

## Lesson Twelve — Paul's Letters

*Day One — Paul's Ministry*

*Day Two — Just as Our Beloved Brother, Paul, Wrote to You*

*Day Three — ... Wrote to You*

*Day Four — ... Wrote to You*

*Day Five — ... As Also in all His Letters*

Here we are at the last week of the study. You have done well in perseverance. I trust you will be fully rewarded for your steadfastness. Last week we basically ended with II Peter. There is only one more thing into which we need to look.

Peter says a curious thing at the end of his second epistle. He makes a statement about Paul's writings — that Paul writes about *these same things in all his letters*. This week we are going to check to see just what Peter was talking about by reading through some of Paul's letters. Be sure to begin your week in prayer. Pray that God will continue to lead you into all truth.

You may be given to think this week's study is difficult?! Come on! You can do it!

Have a good week of study.

### Day One — Paul's Ministry

Here is Peter's statement:

***II Peter 3***

***14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.***

Summarize in your own words what Peter says of Paul:

Did you notice this one small statement? “...*just as also our beloved brother Paul... wrote to you...*”

So where would we find what Paul had written to these people in the region of Asia Minor?

Before we answer that question, let us do a day of review. This day's study will be taken up with looking over Lesson Two. Give yourself time to do this. Review is good for you! And it will prepare you to understand more of what Peter was saying at the end of his second letter, and the import of it.

As we learned during our second week of study in this workbook, Paul had very extensive ministry in this region. Look back over Lesson Two now.

Anything catch your attention this time through?

See you tomorrow.

## **Day Two — Just as our Beloved Brother, Paul, wrote to you...**

Be sure to begin with prayer, again asking the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth.

I will restate a question from yesterday's study — *Where would we find specifically what Paul had written to these people in the region of Asia Minor?*

The answer is simple. We need to see to whom Paul sent his letters, looking to see which of those letters were sent into the region of Asia Minor. Given the amount of ministry he had there, it is not surprising to find several had been sent into the region.

Paul wrote to the believers at Galatia, Ephesus, and Colossae, all of which are cities in Asia Minor. He also wrote to individuals who resided in Asia Minor — Timothy and Philemon. (In Paul's first letter to Timothy, Paul states that Timothy was in Ephesus. In his second letter, he doesn't state it in so many words, however there is implication that Timothy is still there.) Isn't it interesting how Scriptures fit together?)

This should throw a new light on these letters as you read through any of them. Knowing the type of ministry Paul had in this area, and knowing that he sent these letters *subsequent* to his extended time there and his extensive teaching, why would anyone look at these letters as having much to do with the Gospel of Grace and the free gift of eternal salvation? Paul was writing to the already established Churches in these cities, encouraging them and exhorting them to live the kind of lives which would be worthy of their high calling (*cf.* II Thes. 1:11).

Today I am going to give you examples from one of Paul's letters to show you what Peter was talking about in II Peter 3:14-16. Then for the next three days you will be able choose one of Paul's epistles (a different one for each day), looking for items about which Paul writes which are similar to that which Peter writes. I will jot down the references and the text from Colossians, and you'll see what I want you to do for the days following. My work today will serve as your example in the following days. But just don't peruse this day's work as an example alone. Read through it and see that Paul wrote to the church at Colossae, about the same things which Peter wrote in both of his letters.

The things we are looking for in Paul's letters would be the same things Peter deals with in his letters, i.e. *the inheritance reserved in heaven; a salvation which is to be revealed in the last times; suffering leads to glory; growing up in your salvation; an abundant entrance into the kingdom of Christ; how to enter into that kingdom; false teachers and what they malign, etc., etc.*

Here is my example for you. (If you have time, you may want to read the complete epistle.)

Name of Epistle: *Colossians*

1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel,

1: 9-13 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

1:26-27 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2:2-3 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind

3: 3-4 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

3:23-24 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

4 : 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

There may be more than what I found. Did you find any more references to the same things which Peter writes about?

**Day Three — ...Wrote to You**

Today you will do the same thing with another one of Paul's epistles sent into Asia Minor, as I did yesterday with Colossians. It would be great if you could read these in a NASB version, but if you don't have one, that's fine.

Grab your Bible and choose from this list of Paul's epistles which went into this region:

Galatians	Ephesians
I Timothy	II Timothy

Name of Epistle:

Understanding I and II Peter —  
Striving to Obtain the Outcome of Faith

Lesson Twelve  
Paul's Letters

**Day Four — ...Wrote to You**

One more chance to see what Peter meant when he wrote II Peter 3:14-16. Choose another epistle from the list given in yesterday's homework. Do the same type of study. (This may feel difficult, but it is not. Just skim the Epistle looking for the same phrases or ideas which Peter had already written to them about. Phrases like — *the inheritance reserved in heaven; a salvation which is to be revealed in the last times; suffering leads to glory; growing up in your salvation; an abundant entrance into the kingdom of Christ; how to enter into the kingdom; false teachers and what they malign*, etc., etc.

Choose from the list of letters written by Paul, which he sent to the churches in Asia Minor — Galatians, Ephesians, I Timothy, or II Timothy.

Name of Epistle:

Understanding I and II Peter —  
Striving to Obtain the Outcome of Faith

Lesson Twelve  
Paul's Letters



### Day Five — ...As Also in all His Letters

For the past three days, we have looked into three different epistles written by Paul to people in the region of Asia Minor. Hopefully you have a better understanding of what Peter said...that Paul wrote of the same things in his letters to the people in this region. But Peter carries this statement one notch further in the first phrase of v. 16. Underline this phrase, circle the word *all*.

*II Peter 3:15 ...just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

What does this phrase mean?

Paul not only wrote to the people in Asia Minor about these things (after extensively teaching them); he also wrote about these same things in *all of his letters*. (These are not my words, but the very words of Peter, inspired [*breathed into him*] by God.)

Today you will have the choice of choosing one of Paul's other epistles and skimming through it in the same way you have done previously. Here is the list to choose from:

Romans	I Corinthians
II Corinthians	Philippians
I Thessalonians	II Thessalonians
Titus	

You need to choose one of the epistles listed above and work through it in the same way you have done in the three previous days study. Look to see if you can find references to what Peter is speaking about in vv. 15, 16. Again, the things you are looking for in Paul's letters would be the same things Peter dealt with in his letters, i.e. the inheritance reserved in heaven, a salvation which is to be revealed in the last times, suffering leads to glory, growing up in your salvation, an abundant entrance into the kingdom of Christ, how to enter into that kingdom, false teachers and what they malign, etc., etc. You may not find the exact wording, but be looking for the same teaching.

Take good notes and be ready to share your findings in class.

Name of Epistle:

Understanding I and II Peter —  
Striving to Obtain the Outcome of Faith

Lesson Twelve  
Paul's Letters

That's it for the day. Good job!

One last thought as we close out this twelve week study. Paul made a statement in his second letter to Timothy which is a very sad commentary on the people of Asia Minor. He wrote a second time to Timothy *after* Peter had written his second letter wherein he warned them of the potentially destructive work of false teachers. But the leaven had already been introduced, and was already having far-reaching ramifications within the church there. Here is what Paul said:

***II Timothy 1:15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me***

How sad it is! Spend a little time thinking about this statement — Why do you think it ended so?

We'll end with a reread of this passage. Please take vv. 17, 18 to heart.

***II Peter 3***

***14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.***

As we come to a close in this study of I and II Peter, why don't you spend a few moments writing to the Lord of your desire to stay focused and righteous before Him. Express your desires in a prayer to Him.

Understanding I and II Peter —  
Striving to Obtain the Outcome of Faith

Lesson Twelve  
Paul's Letters

Understanding I and II Peter —  
Striving to Obtain the Outcome of Faith

Lesson Twelve  
Paul's Letters