

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2 Peter 1:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance; ¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

2 Peter 1:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

The Word of God Part 1

A. The Immorality

(*Verse 12*) This word “know”, means to experience. Peter is saying that you will remember the things that you have went through by experience, and when you think about those things, you would repent (Heb. 13:9).¹

B. The Inspiration

(*Verse 13*) The word “inspiration” mean to stimulate, motivate or encourage. The passage says, “ I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle”. Peter is saying in this verse that it is his duty, he is obligated because of his position, to make sure that the believers do not forget the word of God. He says as long as he is in this tabernacle, Peter is saying as long as he lives, as long as his earthly tent is alive, he has an obligation to be concerned to make sure that the believers know the word of God (2 Cor. 5:1,4). Peter has to repeat and repeat these things. Why? Because it is right (dikaion), the only right thing to do. Believers must do these things in order to experience the rich and fruitful life Christ gives. Therefore, he must stress to them and drive them home to the hearts of his dear people. But note: this is not all that Peter has to say about these things. They are so important that Peter is going to see that believers are stirred to do these things even after his death. Peter apparently knew that he was soon to be taken on home to heaven. But these things were so important that he was going to make arrangements with those left behind to teach these things.²



Lesson VI

Date: July 17, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2 Peter 1: 12 - 15

Tabernacle: The tabernacle was the tent of Jehovah, called by the same name as the tents of the people in the midst of which it stood. It was also called the sanctuary and the tabernacle of the congregation. The first ordinance given to Moses, after the proclamation of the outline of the law from Sinai, related to the ordering of the tabernacle, its furniture and its service as the type which was to be followed when the people came to their own home and "found a place" for the abode of God.³

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³ Smith's Bible Dictionary: Comprising Antiquities, Biography, Geography, Natural History, Archaeology and Literature.

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2 Peter 1:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance; ¹⁴ Knowing that shortly I must put off *this* my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

2 Peter 1:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

The Word of God Part 1

B. The Inspiration

(Verse 13) The passage then says, "to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;" This word "stir" means, to wake fully, to arouse. Peter is saying it is his duty to arouse and keep the believers fully awake with the word of God. He believed if he kept reminding them, then they would not forget God's word when they began to go through the trials and tribulations.¹

C. The Instructions

(Verse 14) The Lord had already revealed to Peter the *fact* that he would die and the manner in which he would die (John 21: 18-19). Many years had elapsed since then. The aging apostle knew that in the normal course of events, his death was near. This knowledge gave added impetus to his determination to care for the spiritual welfare of God's people during whatever time remained. He speaks of his death as laying aside his earthly dwelling or putting off his body or tent. Just as a tent is a temporary dwelling for travelers, so the body is the structure in which we dwell during our pilgrimage on earth. In death the tent is taken down. At the Rapture, the body will be raised and changed. In its eternal, glorified form the body is spoken of as a building and a house. At the writing of this letter, Peter knew that his death was at hand. Scholars have discussed whether Peter had received some kind of revelation so that he knew his death was coming, or whether Peter simply thought he would die because of the intense persecution in Rome and his being a prominent Christian figure in the church. In any case, Peter was martyred for the faith in about A.D. 68. According to some traditions, he was crucified (nxt pg)²



Lesson VI
Date: July 17, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1: 12 - 15

Questions:

1. What are some consequences for not mastering the basics of the Word of God?

2. Identify some basics of the Word of God.

¹⁻²Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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³Emma Stevens

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1 Peter 2:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of God Part 1

C. The Instructions

(Verse 14) upside down, at his own request, because he did not feel worthy to die in the same manner as his Master.¹

(Verse 15) Not only did the apostle determine personally to remind the saints of the importance of spiritual progress, he also arranged to leave a reminder behind in permanent written form. Through his writings, the believers would be able to remind themselves at any time. As a result, Peter's Letters have shed light on the path of men and women now for over nineteen centuries, and will continue doing so till the Coming of our Savior.²

Summary: Just as coaches constantly review the basics with their teams and good athletes execute the fundamentals, Christians must not neglect the basics of our faith. The Word of God is our guidance for growing believers. An athlete needs constant practice, and we too need constant reminders of the fundamentals of our faith and of how we came to believe. Do not allow yourself to be bored or impatient with messages on the basics of the Christian life. Instead, take the attitude of an athlete who continues to practice and refine the basics while learning more skills that are advanced. Open up the Word of God daily, pay attention to scripture, and watch how you grow in the knowledge of God.³



Lesson VII

Date: July 17, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 1:16-21

Lesson Outline

A. The Word is Infallible

(2Peter 1 vs. 16-18)

B. The Word is

Incomparable

(2Peter 1 vs. 19a)

C. The Word is Illuminating

(2Peter 1 vs. 19b-19c)

D. The Word is Inspired

(2Peter 1 vs. 20-21)

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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The Word of God Part II

Why is God's Word the most valuable treasure in the entire universe? Because it tells us how we can belong to the God who made the universe and who loves us very much. It tells how to receive God's free gift of everlasting life so we can live with Him in heaven someday. The Bible is also filled with valuable treasures for our life here on earth. God's Word, the Bible, is the only sure guide for living a pure life. The theme of Psalm 119 is God's Word is true and wonderful. The writer of this psalm speaks of the beauty of God's Word and how it helps us stay pure and to grow in faith. If we stay true to God's Word no matter how bad the world becomes we will have real happiness. The Lord's Word is a light unto our paths. We should thank Him for inspiring the writers to write the books contained in our Bibles. Thanking him for keeping it from corruption all through the ages. Teach us to value it and to use it. It is the only guide we can count on to show us the way to have a truly happy life. We are drowning in a sea of ungodliness. Everywhere we look we find temptation to sin. It seems that almost everywhere you go there are people trying to destroy your belief in God and love for the Lord Jesus—friends at school, people on television, and sometimes even those in your own family. God promises "great peace" to those who love the Bible. Many people today are trying to find peace—a quietness and calmness inside, but they're looking in the wrong places. Perhaps you know people who take drugs, drink alcohol, or smoke cigarettes to "calm their nerves." Others may think new toys or clothes will make them feel better inside. God's Word gives you directions for how to live a godly life.¹

1. Can you think of other things people do to find peace?

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson VII
Date: July 24, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1:16-21

Lesson Aim: Students will be encouraged to always pay attention to scripture – The Word of God.⁴

¹⁻³Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.
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2 Peter 1:16 (KJV)

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

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

The Word of God Part 2

A. The Word is Infallible

(Verse 16) Peter will give an extended defense of the written Scriptures in terms of their authority and accuracy. First, he went out of his way to display the glory of the Lord. The order of his presentation suggests that we will never appreciate or value the reminders of Scripture, the Word of the Lord, until we value and worship the Lord of the Word. False teachers labeled the truths that Christians believe as make-believe, fiction, or simply stories. They claimed the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the resurrection, and his coming kingdom were only invented stories. Peter responded that he was speaking and writing about spiritual truths and certainly was not embellishing the facts or inventing a story.¹

In this verse, Peter revisited the transfiguration of Jesus he had witnessed some thirty years earlier: “but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty”. This event was the most supernatural event in the ministry of Christ. It provided a preview or picture of the Second Coming when Christ will return in glory. If Peter is wrong here, then everything is wrong— a myth just as the false teachers claimed. The transfiguration of Jesus Christ declares who he is, speaking of the glory and the majesty of the character of Christ. If his character is flawed, then his word is flawed. "Majesty" refers to the splendor and grandeur of Christ. It points to the very nature of Jesus.²

(Verse 17) Peter wrote what only an eyewitness to this event could have written. At the Transfiguration, Jesus had received honor and glory from God the Father. The Transfiguration was a brief glimpse of Jesus’ true glory. This was God’s divine affirmation of everything Jesus had done and was about to do. The Transfiguration assured the disciples that their commitment was well placed and their eternity was secure. Jesus was truly the Messiah, the (nxt pg)³



Lesson VII
Date: July 24, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1:16-21

Fable: In the NT fable is used for *invention*, *falsehood*, “cleverly devised tales,” or (NIV) “cleverly invented stories” (2 Peter 1:16). “The fictions of the Jewish theosophists and Gnostics, especially concerning the emanations and orders of the eons, i.e., spirits of the air, are called myths”(1 Tim. 1:4; 4:7, “fables,” KJV; 2 Tim. 4:4).³

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2 Peter 1:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

2 Peter 1:17-18 (NIV)

¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

The Word of God Part 2

A. The Word is Infallible

(*Verse 17*) divine Son of God. On earth, Jesus appeared as a man, a poor carpenter from Nazareth turned itinerant preacher. But at the Transfiguration, Jesus' true identity was revealed with the glorious radiance that he had before coming to earth (John 17:5; Phil 2:6) and that he will have when he returns in glory to establish his Kingdom (Rev. 1: 14-15). During the Transfiguration, a cloud appeared and enveloped the group on the mountain (Jesus, Elijah, Moses, Peter, James, and John). God's glorious, majestic voice called down from heaven and singled out Jesus from Moses and Elijah as the long-awaited Messiah who possessed divine authority. As he had done at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11), God gave verbal approval of his Son. The voice spoke to the three disciples, saying, "This is my beloved Son; I am fully pleased with him".¹

(*Verse 18*) The disciples also were witnesses by hearing as "we heard" verifies. Peter is speaking here primarily of the transfiguration experience, but he could also say he and his fellow disciples were "eyewitnesses" (as well as earwitnesses) of the Person and work of Christ, for they saw personally the performance of Christ, the crucifixion of Christ, and the resurrected Christ. They were good witnesses. This was not fiction, fable, or myth. It was pure fact supported by the best of witnesses. "When we were with him in the holy mount". Peter speaks of the transfiguration experience which showed them Who Christ was. This experience left an indelible mark on Peter. Where he, learned about the Person of Jesus Christ.²



Lesson VII
Date: July 24, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1:16-21

Prophecy: Scripture plainly presents prediction as a manifestation of God's power glorifying His Person, exalting His redemptive work in Christ, and setting forth the divine character of His revealed Word. The words of fulfilled prophecies with regard to the first advent of Christ speak of the wisdom and power of God in interposing for man's need.⁴

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⁴New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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2 Peter 1:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2 Peter 1:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

The Word of God Part 2

B. The Word is Incomparable

(Verse 19a) This verse says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy". This refers specifically to Old Testament prophecies but in principle to the entire Bible. The best proof and support of the Gospel is the Scriptures. It is the best witness of the Gospel and the best testimony of the Gospel. The so-called dreams and visions claimed by people today are most inferior to anything Scripture says. If you have the Scripture you have the best revelation of the Gospel (Psalm 19: 7-9).¹

C. The Word is Illuminating

(Verse 19b-c) Then it says, "As unto a light that shineth in a dark place". The Scriptures give light in whatever subject they are speaking. So many books and writings add to the darkness, but the Scriptures turn on the lights. The problem with mankind regarding this feature of the Scriptures is that they do not pay attention to what the Word is saying and so virtually throw a cover over the Scriptures to keep the light from shining (Psalm 119:105).²

D. The Word is Inspired

(Verse 20) Peter wrote here of revelation, the source of all Scripture. One's belief about revelation is foundational for faith. Christians must be able to rest on the infallibility of Scripture, or their faith is of no value. Hence Peter's words, above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves. Perhaps the false teachers were denying Scripture (nxt pg)³



Lesson VII
Date: July 24, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2 Peter 1:16-21

Questions:

1. How often do you open the Word of God for guidance and truth?

2. How does God inspire believers today?

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2 Peter 1:20-21 (KJV)

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God Part 2

D. The Word is Inspired

(*Verse 20*) by denying its divine origin, saying that the words were merely the writers' interpretations, not God's words.¹

(*Verse 21*) Peter reaffirmed the divine origin of Old Testament prophecy, that the Holy Spirit moved the prophets to speak from God. Scripture did not come from the creative work of the prophets' own invention or interpretation. The same God who spoke to the disciples at the Transfiguration had spoken to the prophets, guiding them in their writings. God inspired the writers, so their message is authentic and reliable. God used the talents, education, and cultural background of each writer (they were not taking dictation); and God cooperated with the writers in such a way to ensure that the message he intended was faithfully communicated through the words they wrote.²

Summary: Our lesson today is a strong statement on the inspiration of the Word of God. The Bible is not a collection of fables or human ideas about God. It is God's very words given *through* people to people. Peter emphasized his authority as an eyewitness, as well as the God-inspired authority of Scripture to prepare the way for his harsh words against the false teachers. God inspired the writers, therefore their message is authentic and reliable. God ensured that the message He intended, was faithfully communicated in the very words each writer wrote. Today, we have the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to faithfully communicate to us, and guide us as we seek the truth.³



Lesson VIII

Date: July 31, 2016

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 2:1-5

Lesson Outline

A. Eschatology that Misrepresents
(2Peter 2 vs. 1)

B. Eschatology that Misleads
(2Peter 2 vs. 2-3)

C. Eschatology that Motivates
(2Peter 2 vs. 4-5)

Great Commission Baptist Church
Adult Sunday School Lesson
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

Understanding Eschatology

Eschatology is the branch of Christian theology dealing with the biblical study of end times prophecies and the events of the last days. Some of these events include the Rapture, the Second Coming of Christ, the Tribulation, the Millennial Kingdom and the Future Judgments. The New Testament teaches that Jesus could come at virtually any time (Matthew 24:42-44). It teaches that time is nothing with God, to the extent that even a delay of hundreds of years amounts to nothing (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8). In this sense, Jesus may be thought of as “coming soon.” But the Bible also teaches that no one knows when Jesus will actually come again (Matthew 24:36). To give the impression that one is certain that Jesus will return “soon,” i.e., in the next few months or years, is to make a claim that cannot be sustained by Scripture. Without the affirmation of Christ’s resurrection Christian faith is in vain (cf. 1 Cor 15:14). Since there is indeed an intimate relationship between the fact of Christ’s resurrection and our hope of our own future resurrection (cf. 1 Cor 15:12), the Risen Christ also constitutes the foundation of our hope, which opens itself up to horizons far beyond the limits of this earthly life. For “if our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of men” (1 Cor 15:19). Yet without this hope it would be impossible to lead a Christian life. ¹

1. What would you share say about eschatology, please explain?

¹⁻³Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



Lesson VIII
Date: July 31, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2Peter 2:1-5

Aim: to strengthen believers understanding of what will happen when Christ returns. Therefore, do not accept any teaches that deny the authority given to Christ as truth, moreover, implying He will not return.³

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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2 Peter 2:1 (KJV)

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:1 (NIV)

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

Understanding Eschatology

A. Eschatology that Misrepresents

(Verse 1) The word misrepresents means to describe something in a false way especially in order to deceive someone. Therefore, Peter, alert's his readers he is adding further information to describes an accurate perspective of the eschatological age with the word "But" a coordinating conjunction linking clauses that are on an equal footing. In order to provide certainty about the prophets prophesy and apostles doctrine, that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Peter is cutting off what is an attempt to discredit the Prophets and Apostles wisdom regarding Christ's future coming in glory. He is establishing by proving the false teachers implications concerning what has been currently taught about eschatology is a falsity as well an invention based upon man's assumptions (i.e. Prophets and Apostles).¹

Peter's objective is to take away any uneasiness that could lead to living immoral. His challenge is to help inform his current and future readers. It is to be understood this is not the first attempt, to discredit the wisdom shared about the Second coming of Christ. He uses the word "even" an adverb to point out what he is emphasizing separating something that it is equivalent and in general. He does so by sharing that there were prophecies before which were untrue, erroneous, deceitful, wicked and a lie. This is seen in the words false prophets a compound word in the Greek pseudo-prophētēs. Likewise, those bearing "damnable heresies" will appear among them as false teachers. Overall, the issue is that turning from what is inspired is turning from God. Peter uses the word "heresies" because his intent is to make the readers aware there is an attempt to create a new society within the body. What is important here is that these individuals pretend to teachers of truth. Peter explains how this untruth will appear with the word "privily". This is a future tense verb denoting alongside the doctrines been taught as truth, other false principles will be implemented.²



Lesson VIII
Date: July 31, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2Peter 2:1-5

End Times: Answering the question regarding the time of Christ's Second Coming is rather easy to answer, thanks to material found within the Bible. In Matthew 24:36, after describing the signs that would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus shifted the topic to His Second Coming.³

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³Kyle Butt, M.Div. Apologetic Press Staff

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2 Peter 2:1-2 (KJV)

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Peter 2:1 (NIV)

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

Understanding Eschatology

A. Eschatology that Misrepresents

(Verse 1) These other false principles will be obvious because they will deny all authority given to Christ and all established by Him (i.e. teaching and practices associated with Christ). As a result of this, Peter exposes why this eschatology misrepresent. It leads to eternal damnation we see this in the word "destruction" which, denotes perishing in the sense that there is no denial of judgment.¹

B. Eschatology that Misleads

(Verse 2) The word misleads mean in this context to cause some to be deceived by deluding a truth. Due to the false teachers, Peter makes visible the danger they will cause in this current body of believers. Many will be misled to accept the inappropriate practices. He explains what the practices are with the word "pernicious" and because it is plural. It denotes a behavior completely lacking in moral restraint not just limited to sexual misconduct. Obviously totally opposite and conflicts with the truth demonstrated in the example of Christ. Hence, due to the false teacher's erroneous claims to have an allegiance to the truth, in addition having a behavior clearly hypocritical. It can cause Christianity a great dishonor. This immoral conduct conflicts with true doctrine. True faith is explained with words "the way of truth." It is not only correct truth but also the way of life and how a Christians responds that determines if they are governed by the truth. True doctrine issues in true living. The realization of God should lead to a godly life.²



Lesson VIII
Date: July 31, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2Peter 2:1-5

Reality of Hell: Hell has been depicted as a lake of fire, eternal torment, and everlasting punishment. Because of the heinous nature of hell, many have decided that it is impossible for a loving God to conceive such a place, much less send His wayward creatures there. For this reason, they have rejected the idea of an eternal hell.³

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³Kyle Butt, M.Div. Apologetic Press Staff

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2 Peter 2:3-4 (KJV) ³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. ⁴ For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2 Peter 2:3-4 (NIV) ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. ⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

Understanding Eschatology

B. Eschatology that Misleads

(Verse 3) Peter enhances the discussion regarding the false teachings with “covetousness”. Their intent is to draw many away because of personal greed, which is totally absent of all restraints. Peter points out the false teacher’s philosophical approach by specifying, they used “feigned words”. In the Greek “feigned” is *plastos*, from which we get our English word *plastic*. Plastic words misleading that can be twisted moreover false interpretation, being made up of or fabricated. Liking seriousness and reflecting unethically the deceptive attitude. The implication of Peter is that, this eschatology. It is hinged on man invention. Those who are immature in the faith will be treated as “merchandise”. A Greek word that implies their value to the false teachers is that of a display mixed with beautiful antiques, fabulous fabrics, and decorative accessories in its historic premises, hence not limiting the false teacher’s methodology to mislead. However, the lying teachers “damnation slumbered not”. Peter is stressing that God is never late or asleep in executing justice, though He is patient (Ps.1:5-6).¹

C. Eschatology that Motivates

(Verse 4) Peter with the explanatory conjunction “For” is to motivate by providing a motive not to trust in the false teacher. He proves that these people will be punished. The example given speaks of how angels who once had an opportunity to influence but sinned. They currently reside as any creation that leaves their original state, they enter into a grave. This is to be understood from the term “hell”, a place of temporal confinement, until judgment. The designated place for the false teachers as well, if God does not tarry.²



Lesson VIII
Date: July 31, 2016
Lesson Scriptures:
 2Peter 2:1-5

Responsible: A way of answering your question might be to answer the following: “How were people saved prior to Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection?” People then were saved by responding positively to God’s revelation. In other words, people are held accountable for what they know(Rom.1:19-20).³

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2 Peter 2:5 (KJV) ⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2 Peter 2:5 (NIV) ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

Understanding Eschatology

B. Eschatology that Motivates

(*Verse 5*) Peter continues to motivate his readers by proving any doctrine pitted against God’s intended purpose that historically the followers were judged and will be judged. We see this with the words “spared not the old world” the emphasis is to show the severity of the power that God exhibits and he did not refrain from using it. Peter introduces an opposite thought with the word “but” in order that he could compare Gods conduct, toward Noah, a willing servant of righteousness, paralleled to those who lived unrighteous. We see this with the word “preacher” a noun and it does not have the same connotation as a verb that implies to herald. However, in this context simply means willing servant. Furthermore, in Gen. 6:8 the word “found,” indicates Noah searched for God’s righteousness in order that God would show favor (*i.e. willing servant of righteousness*). Noah understood the matter at hand and was guarded by God, therefore, him and his family did not experience God’s wrath as the ungodly. Peter’s thrust of this letter is to continue motivating the readers by revisiting living righteously and comparing the judgment of unrighteousness (2Peter 1:4).¹

Many theologians have various reasons for indicating Noah preached to the people doing his building of the ark, to dead or spirits confined. Sadly, it is because they rely on outside sources, which are pseudo-sources the very matter Peter addresses. Any student of the Greek language understands the context indicates the content of the words. Although, an English word may be used throughout the bible multiple times there are many factors to consider. For example, whether it comes from a Hebrew or Greek word, also, the grammatical syntax has to be considered as well as keeping with the context of the writer, and lastly the issue a particular book in the bible is addressing.

Countless theologians attempt to use 1Peter 3:19-20 by comparing the English word preached and preacher in this verse. To further the idea that Noah preached but fail to acknowledge to the readers one is a verb and the other is a noun hence, each has a different idea to convey.²



Lesson VIII

Lesson Scriptures:

2Peter 2:1-5

Rejecting the Word of God: is rejecting God Himself. And those who deny His promises of blessing and subtract from His truths will receive His judgment and will have no part in the tree of life or access to the holy city (Rev. 22:14).²

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²John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*, 2 vols. (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1983).

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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Understanding Eschatology

Summary: When humanity chose to sin, we made the decision to be separated from the holy Creator. The prophet clearly stated that, “your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you” (Isaiah 59:2). In biblical parlance, “death” generally denotes a separation of some sort. When the spirit departs the body, the body is dead (James 2:26). Similarly, when a person enters a state of sinfulness, he becomes spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1) for, by that act, he has determined to separate himself from God. Remember, this initiation of estrangement was not forced upon us by our Maker; it is totally our responsibility. Since no one ever has returned from the dead to discuss his/her personal experiences, this issue is not one that can be settled by human speculation; rather, it must be decided by divine revelation. Therefore, Peter warns anyone who denies the one who paid the price for the world to be saved ¹

1. What are some false teachings/doctrines that exist today?
2. How does false doctrine differ from the doctrine of Christ?
3. What are some false teachings that you have personally overcome?

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