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| Acts of the Apostles, part II |
| The New Testament, Grades 5,6 - Segment 5 |
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| **Embry Hills church of Christ** |
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| Embry Hills church of Christ |

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| **Lesson** | **Acts of the Apostles, Part II****Title and Purpose of Lessons** |  |  | **Date** |
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| **1** | **Council in Jerusalem** |  |  | **Sunday,** **April 11** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understand events in the council in Jerusalem |  |  |
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| **2** | **Second Missionary Journey - Philippi** |  |  | **Wednesday, April, 14** |
|  | **Purpose:** Know the cities Paul visited and the events in Philippi |  |  |
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| **3** | **Second Missionary Journey – Thessalonica & Athens** |  |  | **Sunday,****April 18** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understand the events that happened in Thessalonica and Athens |  |  |
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| **4** | **Second Missionary Journey - Corinth** |  |  | **Wednesday, April 21** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understand the events in Corinth |  |  |
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| **5** | **Writing Letters to Thessalonica** |  |  | **Sunday,****April 25** |
|  | **Purpose:** Quick overview of the letters Paul wrote |  |  |
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| **6** | **Paul in Ephesus** |  |  | **Wednesday, April 28** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understand the events in Ephesus |  |  |
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| **7** | **Writing of I Corinthians, part 1** |  |  | **Sunday,****May 2** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understanding a Summary of I Corinthians |  |  |
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| **8** | **Writing of I Corinthians, part 2** |  |  | **Wednesday, May 5** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understanding a Summary of I Corinthians |  |  |
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| **9** | **Paul in Ephesus, part 2** |  |  | **Sunday,** **May 9** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understanding of Paul’s continuing experience in Ephesus |  |  |
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| **10** | **Reactions to I Corinthians** |  |  | **Wednesday, May 12** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understanding the reaction to Paul’s 1st letter to the Corinthians |  |  |
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| **11** | **Review of II Corinthians** |  |  | **Sunday,** **May 16** |
|  | **Purpose:** Understanding a Summary of II Corinthians |  |  |
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| **12** | **Review of Galatians****Purpose:** Understand a summary of Galatians |  |  | **Wednesday,****May 19** |
| **13** | **Review of Romans****Purpose:** Understand a summary of Romans |  |  | **Sunday,** **May 23** |

CHRONOLOGY OF PAUL’S LIFE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Place** | **Date** | **Reference** |
| Saul at School | Tarsus/Jerusalem | 1-20 | Act 22:3, 27, 28 |
| Pentecost | Jerusalem | Sun 30 | Acts 2:1-13 |
| Peter & John Imprisoned | Jerusalem | 30 | Acts 4:1-22 |
| Apostles Imprisoned | Jerusalem | 34 | Acts 5:17-42 |
| Martyrdom of Stephen | Jerusalem | 36 | Acts 6:8-7:60 |
| Conversion of Saul | Damascus | 36 | Acts 22:3-16 |
| Saul in Arabia | Arabia | 36-38 | Gal 1:17, 18 |
| Saul’s Early Ministry | Damascus, Jerusalem, Tarsus, Antioch | 38-43 | Acts 9:19-30,Acts 11:19-30 |
| Paul and Barnabas appointed Missionaries | Antioch | 47 | Acts 13:1-3 |
| 1st Missionary Journey | Cyrus, Asia Minor | 47-49 | Acts 13:4-14:28 |
| The 1st Church Council | Jerusalem | 50 | Acts 15:1-35 |
| 2nd Missionary Journey | Asia Minor | 50 | Acts 15:36-16:4 |
| Paul enters Europe | Philippi | 50,51 | Acts 16:6-15 |
| Paul Imprisoned | Philippi | 51 | Acts 16:16-40 |
| Paul in Thessalonica & Berea | Thessalonica/Berea | 51 | Acts 17:1-15 |
| Paul in Athens & Corinth | Athens/Corinth | 51,52 | Acts 17:16-18:17 |
| I & II Thessalonians Written | Corinth | 52 |  |
| 3rd Missionary Journey Begins | Asia Minor | 53 | Acts 18:23 |
| Paul in Ephesus | Ephesus | 53-56 | Acts 19:1-41 |
| I Corinthians Written | Ephesus | 56 | I Corinthians 1-4; 12-14 |
| II Corinthians Written | Macedonia | 57 | II Corinthians 8:1-9:15 |
| Paul’s 3 months in Greece | Corinth | 57 |  |
| Galatians & Romans Written | Corinth | 57 | Romans 13:1-14Romans 12:1-21 |
| Paul’s Journey to Jerusalem | Miletus | 57 | Acts 20:1-21:17 |
| Paul arrested in Jerusalem | Jerusalem | 57 | Acts 21:1-23:35 |
| Paul before Felix & Festus | Caesarea | 58,59 | Acts 24:1-26:32 |
| Paul’s Journey to Rome | Mediterranean, Malta | 60 | Acts 27:1-28:31 |
| Paul’s 2 yrs as a Prisoner | Rome | 61,62 |  |
| Philippians Written | Rome | 61,62 |  |
| Colossians, Ephesians & Philemon Written | Rome | 62 | Philemon 8-21 |
| Paul visits other Lands?? | Ephesus to Spain ? | 63-66 |  |
| Titus & I Timothy Written |  | 65 ? |  |
| Paul’s 2nd Imprisonment | Rome | 66 |  |
| II Timothy Written | Rome | 66 or 67 | II Timothy 4:1-18 |
| Martyrdom of Paul | Rome | 67 |  |

**Lesson 1: Council in Jerusalem**

**Acts 15:1-35**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do section A, B Read Acts 15:1-21

\_\_ Day 2: Do section C. Read Acts 15:22-35

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. Disagreement in Teaching. Read Acts 15:1-5**

1. What did those who came from Judea teach?

Note: In chapter 10, Peter was guided by God to the realization that the Gentiles had a right to the gospel, just as the Jews did. The teaching in this chapter shows that the Jews had not fully accepted their Gentile brethren.

2. What decision was made in order to help solve this disagreement?

3. What did Paul and Barnabas report to others on their way to Jerusalem and when they reached there? How was this news greeted at Jerusalem?

**B. The Brethren Consider God's Testimony. Read Acts 15:6-21**

1. After this matter had been disputed among those present, the apostles and others presented evidence from God concerning whether or not it was necessary for the Gentiles to keep certain parts of the Law of Moses after obeying the gospel. Note the different appeals that were made by each of the following:

• Peter (vv.7-11):

• Barnabas and Paul (vs.12):

• James (vs.13-18):

2. What did James then suggest should be done concerning the matter?

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**C. A Letter is Written. Read Acts 15:2-35**

1. Who did the apostles and elders decide to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas?

2. Did the brethren in Jerusalem say they had authorized these men to teach their doctrine of the need for Gentiles to keep the law?

3. What four things did they feel were necessary for Gentiles to do?

4. How did the brethren at Antioch receive this letter? Who decided to remain behind when the messengers returned back to Jerusalem?

**Thought Questions**

1. When Peter gave his explanation, he was referring back to the way God had acted in allowing Cornelius and his house to be saved by the gospel.

• Did Peter say God made a distinction between the Jews and Gentiles?

• How did he say God had purified their hearts? As a result, what did he urge his Jewish brethren not to do? What did he mean by this?

2. It is very common in many churches or denominations today to settle disputes by conducting a convention in which representatives can vote and decide on certain matters of policy.

• Is this what these brethren did concerning this disagreement?

• How did they learn what God wanted them to do?

• Using this as an example, how should a church today try to settle a disagreement that arises concerning a matter of doctrine?

**Lesson 2: Second Missionary Journey – Philippi**

**Acts 15:36-16:40**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Acts 15:36-16:15

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section C. Read Acts 16:16-40

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. Paul Begins a Second Journey. Read Acts 15:36-16:5**

1. What did Paul decide to do? What disagreement resulted between Paul and Barnabas? How serious was it? What did they decide to do as a result?

2. List the places, in order, Paul had visited on his first preaching journey.

3. Which resident of Lystra is mentioned? What was true of his parents? What did the brethren think of him? Why did Paul have him circumcised? What difference would this make in the work Paul could do?

4. What resulted from the visit Paul made to these churches?

**B. Paul Visits Philippi. Read Acts 15:36-16:5**

1. Where was Paul forbidden to go? Where did they go instead? What vision did Paul receive?

How did he respond to it?

2. Where did Paul go when he reached Philippi? What day was it? Who did he find there?

3. What resulted when he taught the gospel to Lydia and the other women in her household?

What did Lydia ask Paul and those with him to do?

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**C. Paul and Silas are Put in Prison**

1. What did Paul do to the slave-girl that was following him? Why?

2. What charge did her owners bring against Paul and Silas? Why?

3. What happened to Paul and Silas? What were they doing in the middle of the night when the earthquake struck? What happened to the other prisoners?

4. What was the jailor ready to do? Why did he not do it?

5. What did Paul and Silas tell him to do to be saved? What things were included in the jailer's decision to believe?

6. When Paul and Silas were released the next morning, of what did they inform the authorities?

**Thought Questions**

1. Is it normal for Christians to have disagreements like Paul and Barnabas? What are some reasons why they have disagreements? How should Christians settle their disagreements? Did Paul and Barnabas do the right thing?

2. Lydia and the jailer were both converted, but there circumstances were very different. What was different about their conversions? What was similar? What is the best time to obey the gospel?

**Lesson 3: Second Missionary Journey – Thessalonica, Athens**

**Acts 17:1-34**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Acts 17:1-15

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section C. Read Acts 17:16-31

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions

**A. Paul in Thessalonica. Read Acts 17:1-9**

1. Where did Paul go when he reached Thessalonica?

2. What did he reason with the Jews concerning the Scriptures?

3. What resulted from his teaching? What did the unbelieving Jews do?

4. What charges did they bring against Jason and the other Christians? At what point were

Jason and the others released?

**B. Paul Goes to Berea. Read Acts 17:10-15**

1. Where did Paul go in Berea? Why were these people more fair-minded?

2. Who believed besides the Jews? Why did Paul leave? Who stayed behind?

**C. Paul at Athens. Read Acts 17:16-31**

1. Why was Paul provoked at Athens? In what two places did Paul reason with people?

2. What reaction did the Athenians have to his message?

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3. The Athenians asked Paul to address them, which he did in the Areopagus, a hill on which many of the orators would speak to the people in Athens.

a. What compliment did Paul pay them? Upon which particular god did he decide to focus? Why do you think he chose this one?

b. Who did Paul proclaim to them? What was the first characteristic he mentioned about Him?

c. Why did Paul tell them God is not worshipped by men's hands? Why did he say the Lord is not far from any one of us?

d. Why did Paul say we should realize that God's nature is not like gold, silver or stone?

Why did the Athenians need to hear this?

e. What assurance of God's judgment did Paul say had been given to men?

4. How did the people respond to this message of Paul?

**Thought Questions**

1. Why is it important to be like the Bereans? Is it enough just to search the Scriptures? Why or why not? What are some things that keep us from being like this?

2. Why did Paul choose to speak to the Athenians about God instead of Jesus? What are some basic things all men can learn about God?

3. How is the resurrection of Jesus an assurance that God will judge all men?

**Lesson 4: Second Missionary Journey – Corinth**

**Acts 18:1-23**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Sections A. Read Acts 18:1-17

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section B. Read Acts 18:18-23

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. Paul Goes to Corinth. Read Acts 18:1-17**

1. List the places Paul has visited thus far on this journey.

2. Who did Paul find in Corinth? Why were they there? Do you think it helped Paul to find them? How?

3. Where did Paul do his teaching? When some of the Jews rejected his message, how did Paul react?

4. Where did Paul teach after leaving the synagogue? Who was converted?

5. Who had joined Paul from Macedonia? How did the Lord encourage Paul to stay in Corinth?

How long did he stay?

6. What charges did the Jews bring against Paul before Gallio? How did Gallio react? Who was beaten as a result?

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**B. Paul Returns to Antioch. Read Acts 18:18-23**

1. For what place did Paul now sail? What did he do at Cenchrea?

2. Where did Paul go in Ephesus? Why did he not stay there longer?

3. Where did Paul go after landing in Caesarea?

**Thought Questions**

1. Corinth was known as a very wicked city. It had a temple to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, the goddess of love. It was a very idolatrous city, like Athens. It was a seaport town, meaning that many people moved in and out of Corinth. The people in this city were known elsewhere for their immorality. Yet, God told Paul he had many people in this city (Acts 18:10).

• Should we be discouraged because of the wicked people around us?

• Should we assume that because people are wicked there is no one who is interested in the gospel? What opportunity does this give us?

• Are there any cities in the United States like Corinth?

2. What are we told the Corinthians did in response to the preaching Paul did? Is believing on the

Lord (Crispus) the same as hearing, believing and being baptized? Explain.

**Lesson 5: Writing of Letters to Thessalonica**

**1, 2 Thessalonians**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A. Read 1 Thessalonians

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Thessalonians

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. Paul Writes to the Thessalonians. Read 1 Thessalonians**

In our last lesson, we read about Paul traveling to Corinth and staying there for 18 months. He arrived there alone, having left Timothy and Silas before he went to Athens. While working in Corinth, Paul apparently wrote two epistles, or letters, to the Thessalonians. From the first epistle, we learn that Paul had sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how these Christians were doing. When Timothy returns to Paul in Corinth, Paul writes this first letter to that church.

These letters are important because they reveal the kinds of problems early Christians were having. These people were like us in many ways, so the problems they struggled with are like problems with which we struggle. Since Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit in writing these letters, they are a part of the truth God revealed for all time.

1. From what had the Thessalonians turned in order to serve God? (1:8, 9)

2. Apparently some in Thessalonica were charging Paul with improper motives. What does Paul deny as a part of his motives? (2:3-5) How does he describe his attitude toward them? (2:7-9)

3. What attitude was important in the conversion of the Thessalonians? (2:13)

4. Why had Paul not been to visit them again? (2:17-20)

5. What news did Timothy bring after returning from Thessalonica? (3:1-10)

6. Against what particular kind of sin did Paul warn them? (4:1-6)

7. About whom were these brethren concerned? Why? (4:13-18)

8. What preparation did Paul urge them to make concerning the day of the Lord? (5:1-11)

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**B. Paul Writes a Second Letter to Thessalonica. Read 2 Thessalonians**

While still in Corinth, Paul writes these brethren again. It seems he had heard from them after writing his first epistle. In this letter, he gives further teaching and tries to correct some wrong impressions they may have formed from his first letter.

1. How were these brethren doing despite their persecution? (1:3-4)

2. Why were they not to retaliate against those persecuting them? (1:7-9)

3. What did some think about the day of Christ? (2:1, 2) Who would first come before this took place? (2:3-9)

4. Why did God allow the lawless one to come and lead some people astray? (2:11, 12)

5. To what kind of traditions were they to hold? (2:15)

6. What other problem existed? (3:6-15) what solution did Paul offer? How might this problem have grown out of the previous misunderstanding?

**Thought Questions**

1. List five main problems the Christians at Thessalonica faced. Are there any problems like these that we face?

2. What are some good qualities that these Christians possessed? How would these help them to overcome these difficulties?

**Lesson 6: Paul in Ephesus**

**Acts 18:24-19:20**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Acts 18:24-19:10.

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section C. Read Acts 19:11-20.

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. Apollos. Read Acts 18:24-28**

Just as Paul begins a third preaching journey, Luke tells us about a man named Apollos. The information about Apollos will help to explain part of Paul's activity when arrives in Ephesus.

1. Who was Apollos? What kind of man was he?

2. Who took him aside? Why?

3. Where did Apollos go from Ephesus? What did he do when he arrived?

**B. Paul Arrives in Ephesus. Read Acts 19:1-10**

Paul now arrives in Ephesus. He had visited here briefly at the end of his second journey, promising to return again (18:21). He finds some disciples in Ephesus and stays here for a period of time to teach.

1. Whose disciples did Paul find upon his return to Ephesus? Had they received the Holy Spirit?

Why would Paul ask this question?

2. Whose baptism had they obeyed? What did Paul tell them? How did they respond to his teaching?

3. What did Paul do for them after their baptism? Why would this be important for them?

4. Where did Paul go to teach? Was he successful? Where did he end up? How long did he stay in Ephesus?

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**C. The Sons of Sceva. Acts 19:11-20**

1. What kind of miracles did Paul do?

2. What are itinerant Jewish exorcists? (19:13) Do you think they had divine power to cast our spirits?

3. What happened when they tried to cast an evil spirit from a man? Does this result sound like anything that demons did when Jesus cast them out?

4. What reaction did this have on other people? What did they do?

**Thought Questions**

1. Were the disciples of John that Paul found at Ephesus baptized twice? Should anyone today ever be baptized twice?

2. Was Apollos a help or a hindrance to the gospel? What were some good qualities he possessed? Did he respond well to correction? What might have been his response? Do you think a Barnabas or an Apollos would be more helpful in doing the work of the gospel? Explain your answer.

**Lesson 7: Writing of 1 Corinthians**

**1 Corinthians 1-7**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 1-7.

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section A, B.

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Question.

**A. The City of Corinth**

Look on a map and find the city of Corinth. Where is it located? Corinth was a very strategically located city. Those traveling between southern and northern Achaia would have to pass through

Corinth. Ships traveling between the Adriatic Sea and the Aegean Sea would often travel down the narrow body of water to avoid having to travel around the cape to the south of Achaia. They were then dragged across the isthmus of land where Corinth was located. It was not until 1893 that the current canal that exists there was completed.

Corinth was a center of trade, industry and pleasure. During New Testament times, it was notorious as a place of wealth and indulgence. Since it was a seaport, it was a meeting place of many nationalities. On a prominent hill rising above the city, there was a temple dedicated to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, the goddess of love. It was the capital of Achaia, giving it political importance.

This was a city which had many evil influences. The population was very mobile. Idolatry was rampant. There was great wealth and immorality. How does the writing of Paul reflect this? 1 Cor.6:9, 10

**B. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Read 1 Corinthians 1-7**

1. Review the places Paul visited during his second preaching journey. When did he visit Corinth?

2. As we studied in our last lesson, Paul began his third preaching journey by traveling to

Ephesus. It is during his stay here that he wrote this first letter to the Corinthians (Acts

19:21, 22). In this letter he addresses some of the problems among the church at Corinth.

Apparently they had written him first, asking for his help concerning some of their problems.

As you read through the chapters, try to pinpoint the problem they had and then describe the solution Paul gives to them.

a. Chapters 1-4

PROBLEM: 1:10; 3:3

• Why were they divided? 1:12

• Can this kind of problem exist in a church today? How?

SOLUTION:

• What kind of message did God choose? 1:18 Why? 1:26-29

• Who is the source of this wisdom? 2:6, 7 How important are the messengers? 3:5, 6

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b. Chapter 5

PROBLEM: Who was among the church at Corinth? What effect did this have?

SOLUTION: What did Paul command the church to do? It was for whose benefit?

c. Chapter 6:1-11

PROBLEM: How were they resolving their disagreements?

SOLUTION: Should they demand their rights?

d. Chapter 6:12-20

PROBLEM: What were they engaging in?

SOLUTION: What does Paul advise? vs.18 Why? vs.19

e. Chapter 7

PROBLEM: The Corinthians had asked about certain marriage situations. What was Paul's teaching?

SOLUTIONS:

1) Should a person get married? vv.1-5

2) Should a believer leave a marriage if he is married to an unbeliever? What if the unbeliever leaves? 7:10-16

3) In view of the present distress (perhaps persecution), was it best for the unmarried (virgins) to marry? 7:25-33 Why or why not?

**Thought Question**

Is it important for each church that claims to be "of Christ" to follow the same teaching?

Cor.4:17 Why or why not?

**Lesson 8: Writing of 1 Corinthians**

**1 Corinthians 8-16**

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DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:

\_\_ Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 8-16.

\_\_ Day 2: Answer the questions below.

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Question.

Our previous lesson demonstrates some of the problems Paul addressed within the Corinthian church. In this lesson, we will study the remainder of the Corinthian epistle and notice some other problems they had. In each case, Paul reveals God's wisdom by which to solve those problems.

**PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Chapters 8-10: *Meat Offered to Idols*

PROBLEM: Since various idols were worshipped in Corinth, there would be occasions for

Christians to be invited to feasts where they would be served meat to eat that had been offered to an idol. It seems those in Corinth had questioned whether or not they could continue to attend these feasts after becoming Christians. Why did some reason that it would be alright to attend these feasts? ch.8:1, 2, 4

SOLUTION:

1. Even though the Christians had learned that an idol was nothing, what difficulty were some still having? ch.8:7

2. How could those who knew better become a stumbling block to those who were still weak? 8:10

What advice did Paul give? vs.13

3. In chapter 9, Paul describes some rights or privileges he had as an apostle. What were they?

9:4-6 Had Paul used his right to live from his work as a gospel preacher? 9:14, 15

4. What attitude did Paul have? 9:22 Why? What example did this set for the Corinthians?

5. After warning about those from Israel who turned away from God (ch.10:1-10), what advice does Paul give? 10:14 What else would make it wrong for them to take part in these feasts? 10:20, 21

Chapter 11: *Worship*

PROBLEM: 11:1-16 - How were some of the Corinthians women prophesying? 11:5

SOLUTION: What did Paul teach them to do?

PROBLEM: 11:17-34 - What was wrong about the way the Corinthians were observing the Lord's Supper?

SOLUTION: What does Paul tell them to do? 11:28

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Chapters 12-14: *Problems with Spiritual Gifts*

PROBLEM: The Corinthians had been blessed by God with spiritual gifts (12:8-11). Apparently some thought that certain gifts, such as the ability to speak in tongues, were more important than others.

 SOLUTION:

1. Is each member of the body important? What if every part of the body had the same function?

2. What "gift" does Paul say that all the Corinthians should be seeking? ch.13

3. Why is the gift of prophecy actually a better gift than speaking in tongues? 14:1-5

4. What are some principles Paul teaches should govern their assemblies in which they use their

spiritual gifts? Can you think of how these principles would fit our worship, even though we do not exercise spiritual gifts today?

• 14:15

• 14:26b

• 14:33

• 14:40

Chapter 15: *The Resurrection*

PROBLEM: What were some teaching about the resurrection? ch.15:12

SOLUTION:

• What teaching did Paul emphasize to offset this thinking? 15:1-8

• Why was the resurrection necessary? 15:50

• What did Paul tell the Corinthians they should do based on the resurrection? 15:58

Ch.16: *Collection for the Saints*

• What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do help the saints in Judea? 16:1-4

• How were they to send it to Jerusalem?

**Thought Question**

Do churches have problems today? Should this surprise us? How should they seek to solve their problems?

**Lesson 9: Paul in Ephesus**

**Acts 19:21-41; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Acts 19:21-41

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section C. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. The City of Ephesus.**

Paul spent a lot of time in Ephesus during his third journey. Paul later says he had been with these brethren during this stay for three years (Acts 20:31). Luke tells us more precisely that it was for a period of two years and three months (Acts 19:8, 10).

The city of Ephesus was another important ancient city. Look at its location on a map. It was a seaport, meaning that it was the center of trade and commerce. It served as an entrance into the rest of Asia Minor. It also had a temple dedicated to a Greek goddess. The Greek goddess Artemis (or Diana) was a goddess of fertility. This temple was considered to be one of the wonders of the ancient world.

The remains of this ancient city of Ephesus have been excavated. Although little of the temple exists, the ruins of the ancient theater in which the riot described in Acts 19 still remain. While

Luke's accuracy in describing these events does not prove the inspiration of the Bible; it is what we would expect from an account that claims to be revealed by God.

**B. A Riot in Ephesus. Read Acts 19:21-41**

1. Who did Paul send to Macedonia to check on the welfare of the brethren there?

2. Why did a great commotion arise concerning the Way in Ephesus?

3. What two concerns did Demetrius express to his fellow craftsmen?

4. What did they begin to shout?

5. Where did all the people of the city go once this mob had stirred them up? Who did they take with them?

6. What did Paul do? Why?

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7. Why did the people gather in the theater?

8. Why could Alexander not calm the people? What advice did the town clerk give the people?

9. Did the assembly finally disperse?

**C. Paul's Frame of Mind. Read 2 Cor.1:8-11**

1. When Paul refers to his time in Asia, how did he feel about the hardships he faced?

2. What effect did this have on him? To whom did he turn for deliverance?

3. Who had also helped him through this difficulty?

**Thought Questions**

1. Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen felt threatened by Paul and his teaching. Can you think of some groups today who might feel threatened if many people obeyed the teaching of the Bible?

What would you say to these people about the threat they felt?

2. Do you think Paul ever feared for his life? Have you ever been in a situation where you were fearful about what would happen to you? What help can we receive in such a situation?

**Lesson 10: Reaction to 1 Corinthians; 2 Corinthians 1:1-7:16**

**Acts 20:1-3; 2 Corinthians 7:1-7:16**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Cor. 2:1-2:11.

Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Cor. 2:12-7:16

Day 3: Do Thought Question.

**A. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. Read 2 Cor.1:1-2:11**

Paul had written his first letter to the Corinthians while he was in Ephesus. After he wrote and sent it to them, he did not know how they would receive it. They needed to change some of their practices. In particular, they needed to cease their fellowship with the immoral man they had accepted among themselves (1 Cor.5). As we will see, Paul had intended to go to Corinth, travel up into Macedonia and then return to Corinth for a second (third overall) visit. Since he was waiting for Titus to return and tell him how they had responded to his letter, he changed his plans and decided to travel into Macedonia first, and then visit Corinth. This would give them the time to make the necessary changes.

1. Because Paul had faced so many hardships, what did he learn that God would provide? 1:3-7

2. Paul explains to the Corinthians that he had intended to visit them twice (1:15-17). Since he changed his plans, with what might some at Corinth charge him? Was Paul guilty of this?

3. Why had Paul delayed his visit? 2:1 Did Paul enjoy having to make other people sorry? Why did he do it?

4. Paul had told the Corinthians to withdraw their fellowship from the immoral man among them (1 Cor.5). Apparently they had punished him (2:6). What did they now need to do?

Why?

**B. Paul Defends His Ministry. Read 2 Cor. 2:12-7:16**

Paul now breaks off from talking about his plans to defend His ministry as an apostle. He may have been informed that there were those in Corinth who were attacking him based on his motives or suggesting that he was not a true apostle. In this section he describes different aspects of his ministry.

1. A Triumphant Ministry: What two effects does the gospel have on people? 2:16, 17 What determines the difference?

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2. A Glorious Ministry, ch.3:1-18: What was happening to the ministry of the old covenant that had been written on stones? How did Paul's ministry of the gospel compare?

3. An Honest Ministry, ch.4:1-6: Why is the message of the gospel veiled among some? What did Paul and other preach instead of themselves?

4. A Suffering Ministry, 4:7-16: Paul says he had suffered many things as an apostle, but never given up (4:7-10). What allowed him to keep going? 4:16-18

5. Walking by Faith, 5:1-10: What clothing did Paul desire? What does it mean to walk by faith and not sight? 5:7

6. A Ministry of Reconciliation, 5:11-21: What does it mean to be reconciled? How was Paul an ambassador?

7. A Devoted Ministry, 6:1-18: Had Paul spared anything in serving the Corinthians? 6:11-13

8. When Paul finally met Titus, what news did Titus bring? 7:6, 7 Had they repented? How did

Paul feel? 7:13

**Thought Question**

Probably one of the hardest commands for a Christian (or anyone) is to repent. What is repentance? What is the difference between repentance and regret? 7:9, 10 What will cause us to repent? How do we know if we really have repented? Give some reasons why it is hard to repent.

**Lesson 11: Review of 2 Corinthians**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-13:14**

**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A. Read 2 Cor. 8,9.

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section B. Read 2 Cor. 10-13.

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Questions.

**A. The Poor Saints in Jerusalem. Read 2 Cor.8, 9**

Paul now turns his attention to another matter. He had been trying to get various churches to collect funds that could be taken to Jerusalem and given to the church there. The church in

Jerusalem had always had problems taking care of its needy. Now they could no longer do it themselves. Paul had asked other churches to give, such as the Galatian churches (see 1

Cor.16:1). He had commanded the Corinthians to give toward this need in his first letter, instructing them to make a contribution each first day of the week that would allow them to make a collection. The Corinthians had started their contributions, but Paul now writes to urge them to complete what they started. He did not want to arrive in Corinth and find they had failed to finish what they started. His teaching tells us a great deal about the manner in which we should give today.

1. Who had surprised Paul by giving even when he had not expected it? Why did he think they would not be able to give? Why were they able to give anyway?
2. What was another reason Paul said they should be willing to give? 8:9

1. According to what does God expect us to give? 8:11 Does this just apply to money?
2. Who was Paul sending ahead of himself to make sure things were ready? 8:16-18

1. What two ways could the Corinthians approach this opportunity to give? 9:5

1. What motivation was there for them to give bountifully? 9:6
2. What are some characteristics of acceptable giving? 9:7

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**C. Paul Defends Himself Against Attack. Read 2 Cor.10-13**

There must have been some in Corinth who were trying to slander Paul's name in his absence. In this section, Paul seeks to defend his motives.

1. How had Paul behaved while among the Corinthians? 10:1 How did his letters seem in his absence10:10?

2. Since Paul was forced to boast about his accomplishments, what things did he brag about? 11:22-33

3. What experience did Paul have? 12:1-6 What did he receive in the flesh? 12:7 What did he do about it? 12:8 Was it removed? What did Paul learn from this? 12:9

4. What proof did Paul offer that he was an apostle? 12:12

5. What did he urge the Corinthians to examine instead of himself? 13:5

**Thought Questions**

1. Is it easy to be a cheerful giver? What are some reasons we do not always respond in this manner? What are some reminders we need to make sure we are willing to give?

2. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to buffet him. Does God ever allow us to have any thorns?

Why does this happen? List some thorns we might be given. What can we learn from them?

**Lesson 12: Review of Galatians**

**Galatians 1:1-6:18**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A. Read Galatians 1,2.

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section B. Read Galatians 3,4. Galatians 1:1-6:18

\_\_ Day 3: Do Section C. Read Galatians 5,6. Do Thought Question

**A. Paul: A True Apostle. Read Galatians 1, 2**

It is difficult to know just when Paul wrote this epistle to the Galatians. Since Galatians is concerned with the relationship between the old law and the gospel, it could have been written early in Paul's ministry when some of these problems were just developing. The meeting in Jerusalem addressed these problems (Acts 15), before Paul had made a second journey. It could just as easily have been at a later time during his second or third journey. Whenever it was written, these matters were very important because they explained how the Jews and Gentiles could be together as one spiritual body.

The first matter Paul addresses concerns whether or not he was a true apostle. He had been chosen by Jesus after the twelve. Since he preached too many Gentiles and did not teach them to keep the law, he came under attack from Jewish Christians who insisted on the old law, particularly circumcision, being kept. If Paul could be discredited as a true apostle, his message could be ignored.

1. How many gospels were there? 1:6-9 What were the Galatians to do if an angel came and preached another gospel?

2. Who did Paul claim had given him the gospel he preached? 1:11, 12

3. Paul says that after he was chosen to preach the gospel, he did not speak to other men about what he was to preach. Where did he go after his conversion in Damascus? (Acts 9) 1:1

4. When he went to Jerusalem, did he rely upon the apostles to learn the message that he was to preach? 1:18-24

5. Paul says that many years later he returned to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus. On this occasion (probably the same one as in Acts 15), some of the Jews wanted him to circumcise Titus (a Gentile), but Paul refused. Did Paul give in? 2:3 When the other apostles realized that Paul's efforts were to be made among the Gentiles, did they approve of what he was doing? 2:9

6. Apparently Peter was willing to eat with Gentiles until James and other Jews visited him in Antioch. Why does Paul say he had to correct Peter? 2:13

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**B. Justified by Faith, not the Law. Read Galatians 3, 4**

Paul argues that we are saved by faith, not by the works of the law (such as circumcision). He shows that the promise to Abraham had been fulfilled by Christ. Some of the Jews might then have reasoned that there was no purpose in giving the old law.

1. Why was the law added? 3:19 What should this have made the Jews realize they needed? 3:22

2. What did the law do for the Jews during the time they lived under it? 3:23 How is it described? 3:24

3. What had happened to the law once faith (the gospel) came? 3:25

4. Who now had an opportunity to be a son of Abraham? 3:26-29

**C. Practical Applications. Read Galatians 5, 6**

1. If someone insists on trying to keep the law in order to be justified, what are they are debtor to do? How much will Christ benefit them?

2. What two principles are struggling within us? 5:16, 17 What are some of the works of the flesh? What is the fruit of the Spirit? How do we know whether or not the Spirit is guiding us?

3. How should we treat someone else's burden? 6:2

4. What will happen to us if we sow to the flesh? 6:9 What does this mean?

**Thought Question**

How is it possible for Christ to live in us? Galatians 2:20, 21

**Lesson 13: Review of Romans**

**Romans 1:1-8:39**

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**DAILY ASSIGNMENTS:**

\_\_ Day 1: Do Section A, B. Read Romans 1-3.

\_\_ Day 2: Do Section C. Read Romans 4-8.

\_\_ Day 3: Do Thought Question.

**A. Paul Writes to the Romans.**

Paul wrote the epistle to the church in Rome in order to teach these brethren about the gospel.

Based on his greetings and some of his plans, it is generally believed that he wrote this letter while visiting in Corinth during his third preaching journey (Acts 20:1-3). Paul states that he wants to come to Rome and preach the gospel to them (Romans 1:14-15). Then he writes to explain how the gospel was God's power to save. Like Galatians, he seems to be addressing some Jewish Christians who feel that the gospel is not complete without trying to connect it to the old law. Paul teaches here that these are two different systems. The old law prepared the way for Christ, but the gospel was the only antidote for man's sin.

**B. All Have Sinned. Read Romans 1-3**

After his introductory remarks, Paul states that the gospel is God's power to save men (Romans

1:16). Memorize this verse. Because it can save men, this suggests men are lost and need saving.

Paul backtracks to show how both Gentiles and Jews are sinners and in need of God's grace.

1. God's wrath is directed toward all men who sin (1:18). Even Gentiles know certain things about God from creation. What are they? 1:20

1. As a result men are without excuse when they sin against God. What attitudes does Paul describe the Gentiles as having? 1:21

1. Three times Paul says that God gave up the Gentiles to certain actions (1:24, 26, and 28). In other words, He allowed the Gentiles to do what they wanted to do. What was the end result? 1:28-31 What did they need?

1. Paul now addresses those who were Jews. Even though they knew the practices of the Gentiles were wrong, what had they done? 2:1 Why did they do them? 2:3 What are some specific things they had done? 2:21-23

1. What was the end result? 3:9, 23 How had God provided a solution? 3:24, 25 How did this demonstrate that God was just?

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**B. Justification by Faith. Read Romans 4-8**

Paul now explains how the gospel, as a system of faith, can save us. He uses Abraham as a test case to show that justification is not by the law (and circumcision), but by faith.

1. Why would Abraham be an impressive example to show how God saves a person?

2. There are only two ways a person could receive a reward. What are they? 4:4, 5 Was Abraham rewarded by working or believing?

3. Was Abraham justified before or after being circumcised? 4:10 What did this mean about the necessity of circumcision?

4. How did God demonstrate His love for us? 5:8 Even though death and sin came through

Adam, who was able to counter these effects? 5:12-21

5. Since God's grace is so abundant (5:20, 21), does that mean that a Christian can sin whenever he wants to, knowing that God will forgive him? 6:1, 2

6. If we have been baptized and died to sin, how should we act toward sin? 6:11 Why is this important? 6:12

7. Sin works through the law (7:7, 8). Does this mean the law is the cause of our sin or the occasion for us to sin? What kind of struggle do we face in ourselves? 7:19

8. How can we escape this cycle of sin? 7:24, 25

9. What did things did God do for those who love Him? 8:29, 30 If God is working for us, who can separate us from His love? 8:35

**Thought Questions**

Paul teaches in Romans that we are not saved by a system of law (we keep every command perfectly), but by faith (trust in God). Many assume that this means there is nothing we do in order to receive salvation. Is this correct? Use some of the teaching in these chapters to prove your answer.