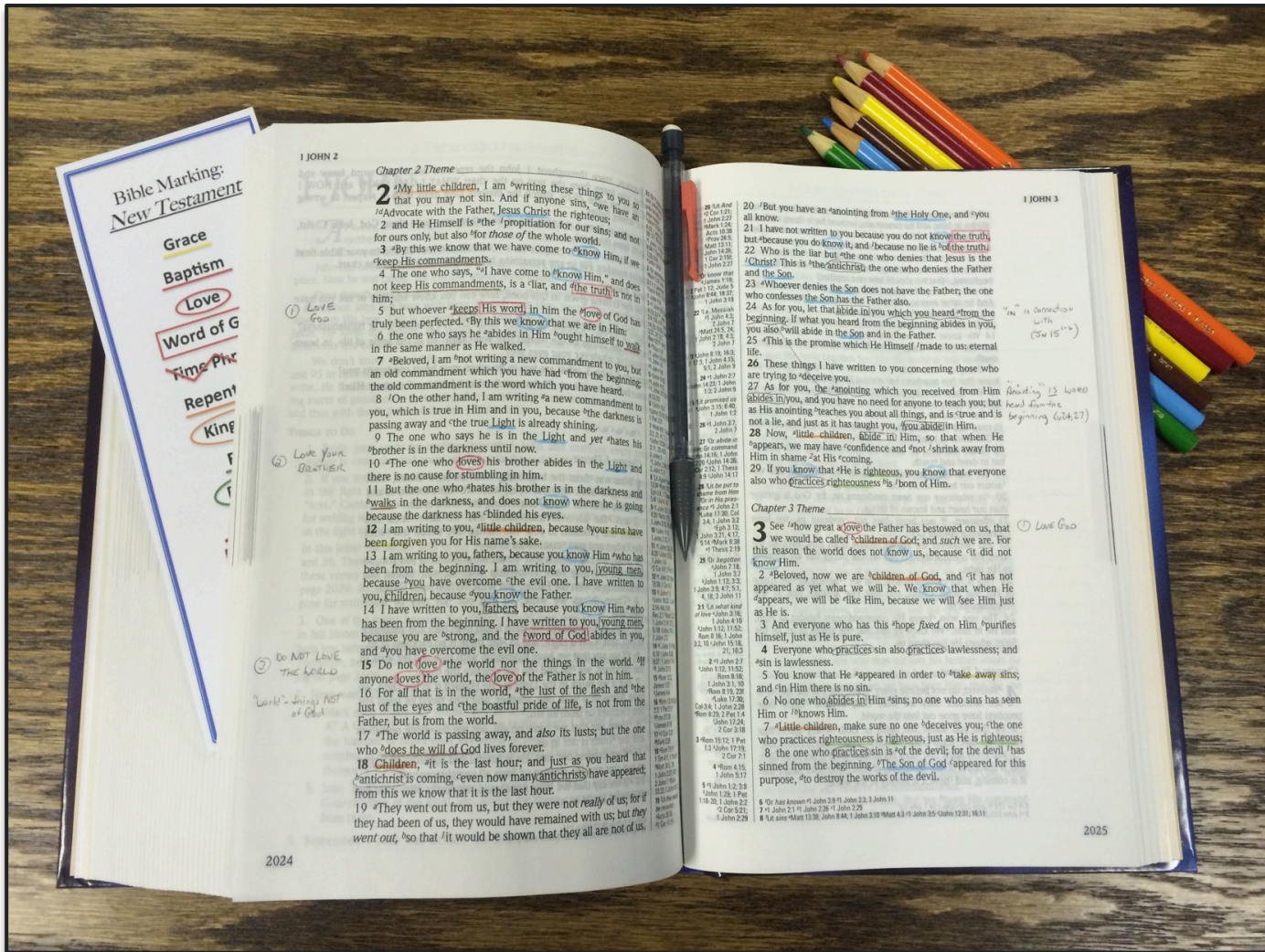


# Color Bible Marking



Lindale Church of Christ – January 2018

Material by Kris Emerson

There is a reason people use features like bold, italics, **and** underline in textbooks, emails, **and** letters. There is a good reason why students use highlighters **and** circles to identify important points in textbooks. Such notations do not minimize the importance of the other words on the page, they simply help us easily find **and** notice the main focus or point of a passage.

These same principles can help us in understanding the main points **and** themes of the Bible. It is not critical that you underline **and** color code words in your Bible, and some may not feel comfortable doing so. However, the benefit is evident when we do. We will make some of those points in this lesson **and** illustrate with several examples. If you don't feel comfortable marking in your text, you will notice that text is provided for you.

## I. Benefits

- a. Look at the two opening paragraphs above and identify how many times you see the word “and.” Did we miss any? We can see how using markings (bolding, underlining, italicizing, circling, boxing, color coding) draws attention quickly and easily to specific information.
- b. Example: Let's say we wanted to study “Faith” in the **I Thessalonian** letter. A good start would be identifying where, and how often, the word occurred in the letter.

Turn to **page 2**, and see how many “faith” words you can find in 10 seconds. Okay, now see how many you can find on **page 3**. It becomes evident what marking can do.

In terms of practical Bible study, the next time I open to I Thessalonians, I can find the phrases quickly and use more time exploring the context around the words.

- c. Example: If you were studying “baptism” with someone, the book of **Acts** would be a key place to teach about this important subject.

How would you go about finding all occurrences of “baptism,” “baptized,” or the like in the **book of Acts**? You could use the index in the back of your Bible, but only a few would be noted. You could use an “exhaustive” concordance if available.

Or, as you read through Acts the next time, you could simply mark the words along the way! Notice the marked words from **Acts 1 and 2** on **pages 4 and 5**.

Once the markings are present, we can easily go back and learn more about baptism and even differentiate different baptisms in the text.

- d. The examples above barely touch the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we will learn in this study and the innumerable ways markings skills can be used. But as you can see, our initial goal is to find words, themes and focal points, so that we can study them more fully.

**Advance to Page 6 for last section of Lesson 1.**

**Chapter 1:1** Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ : Grace to you and peace. **2** We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers ; **3** constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, **4** knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; **5** for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction ; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. **6** You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, **7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. **8** For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. **9** For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, **10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

**Chapter 2:1** For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, **2** but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. **3** For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit ; **4** but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. **5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed -God is witness - **6** nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. **7** But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. **8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. **9** For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers ; **11** just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, **12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. **13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. **14** For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, **15** who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, **16** hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved ; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost. **17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while -in person, not in spirit -were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. **18** For we wanted to come to you-I, Paul, more than once -and yet Satan hindered us. **19** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation ? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming ? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

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**Chapter 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk ), that you excel still more. **2** For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification ; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality ; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God ; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. **9** Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another ; **10** for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, **11** and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, **12** so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. **13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Chapter 5:1** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety !" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child , and they will not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief ; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness ; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. **7** For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. **12** But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, **13** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. **14** We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. **16** Rejoice always ; **17** pray without ceasing ; **18** in everything give thanks ; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **19** Do not quench the Spirit ; **20** do not despise prophetic utterances. **21** But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good ; **22** abstain from every form of evil. **23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely ; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. **25** Brethren, pray for us. **26** Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. **27** I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. **28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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**Acts 1:1** The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. **3** To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. **4** Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; **5** for John **baptized** with water, but you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ." **6** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel ?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority ; **8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." **9** And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. **11** They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky ? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." **12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. **13** When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying ; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. **15** At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together ), and said, **16** "Brethren , the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **17** "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." **18** (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. **19** And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem ; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) **20** "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.' **21** "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us- **22** beginning with the **baptism** of John until the day that He was taken up from us- one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." **23** So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus ), and Matthias. **24** And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen **25** to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." **26** And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias ; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Acts 2:1** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. **5** Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans ? **8** "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born ? **9** "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and

proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs -we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." **12** And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean ?" **13** But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine." **14** But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. **15** "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day ; **16** but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel : **17** 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND ; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS ; **18** EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. **19** 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. **20** 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. **21** 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' **22** "Men of Israel, listen to these words : Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - **23** this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **24** "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. **25** "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE ; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. **26** 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED ; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE ; **27** BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. **28** 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE ; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.' **29** "Brethren , I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, **31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. **32** "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. **33** "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. **34** "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says : 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, **35** UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" **36** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ -this Jesus whom you crucified." **37** Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren , what shall we do ?" **38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation !" **41** So then, those who had received his word were **baptized** ; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe ; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common ; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## II. Creating a Standard

- a. Implementing a system that feels comfortable and easy, and being consistent with that system, can yield great long term results. Down the left side of this page I have provided a legend of terms that occur with great frequency in the New Testament. You'll note this only requires 6 map colors and a pencil.
- b. Example: Nearly half of our standard markings are found in **I Thessalonians 1**. Examine that below. On the final 3 pages of this lesson, you have been provided the text for the remainder of this **I Thessalonian letter**. Read through the first time marking these 4 things:

Word of God

Jesus

Love

Faith

Grace

Baptism

Love

Word of God

~~Time Phrases~~

Repentance

Kingdom

Faith

Believe

Authority

Holy Spirit

Jesus Christ

Resurrection

Locations

Proper Names

## I Thessalonians 1 (NASB)

1 [Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

**Word of God****Jesus****Love****Faith**

**I Thessalonians 2:1** For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, **2** but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. **3** For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit ; **4** but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. **5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed -God is witness - **6** nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. **7** But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. **8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. **9** For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers ; **11** just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, **12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. **13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. **14** For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, **15** who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, **16** hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved ; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost. **17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while -in person, not in spirit -were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. **18** For we wanted to come to you-I, Paul, more than once -and yet Satan hindered us. **19** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation ? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming ? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

**I Thessalonians 3:1** Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, **3** so that no one



would be disturbed by these afflictions ; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. **4** For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction ; and so it came to pass, as you know. **5** For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain. **6** But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, **7** for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith ; **8** for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord. **9** For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, **10** as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith ? **11** Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; **12** and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; **13** so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

**I Thessalonians 4:1** Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk ), that you excel still more. **2** For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification ; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality ; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God ; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. **9** Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another ; **10** for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, **11** and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, **12** so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. **13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

**14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**I Thessalonians 5:1** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety !" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child , and they will not escape. **4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief ; **5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness ; **6** so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. **7** For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. **12** But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, **13** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. **14** We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. **16** Rejoice always ; **17** pray without ceasing ; **18** in everything give thanks ; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **19** Do not quench the Spirit ; **20** do not despise prophetic utterances. **21** But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good ; **22** abstain from every form of evil. **23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely ; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. **25** Brethren, pray for us. **26** Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. **27** I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. **28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The New Testament consists of 27 books. These letters were written *by* certain people, *to* certain people, *for* specific and important reasons. It is sometimes said that our Bible study is “reading other people’s mail,” and that is true. So, to pick up in the middle of a letter, and read a few verses, might not help us very much in Bible study. However, taking a few minutes to identify who is writing, or who is speaking, who they are speaking to, or who is being addressed, is critical!

Try opening a book to the middle: a book you have not previously read. Read a paragraph, and then explain what is happening in the narrative. It is difficult to do. But if you knew who was speaking and to whom they spoke, and you knew some things about those people, you could explain the text.

In this lesson, we will discuss the importance of finding and marking the speaker in a given passage, identifying the person being addressed, and learning some things about them.

### **I. Identify the Author and/or the Speaker in a Text**

- a. By identifying the writer, and knowing some things about that writer, it adds understanding to the things he wrote. For instance, read **II Timothy 4:7-8**. We learn from the first verse in the letter that Paul wrote these words. But what fight did he fight? What course had he finished? Well, we also know that Paul wrote the II Corinthian letter (**1:1**). Read **II Corinthians 11:23-28**. Now I can see the experiences of the writer and the impact of his message to Timothy.
- b. Sometimes identifying the speaker in the text is even more important than the author; if the author is telling a story that includes the actions of others. Are you a person who will do everything the Bible says? Did you know the Bible says, “*Curse God and Die!*” This is found in **Job 2:9**. Go to that passage and identify who is speaking. This sheds light on the statement.

### **II. Determine the Recipient of the Letter or Message**

- a. Jesus’ disciples asked, “*Lord, are You addressing these parables to us, or to someone else*” (**Luke 12:41**). This is a valuable question in all Bible study. For instance, instructions in the Old Testament were “for someone else,” that is, the Jewish nation.
- b. Let’s look at the II Timothy letter again. In **II Timothy 1:4**, there is an emotional connection between Paul and the recipient. There is also some earnest and strong appeals: (**1:8-11**). Now read **II Timothy 1:1-7**. Who is Paul writing to, and do they have a past? (See **Acts 16:1-5**) We can read with greater appreciation because we know the people involved.

### **III. Bringing Truth to Light**

- a. Marking speakers and hearers in a text can actually help us avoid religious error! Many have contended that **John 14:26** and **John 16:13** are passages that apply to every Christian: “all of us will be directly led and miraculously guided by the Holy Spirit.” But who is speaking? To whom is Jesus speaking? And how does that affect the interpretation of the passage. Turn to **page 11** to notice how identifying the audience limits the scope of the promises.
- b. On pages **16-18** we can read **Acts 1 and 2**. Let’s use a single color and mark the people (pronouns included) to see if the gift was received by *many* people, or just the Apostles.

**John 13:1** Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. **2** During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, **4** got up from supper, and laid aside His garments ; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. **5** Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. **6** So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet ?" **7** Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter ." **8** Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet !" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." **9** Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." **10** Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean ; and you are clean, but not all of you." **11** For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." **12** So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? **13** "You call Me Teacher and Lord ; and you are right, for so I am. **14** "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. **16** "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. **17** "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. **18** "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen ; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' **19** "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. **20** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." **21** When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." **22** The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. **23** There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. **24** So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." **25** He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" **26** Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. **27** After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." **28** Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. **29** For some were supposing, because Judas had



the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast;" or else, that he should give something to the poor. **30** So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately ; and it was night. **31** Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; **32** if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. **33** "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' **34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." **36** Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going ?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now ; but you will follow later." **37** Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now ? I will lay down my life for You." **38** Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

**John 14:1** "Do not let your heart be troubled ; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places ; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. **4** "And you know the way where I am going." **5** Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way ?" **6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life ; no one comes to the Father but through Me. **7** "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also ; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." **8** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." **9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip ? He who has seen Me has seen the Father ; how can you say, 'Show us the Father ' ? **10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. **11** "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. **12** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also ; and greater works than these he will do ; because I go to the Father. **13** "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. **15** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. **16** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever ; **17** that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. **18** "I will not leave you as orphans ; I will come to you. **19** "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. **20** "In that day you will know that I

am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. **21** "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. **24** "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. **25** "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. **26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. **27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. **28** "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29** "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. **30** "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; **31** but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

**John 15:1** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. **3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. **5** "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. **6** "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. **7** "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. **9** "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. **10** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. **12** "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **13** "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. **14** "You are My friends if you do what I command you. **15** "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear

fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. **17** "This I command you, that you love one another. **18** "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. **19** "If you were of the world, the world would love its own ; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. **20** "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. **22** "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** "He who hates Me hates My Father also. **24** "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin ; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. **25** "But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.' **26** "When **the Helper** comes, whom I will send to **you** from the Father, that is **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, **27** and you will testify also, because **you have been with Me** from the beginning.

**John 16:1** "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. **2** "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. **3** "These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. **4** "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. **5** "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going ?' **6** "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. **7** "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away ; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. **8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment ; **9** concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; **11** and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. **12** "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** "But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide **you** into all the truth ; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak ; and He will disclose to **you** what is to come. **14** "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. **15** "All things that the Father has are Mine ; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you. **16** "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." **17** Some of His **disciples then said to one another**, "What is this thing He is telling us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father '?"

**18** So they were saying, "What is this that He says, 'A little while '? We do not know what He is talking about." **19** Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'? **20** "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice ; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. **21** "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come ; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. **22** "Therefore you too have grief now ; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. **23** "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. **24** "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name ; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. **25** "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language ; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. **26** "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf ; **27** for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. **28** "I came forth from the Father and have come into the world ; I am leaving the world again and going to the Father." **29** His disciples said, "Lo, now You are speaking plainly and are not using a figure of speech. **30** "Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God." **31** Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe ? **32** "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone ; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. **33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage ; I have overcome the world."

Add to this Context the Harmony of the other 3 Gospels:

"Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples."  
(Matthew 26:20)

"When it was evening, He came with the twelve. As they reclined at the table..."  
(Mark 14:17-18)

"When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him."  
(Luke 22:14)



Below is the Text from Acts 1 and 2. Use either a pencil or a color (I suggest green), and box in every single reference to the Apostles in the text. Be sure and include pronouns like "them" and "you." I have marked a few to get you started on each page. Also, use brown to box in references to the Holy Spirit. Once completed, we will be able to confirm what we saw in John 13-16: it was the Apostles *only* who received the miraculous promised powers of the Holy Spirit directly from Jesus.

**Acts 1:1** The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. **3** To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. **4** Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ." **6** So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel ?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority ; **8** but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." **9** And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. **11** They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky ? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." **12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. **13** When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying ; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. **15** At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together ), and said, **16** "Brethren , the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **17** "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." **18** (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. **19** And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem ; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) **20** "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN

TAKE HIS OFFICE.' **21** "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied **us** all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among **us** **22** beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us-one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." **23** So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus ), and Matthias. **24** And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen **25** to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." **26** And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias ; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Acts2:1** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. **5** Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans ? **8** "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born ? **9** "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs -we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." **12** And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean ?" **13** But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine." **14** But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. **15** "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day ; **16** but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel : **17** 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND ; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS ; **18** EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. **19** 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. **20** 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. **21** 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' **22** "Men of Israel, listen to these words : Jesus the Nazarene, a man

attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - **23** this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. **24** "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. **25** "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE ; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. **26** 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED ; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE ; **27** BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. **28** 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE ; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.' **29** "Brethren , I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, **31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. **32** "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. **33** "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. **34** "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says : 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, **35** UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" **36** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ -this Jesus whom you crucified." **37** Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren , what shall we do ?" **38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation !" **41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized ; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe ; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44** And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common ; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46** Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Identifying people is the place to start. If you want to understand what's going on, you must know who is speaking, and who is being spoken to, as we discussed in lesson 2. However, when we see these people in their proper Place and Time, we get an even greater insight.

This lesson is about marking **Locations** (circle in pencil) and **Time Phrases** (red pencil) as a means to a fuller understanding of textual settings. This practice leads to at least 4 clear benefits:

1. A mental picture of how the events of the Bible unfold. Identifying a place or time of day can help us envision the event. Also when scenes change, our minds need to see the change as well.
  - a. Turn to **Page 20**. This tracks Jesus' interaction with the Apostles after His resurrection.
  - b. When coupled with other passages, like **Acts 1:3** and **I Corinthians 15:3-8**, we can really begin to track the actions of Jesus between His resurrection and ascension.
2. The wisdom to keep passages in their proper context. In Lesson 2, we studied Jesus words to the Apostles in **John 13-17**. Several times Jesus promises them the power of the Holy Spirit. We noted proper names to prove it was only the Apostles being addressed.
  1. Now open your Bible to that text and examine the Location and Time References in **John 13:1-2** and **18:1**. What do we learn about the setting of the words Jesus spoke?
  2. Turn to **Page 22**. Notice that Matthew's gospel is much more brief, but harmonizes.
3. Easy answers to some tough Bible questions. You might wonder how circling locations and red marked time phrases would make tough Bible questions easy, but consider this example: *"How can Jesus die on Friday and be raised Sunday, when He said it would be 'the third day?'"* This sounds like a challenging question, since we would consider Friday to Sunday to be 2 days. But time and place markings show us that in Bible times part of a day counted as a whole day.
  - a. Turn to **page 23**. This is the story of Cornelius' conversion, note the flow of time and how he counted time differently than we do today.
  - b. Now go to **page 24** and mark the time phrases and locations in the excerpts provided from Matthew's gospel. We can easily see how Friday to Sunday is "three days."
4. An established continuity between the Book of Acts and the Epistles. Acts tracks multiple journeys by the Apostle Paul, and we know that he wrote 12 letters along the way. Seeing how those epistles connect to his journey is an amazing advantage in Bible study.
  - a. Open your Bible to the first chapter of the **I Corinthian** letter. We identify Paul writing to the Corinthians, including a greeting, along with some personal comments. (**1:4-17**)
  - b. Now let's find out about his time there. Read through **Acts 18:1-22** on **page 26**, and circle all locations. Box in proper names, and mark in red all passages of time. We now have valuable background for the First Corinthian letter.

We have made a short list to demonstrate some of the many benefits to this simple practice of always knowing Where and When you are in a particular Bible passage. The Holy Spirit has included these details on purpose, to give us greater understanding, and to convey the intensity or emotions of a particular event. As we close this lesson, and to demonstrate this one more time, turn to our final page of this chapter, **page 27**, and mark the things instructed on that page from **Acts 16**.



**John 20:1** Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. **2** So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." **3** So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. **4** The two were running together ; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first ; **5** and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. **6** And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb ; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. **9** For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. **10** So the disciples went away again to their own homes. **11** But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping ; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb ; **12** and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. **13** And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping ?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping ? Whom are you seeking ?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary !" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni !" (which means, Teacher ). **17** Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father ; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her. **19** So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." **20** And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained." **24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord !" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." **26** After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be

with you." **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands ; and reach here your hand and put it into My side ; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God !" **29** Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed ? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." **30** Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book ; **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**John 21:1** After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. **2** Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat ; and that night they caught nothing. **4** ~~But when the day was now breaking,~~ Jesus stood on the beach, yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." **6** And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. **7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. **8** But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. **9** So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." **11** Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three ; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. **12** Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. **14** ~~This is now the third time that~~ Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

**Acts 1:1** The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. **3** To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them ~~over a period of forty days~~ and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

In the following section, use your red pencil and mark time phrases, use your blue pencil and underline references to Jesus, use a regular pencil to circle locations and box in any other proper names you find in the text. While John used 5 chapters to record this event, Matthew uses only a part of one. What detail did Matthew include that John omitted?

**Matthew 26:17** Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover ?" **18** And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near ; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" " **19** The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. **20** Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. **21** As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." **22** Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord ?" **23** And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. **24** "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed ! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." **25** And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi ?" Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself." **26** While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat ; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. **29** "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." **30** After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Acts 10:1** Now there was a man at **Caesarea** named **Cornelius**, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, **2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. **3** About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" **4** And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God." **5** "Now dispatch some men to **Joppa** and send for a man named Simon, who is also called **Peter**; **6** he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea." **7** When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, **8** and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. **9** On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. **10** But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; **11** and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, **12** and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. **13** A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" **14** But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." **15** Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." **16** This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. **17** Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; **18** and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. **19** While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. **20** "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." **21** Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" **22** They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you." **23** So he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. **24** On the following day he entered **Caesarea**. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25** When **Peter** entered, **Cornelius** met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. **26** But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man." **27** As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled. **28** And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. **29** "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me." **30** **Cornelius** said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, **31** and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. **32** 'Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.' **33** "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

On page 24 and 25 mark ~~Time Phrases~~ and Locations.

**Matthew 26:17** Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover ?" **18** And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near ; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" " **19** The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. **20** Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. **21** As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." **22** Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord ?" **23** And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. **24** "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." **25** And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi ?" Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself." **26** While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat ; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. **29** "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." **30** After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Matthew 26:47** While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. **48** Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him." **49** Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. **50** And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

**Matthew 26:59** Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. **60** They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, **61** and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.' "

**Matthew 27:1** Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death ; **2** and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

**Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. **46** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI ?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

**Matthew 27:57** When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. **58** This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. **59** And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock ; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. **61** And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave. **62** Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.'

**Matthew 28:1** Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. **4** The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. **5** The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid ; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.



Mark Locations, Proper Names, and ~~Time Phrases~~.

Note the events that serve as the background for the letters Paul wrote.

**Acts 18:1** After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, **3** and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. **4** And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. **5** But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. **6** But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads ! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **7** Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. **8** Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. **9** And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent ; **10** for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city." **11** And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. **12** But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, **13** saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." **14** But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; **15** but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves ; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters." **16** And he drove them away from the judgment seat. **17** And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things. **18** Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. **19** They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, **21** but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus. **22** When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

**People and Places are already marked. Simple read and add ~~Time Phrases~~.  
Time phrases communicate the URGENCY of Baptism in this text!**

**Acts 16:16** It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. **17** Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." **18** She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. **19** But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, **20** and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, **21** and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans." **22** The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. **23** When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely ; **24** and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. **25** But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; **26** and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken ; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. **27** When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here !" **29** And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, **30** and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved ?" **31** They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." **32** And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. **33** And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. **34** And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household. **35** Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men." **36** And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace."

Repetition is a powerful writing tool. In many sections of scripture, the writer chooses to use a word, phrase or idea over and over, when it might seem like once or twice would suffice. This may at first seem unnecessary, but it is a figure of speech with the potential for great effect. Here is an excerpt from *“Figures of Speech Used In The Bible”* by E.W. Bullinger on the topic: *“Redundancy.”*

*“These words are not really superfluous when used by the Holy Spirit, nor are they idle or useless. They are necessary to fill up the sense, which without them would be incomplete or imperfect” (Bullinger, p.405).*

Bible writers use repeating words throughout a section, or even an entire letter, as a way of keeping the reader on track and revealing deeper meaning to seemingly simple topics. Let me illustrate. Turn to **page 29** and notice the main theme of **II John** and **III John**.

Furthermore, often times larger sections in scripture keep a theme flowing throughout. It may not include a recurring word, but does carry a recurring idea. A good example of this is found in **Matthew chapters 1-4**. Turn to **page 30-32** and examine **1:23; 2:6; 2:15; 2:18; 2:23; 3:34:15-16**. What recurring evidence is Matthew using over and over again to prove Jesus is the Son of God?

### I. Carryout the Legend through the Whole New Testament

- a. About a dozen word and word phrases were suggested back on **page 6**. These are words that occur over and over again in the New Testament. When reading a text, begin by looking for and marking whatever you have included in your standard for the New Testament. Turn to **page 29** once again and do the standard marking on the books of **II and III John**.
- b. This practice can help you get started in a given text. As you go through this process, other words and phrases will be seen that are unique to that text. Have a different color and shape combo (not on the legend) picked out for such markings. For instance: *“truth”* on **page 29**.

### II. Use Repetition Markings as a Foundation for Deeper Study

- a. Finding a unique word carried through a section or letter, once marked, serves as the starting point for much deeper understanding. For instance, the book of Hebrews uses the word *“better”*, or words like it, over and over again: **Hebrews 1:4; 3:3; 7:19,22; 8:6; 9:11; 10:34; 11:16,26,35,40; 12:24**. Once these have been noted, it is easy to go back and determine the theme of the whole letter and build a handful of great points that illustrate that theme.
- b. Let’s take a look at Paul’s message to Timothy in **I Timothy 5:1-16**. The text is on **page 33**. Begin by marking the noun that occurs 9 times in that text. Now go back through and identify 5 different types of that one noun. Repetition calls our attention to several specific teachings.

### III. Tracking a Theme Can Have Doctrinal Implications!

- a. **II Corinthians 9:13** has been used to teach that our weekly contribution can be used for both Christians and non-Christians, based on the phrase *“contribution to them and to all.”* However, if we examine the topic over a two chapter span and mark all references to this contribution, the truth of the text quickly and clearly emerges. Begin on **page 34**.
- b. If your Bible has margins, take the time to write in your findings for later reference.

**II John 1** The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in **truth**; and not only I, but also all who know the **truth** **2** for the sake of the **truth** which abides in us and will be with us forever : **3** Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **truth** and love. **4** I was very glad to find some of your children walking in **truth** just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. **5** Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. **6** And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. **7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. **8** Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. **9** Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God ; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting ; **11** for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. **12** Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink ; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. **13** The children of your chosen sister greet you.

**III John 1** The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in **truth** **2** Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. **3** For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your **truth** that is, how you are walking in **truth** **4** I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the **truth**. **5** Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers ; **6** and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. **7** For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. **8** Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the **truth** **9** I wrote something to the church ; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. **10** For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words ; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. **11** Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God ; the one who does evil has not seen God. **12** Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the **truth** itself ; and we add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is **true**. **13** I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write them to you with pen and ink ; **14** but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. **15** Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

**Matthew 1:1** The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham : **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. **3** Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. **4** Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. **5** Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. **6** Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. **7** Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. **8** Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. **9** Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. **10** Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. **11** Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. **12** After the deportation to Babylon : Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. **14** Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. **15** Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. **16** Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. **17** So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations ; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations ; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. **18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows : when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. **19** And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. **20** But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** "She will bear a Son ; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22** **Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet : **23** "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."** **24** And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, **25** but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son ; and he called His name Jesus.

**Matthew 2:1** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, **2** "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews ? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** **They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea ; for this is what has been written by the prophet : **6** 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH ; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'** " **7** Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child ; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." **9** After hearing the king, they went their way ; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother ; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi

left for their own country by another way. **13** Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." **14** So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. **15** **He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet : "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."** **16** Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. **17** **Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled : 18 "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEeping AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN ; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."** **19** But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, **20** "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel ; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." **21** So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, **23** **and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets : "He shall be called a Nazarene."**

**Matthew 3:1** Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." **3** **For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT !' "** **4** Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist ; and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan ; **6** and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. **7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come ? **8** "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance ; **9** and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father ' ; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. **10** "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees ; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals ; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor ; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." **13** Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. **14** But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" **15** But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time ; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. **16** After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water ; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, **17** and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

**Matthew 4:1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. **3** And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." **4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' " **5** Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the



temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down ; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.' " **7** Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.' " **8** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory ; **9** and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan ! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' " **11** Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him. **12** Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee ; **13** and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. **14** **This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet :** **15** **"THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES -** **16** **"THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."** **17** From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." **18** Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea ; for they were fishermen. **19** And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **21** Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets ; and He called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. **23** Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. **24** The news about Him spread throughout all Syria ; and they brought to Him all who were ill , those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics ; and He healed them. **25** Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

### Follow-Up Questions:

- 1) How many Old Testament prophecies are mentioned in these four chapters?
- 2) How many Old Testament prophets are represented by these quotes?
- 3) What is the significance of these prophecies to the first century Jewish reader?

**I Timothy 5:1** Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, **2** the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity. **3** Honor widows who are widows indeed ; **4** but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents ; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. **5** Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. **6** But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. **7** Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **9** A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, **10** having a reputation for good works ; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. **11** But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, **12** thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. **13** At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house ; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. **14** Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach ; **15** for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. **16** If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

1) What noun did you find mentioned 9 times?

2) List 5 different categories of the noun used above.

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**II Corinthians 8:1** Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, **2** that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. **3** For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. **6** So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. **7** But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also. **8** I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. **9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. **10** I give my opinion in this matter, for this is to your advantage, who were the first to begin a year ago not only to do this, but also to desire to do it. **11** But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability. **12** For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. **13** For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality - **14** at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality ; **15** as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK." **16** But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. **17** For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest, he has gone to you of his own accord. **18** We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in the things of the gospel has spread through all the churches ; **19** and not only this, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and to show our readiness, **20** taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift ; **21** for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. **22** We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often tested and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you. **23** As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our

brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ. **24** Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

**II Corinthians 9:1** For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints ; **2** for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. **3** But I have sent the brethren, in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty in this case, so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared ; **4** otherwise if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we-not to speak of you-will be put to shame by this confidence. **5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness. **6** Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7** Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed ; **9** as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." **10** Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness ; **11** you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. **12** For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. **13** Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all. **14** while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. **15** Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- 1) How many references to the contribution did you find?
- 2) Does the "all" in verse 13 refer to brethren or general benevolence?

Contrast is a literary tool which places greater emphasis on a point by identifying the difference between that thing and something else. When one is superior, or deemed superior by the writer, comparison will prove its worth and highlight positive qualities.

*Example: Dogs are bred in many sizes. Cats are usually a pretty standard size. Large dogs can be used for security in your yard. Large cats typically just lay around. Smaller dogs can be bred to stay small and can be trained to stay in the house. Smaller cats are hard to train and almost always grow to be large and boring. So if you are looking for a pet that is both fun and will help keep your family safe: choose a dog.*

The Apostle Paul employs contrast repeatedly in his letters. In the examples on **page 37**, note, it may be the same two words used or many different words conveying contrasted ideas.

### I. Contrast Is Used To Show How Good Can Triumph Over Evil

- a. In **II Corinthians 1:3-11**, Paul uses two word families repeatedly: “comfort” and “affliction.” On **page 38**, mark those words, and words like them, in two contrasting colors. Now, while “affliction” may seem strong; how does the contrast with “comfort” help the one who suffers?
- b. In **II Corinthians 7:2-11**, Paul uses “comfort” and “affliction” once again. On **page 39**, mark the words, but also use a pencil and box in another word that occurs several times.

### II. Contrast Is Used To Prove How Much Better Some Things Are Than Others

- a. **II Corinthians 3** includes a detailed description of why the New Law in Christ is greater than the Old Law through Moses. Instead of just saying it plainly in a single sentence, Paul uses the power of creative contrast to make a more powerful point. Go to **page 40**, and use one color for all references to the New Law and another color for Old Law phrases.
- b. It could simply be stated that heavenly bodies are better than earthly bodies. In **II Corinthians 5:1-10**, Paul chooses to use a steady contrast to make that point abundantly clear. Go to **page 41**. Use two colors and mark each word family: “Temporal” and “Eternal.”

### III. Contrasting Adjectives And Verbs Can Add Power To Any Argument

- a. **Ephesians 4:22-24** clearly contrasts “old self” and “new self.” While **Ephesians 5:8** similarly contrasts “darkness” and “light.” But notice all the verbs and adjectives between these two passages that all fall into one of the two categories. See **page 42**.
- b. There were many ways for Paul to prove to the brethren that he cared for them and was not one of the false teachers or selfish men with which the church had to be concerned. But check out this rare contrasting jewel in **I Thessalonians 2:1-12**, laid out on **page 43**. Find six negative qualities he did not have and then 6 qualities he did possess.

*Note:* A tip for marking contrast is to pick two color/shape combos and use them for contrast consistently through the New Testament, as done in our lesson.

**Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren ; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." **15** But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. **16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh ; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. **19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control ; against such things there is no law. **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **26** Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

**II Corinthians 6:14** Do not be bound together with unbelievers ; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness ? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever ? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols ? For we are the temple of the living God ; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **17** "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN ; And I will welcome you. **18** "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.



Finish out with orange on all “comfort” phrases and purple for all “affliction” terms.

**II Corinthians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. **5** For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. **6** But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation ; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer ; **7** and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort. **8** For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively , beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life ; **9** indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead ; **10** who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, **11** you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

Mark “comfort” phrases in orange. Mark “affliction” phrases in purple. Also choose a color or shape and mark the “sorrowful” phrases.

**II Corinthians 7:2** Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. **3** I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. **4** Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort ; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. **5** For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within. **6** But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus ; **7** and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more. **8** For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while - **9** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance ; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. **10** For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. **11** For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong ! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. **12** So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. **13** For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

Underline all references to the Old Law in purple and the New Law in orange.

**II Corinthians 3:1** Are we beginning to commend ourselves again ? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? **2** You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men ; **3** being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. **4** Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. **5** Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, **6** who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit ; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. **7** But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, **8** how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory ? **9** For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. **10** For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. **11** For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. **12** Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, **13** and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. **14** But their minds were hardened ; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. **15** But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart ; **16** but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Notice “temporal” and “eternal” in II Corinthians 4:18. In chapter 5, mark the contrast between the temporary body and the eternal body.

**II Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, **3** inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. **4** For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. **5** Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. **6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight - **8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Find adjectives, verbs and phrases associated with both “old self” and “new self.”

**Ephesians 4:20** But you did not learn Christ in this way, **21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, **22** that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. **25** Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. **26** BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN ; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and do not give the devil an opportunity. **28** He who steals must steal no longer ; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. **29** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children ; **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. **3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints ; **4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord ; walk as children of Light

Find 3 *negative* adjectives and 3 *negative* verbs bunched together. Mark in purple.  
Then find 3 *positive* adjectives and 3 *positive* verbs bunched together. Mark in orange.

**I Thessalonians 2:1** For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, **2** but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. **3** For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit ; **4** but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. **5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed -God is witness - **6** nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority. **7** But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. **8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. **9** For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers ; **11** just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, **12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.



The book of Psalms contains 150 individual songs by David and several other inspired men. While each Psalm carries its own message and value, it can be easy to coin them all “basically the same” and miss some incredibly valuable lessons.

The Old Testament includes 17 prophecy books: Isaiah through Malachi. For many Bible students, these are not well charted territory. They can be viewed as repetitive, difficult, obscure, or dated.

Some of the marking tips we’ve studied so far can help us see the immense value of the Psalms and Prophets. For instance, boxing in proper names and places will give a sense of setting and familiarity with the message. But more work is needed to truly get the most out of these letters.

Once again, as little as 6 color pencils, with specific assignments, can do much for us. Instead of marking words like “love” and “Christ,” we will use them to mark categories. Note below:

**Sinful Conduct** (All references to ungodly behavior, regardless of by whom)

**Punishment for Sin** (Judgment God has rendered or will render to the unrighteous)

**Righteous Living** (Good, godly behavior; either instructed by God or performed by men)

**Blessings from God** (God’s promises and blessings for the godly – Include Messianic promises)

**Requests of God** (Help that the author asks from God, including protection, wisdom and aid)

**The Glory of God** (All qualities and descriptions of the greatness of our God)

It also may be helpful to circle references to **God**. Seeing His presence in the songs, and throughout prophetic history, adds an important gravity to each inspired letter.

## I. The Psalms

- a. **Psalm 1 and 2** are typed out and color marked on **page 45**. Lay your bookmark beside the reading, and notice how you can tell the story of each psalm by noting colored themes.
- b. It becomes clear that some songs are wonderfully optimistic and hopeful, while others contain dark themes and a call for God’s judgment. Mark the contrasting Psalms on **page 46**.
- c. **Psalm 32** is well known as a documentation of David’s confession to God. Turn to **page 47** and use the six colors to see the range of emotions and thoughts David lays before the throne.

## II. The Prophets

- a. Other than the book of Jonah, most minor prophets are largely overlooked by Bible students. However, a series of markings can bring individuality and depth to each of these books. On **page 48-51**, notice how quickly we can tell the story of **Joel’s** prophecy through color.
- b. It can be helpful to start with shorter books. Complete the marking exercise on **page 52**: the book of **Obadiah**. Don’t forget to mark people and places.
- c. It is not necessary to mark every sentence or verse, but to mark the categories as you find them. Note: this same approach works in larger prophecy books like Isaiah or Jeremiah.

**Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers ! **2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither ; And in whatever he does, he prospers. **4** The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. **6** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

**Psalm 2:1** Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing ? **2** The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, **3** "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" **4** He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. **5** Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, **6** "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." **7** "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD : He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. **8** 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. **9** 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware .' " **10** Now therefore, O kings, show discernment ; Take warning, O judges of the earth. **11** Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. **12** Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

**Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures ; He leads me beside quiet waters. **3** He restores my soul ; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies ; You have anointed my head with oil ; My cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever .

**Psalm 52:1** Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man ? The lovingkindness of God endures all day long. **2** Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, O worker of deceit. **3** You love evil more than good, Falsehood more than speaking what is right. Selah. **4** You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. **5** But God will break you down forever ; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah. **6** The righteous will see and fear, And will laugh at him, saying, **7** "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, But trusted in the abundance of his riches And was strong in his evil desire." **8** But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God ; I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever. **9** I will give You thanks forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

**Psalm 32:1** How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered ! **2** How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit ! **3** When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. **5** I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide ; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD "; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. **6** Therefore , let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found ; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. **7** You are my hiding place ; You preserve me from trouble ; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. **8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go ; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. **9** Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. **10** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him. **11** Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones ; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

**Joel 1:1** The word of the LORD that came to **Joel**, the son of Pethuel : **2** Hear this, O **elders**, And listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened in your days Or in your fathers' days ? **3** Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation. **4** What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten ; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten ; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten. **5** Awake, drunkards, and weep ; And wail, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth. **6** For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number ; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness. **7** It has made my vine a waste And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away ; Their branches have become white. **8** Wail like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth. **9** The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off From the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, The ministers of the LORD. **10** The field is ruined, The land mourns ; For the grain is ruined, The new wine dries up, Fresh oil fails. **11** Be ashamed, O farmers, Wail, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley ; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed. **12** The vine dries up And the fig tree fails ; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men. **13** Gird yourselves with sackcloth And lament, O priests ; Wail, O ministers of the altar ! Come, spend the night in sackcloth O ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God. **14** Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly ; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land To the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD. **15** Alas for the day ! ~~For the day of the LORD is near,~~ And it will come as destruction from the Almighty. **16** Has not food been cut off before our eyes, Gladness and joy from the house of our God ? **17** The seeds shrivel under their clods ; The storehouses are desolate, The barns are torn down, For the grain is dried up. **18** How the beasts groan ! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly Because there is no pasture for them; Even the flocks of sheep suffer. **19** To You, O LORD, I cry ; For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness And the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. **20** Even the beasts of the field pant for You; For the water brooks are dried up And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

**Joel 2:1** Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain ! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming ; Surely it is near, **2** A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people ; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. **3** A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. **4** Their appearance is like the appearance of horses ; And like war horses, so they run. **5** With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. **6** Before them the people are in anguish ; All faces turn pale. **7** They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers ; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. **8** They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path ; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. **9** They rush on the city, They run on the wall ; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. **10** Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. **11** The LORD utters His voice before His army ; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it? **12** "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning ; **13** And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil. **14** Who knows whether He will not turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, Even a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God ? **15** Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, **16** Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her bridal chamber. **17** Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the



nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God ?' " **18** Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people. **19** The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations. **20** "But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things." **21** Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things. **22** Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full. **23** So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God ; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. **24** The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. **25** "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. **26** "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. **27** "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other ; And My people will never be put to shame.

**28** "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind ; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. **29** "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. **30** "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. **31** "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood ~~Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.~~ **32** "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered ; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

**Joel 3:1** "For behold, ~~in those days and at that time,~~ When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, **2** I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations ; And they have divided up My land. **3** "They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot And sold a girl for wine that they may drink. **4** "Moreover, what are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia? Are you rendering Me a recompense ? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head. **5** "Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to your temples, **6** and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory, **7** behold, I am going to arouse them from the place where you have sold them, and return your recompense on your head. **8** "Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation," for the LORD has spoken. **9** Proclaim this among the nations : Prepare a war ; rouse the mighty men ! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! **10** Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears ; Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man." **11** Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones. **12** Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations. **13** Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full ; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. **14** Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision ! ~~For the day of the LORD is near~~ in the valley of decision. **15** The sun and moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. **16** The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. **17** Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more. **18** ~~And in that day~~ The mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water ; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD To water the valley of Shittim. **19** Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood. **20** But Judah will be inhabited forever And Jerusalem for all generations. **21** And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.

**Obadiah 1** The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom - We have heard a report from the LORD, And an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle" - **2** "Behold, I will make you small among the nations ; You are greatly despised. **3** "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth ?' **4** "Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD. **5** "If thieves came to you, If robbers by night - O how you will be ruined !- Would they not steal only until they had enough ? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave some gleanings ? **6** "O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out! **7** "All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.) **8** "Will I not on that day," declares the LORD, "Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau ? **9** "Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, So that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter. **10** "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever. **11** "On the day that you stood aloof , On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem - You too were as one of them. **12** "Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune. And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction ; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress. **13** "Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster. Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster. And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster. **14** "Do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives ; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress. **15** "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head. **16** "Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed. **17** "But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions. **18** "Then the house of Jacob will be a fire And the house of Joseph a flame ; But the house of Esau will be as stubble. And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that there will be no survivor of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken. **19** Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead. **20** And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who are among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev. **21** The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD'S.

The tips and strategies outlined in this material serve as a standardized and consistent approach to Bible marking. Even if you have completed every exercise, there still may be a part of you that asks, *“How am I supposed to do this on my own?”* Everyone understands that rewarding Bible study takes time, and consistency over time, to bear the greatest fruit. Color Bible marking is a specific means to the end that is greater Bible knowledge, but also requires patience and consistency.

There are, however, a few specific tips that can help you along the way. In addition to simply reviewing the marking material from time to time, here are some practical, everyday things you can do to give yourself a better chance of sticking with color marking and getting the most out of it.

### **Top 10 Tips for Moving Forward in Color Bible Marking**

- 1. Find a Bible with large print and margins.** (Suggestion: New Inductive Study Bible)
- 2. Keep the tools of the trade with you.** (Have 6 color pencil, a mechanical pencil, and a bookmark)
- 3. Read a section of scripture multiple times.** (Begin marking the second time through)
- 4. Have a consistent plan.** (Try studying one New Testament chapter and one Psalm each time)
- 5. Use the pencil if you are not confident.** (Regular pencils are easier to erase than color pencils)
- 6. Make notations in the margins.** (Pencil in things noticed or learned for later reference)
- 7. Customize the system.** (After a while you may find a better way to mark. Go for it!)
- 8. Do not customize the system.** (That is, not for the sake of individuality. It’s a good system!)
- 9. Remember your main objective.** (This is not about coloring, but understanding God’s Word)
- 10. Pray without ceasing.** (Talk to God before you study, during the study, and after you study)

Several years ago, I taught a form of this material to a group of about 25 Christians over the course of six weeks. It was mostly well received, and several have worked the plan consistently ever since. One man, however, a good friend of mine, was not impressed. He did the exercises from the lessons in his Bible, but after the class was over, he put all color pencils away. That is, until last Fall.

Last Fall he moved to a local church wherein he was asked to preach once per month and teach an adult Bible class regularly. He opened his Bible to look for ideas and saw tons of text looking back at him. He didn’t know how to study. But then, he came across the word “faith” marked through the book of I Thessalonians. (This was our work from lesson 1). And he immediately built a sermon from the 9 occurrences in that book.

This friend called me not too long ago and said the following about color marking: “It really didn’t seem important until I needed something to teach.” I respect that statement. And yet, all of us should be prepared to teach when the opportunity arises. Let’s do our best to be prepared.

**“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 3:14).