

Lesson 6 – Paul’s Prison Epistles: *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*

A. Ephesians

1. Author: Paul (Eph. 1:1)
2. Readers: “To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:” (Eph. 1:1). Paul spent more than three years at this church during his third missionary journey (Acts 20:31)
3. Time of Writing: Approx. 60 A.D. during Paul’s first imprisonment (Eph. 3:1, 6:20)
4. Purpose and Themes: Reestablish the spiritual basis of a life in Christ followed by practical considerations of that life
 - Blessings in Christ
 - Jews and Gentiles – fellow citizens through salvation by grace through faith
 - Nature of the new life in Christ
5. Outline. Fill in the titles using the answers provided and choose a best verse for each section.

Reference	Best Title	Best verse	Possible Answers
1:1-23			<i>Relationships</i>
2:1-22			<i>Armor of God</i>
3:1-21			<i>Spiritual Blessings in Christ</i>
4:1-16			<i>Revelation of the Mystery in Christ</i>
4:17 – 5:21			<i>Unity of the Spirit</i>
5:22 – 6:9			<i>God’s Plan of Salvation for All Men</i>
6:10-24			<i>Old Man and New Man</i>

6. Key Verses – Be prepared to identify them by chapter::
 - Ephesians 1:18-23
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Ephesians 3:3-5
 - Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Ephesians 5:22-28
 - Ephesians 6:11-17

B. Philippians

1. Author: Paul
2. Readers: “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons” (Phil. 1:1). The church was founded by Paul during 2nd Journey (cf. Acts 16:12-40)
3. Time and Place of Writing: Approx. 60 A.D. during Paul’s first imprisonment
4. Purpose & Themes: A personal letter to the church with perhaps the closest relationship with Paul
 - Imitating the humility of Christ
 - Joyful service even in the face of adversity
5. Outline. Fill in the titles using the answers provided and choose a best verse for each section.

Reference	Best Title	Best verse	Possible Answers
1:1-11			<i>Paul’s Appeal to Have the Mind of Christ</i>
1:12-30			<i>Conclusion</i>
2:1-30			<i>Paul’s Prayer of Thanksgiving</i>
3:1-21			<i>Paul’s Appeal to Have the Peace of Christ</i>
4:1-19			<i>Paul’s Appeal to Have the Knowledge of Christ</i>
4:20-23			<i>Paul’s Account of His Present Circumstances</i>

6. Key Verses– Be prepared to identify them by chapter:

- Philippians 1:21-24
- Philippians 2:3-10
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Philippians 3:12-14
- Philippians 4:4-7

C. Colossians

1. Author: Paul
2. Readers: Church in Colossae “To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae”, also to be shared with church in Laodicea “when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.” Apparently, churches Paul had not visited (Col. 2:1)
3. Time and Place of Writing: Approx. 60 A.D. during Paul’s first imprisonment
4. Purpose & Themes: Preeminence of Christ
5. Outline. Fill in the titles using the answers provided and choose a best verse for each section.

Reference	Best Title	Best verse	Possible Answers
1:1-14			<i>The Preeminence of Christ</i>
1:15 – 2:3			<i>View of the Believer</i>
2:4-23			<i>Practice of the Believer</i>
3:1-4			<i>Freedom in Christ</i>
3:5 – 4:6			<i>Conclusion</i>
4:7-18			<i>Introduction</i>

6. Key Verses– Be prepared to identify them by chapter:

- Colossians 1:15-20
- Colossians 2:6-8
- Colossians 3:16-18
- Colossians 4:5-6

D. Philemon

1. Author: Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother (1:1)
2. Reader: Philemon, a Christian of Colossae. To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: (1:1-2)
3. Time and Place of Writing: Approx. 60 A.D. during Paul’s first imprisonment.
4. Purpose & Themes: An appeal to Philemon to forgive and accept his runaway slave, Onesimus, who is now his brother in Christ
5. Read the letter.