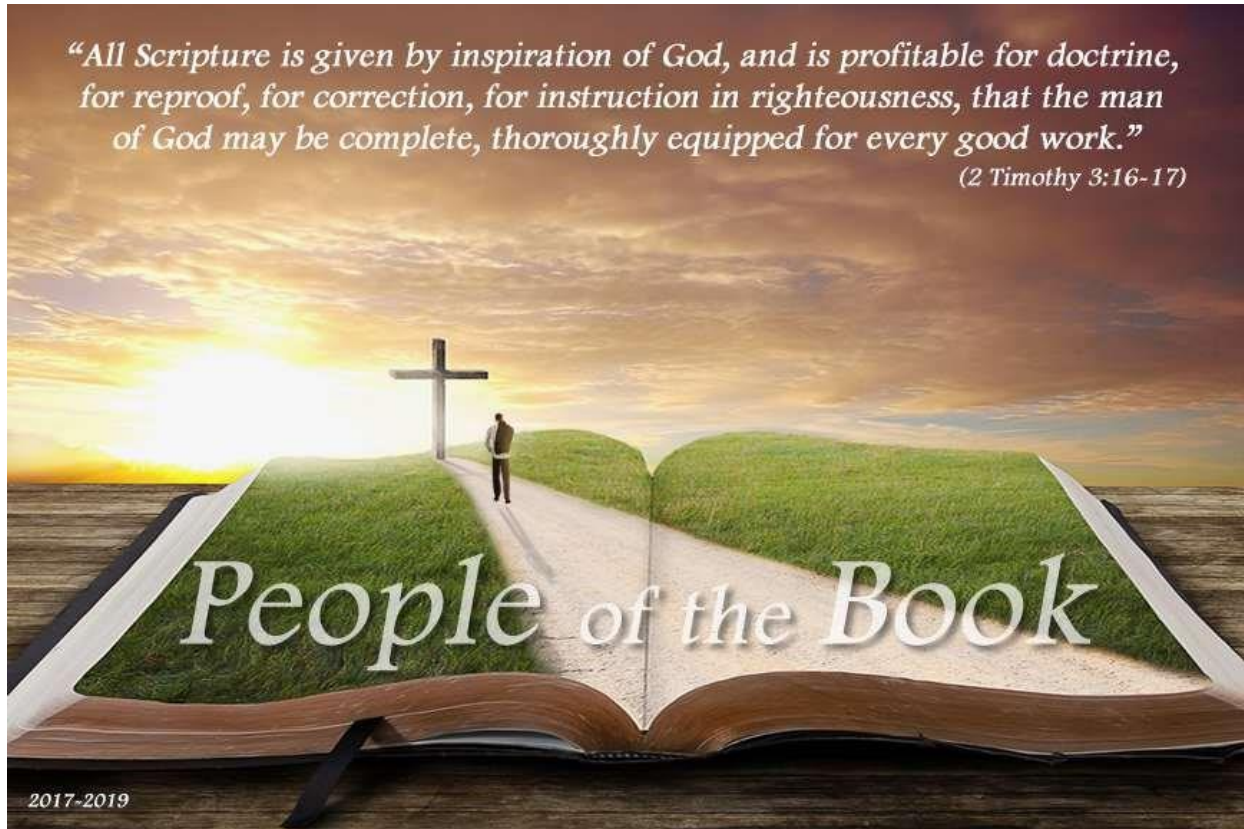


*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*



# **“People of the Book”**

## ***The Beginning of the Church***

***(Part 2)***

**A Harmony of Acts and Paul’s Epistles**

# Syllabus

Date	Lesson	Text
Sunday, July 7	1. Issues from the Previous Letter	2 Corinthians 1-5
Wednesday, July 10	2. Joy and Giving	2 Corinthians 6-9
Sunday, July 14	3. Paul Defends His Apostleship	2 Corinthians 10-13
Wednesday, July 17	4. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Part 2)	Acts 20
Sunday, July 21	5. Saved by Faith	Romans 1-4
Wednesday, July 24	6. Sin and Death VS. Life and Spirit	Romans 5-8
Sunday, July 28	7. Gentiles: The Wild Olive Branch	Romans 9-11
Wednesday, July 31	8. "Be Transformed..."	Romans 12-16
Sunday, August 4	9. Paul Returns to Jerusalem and Arrested	Acts 21:1—22:29
Wednesday, August 7	10. Paul before the Council and Felix	Acts 22:30—24:27
Sunday, August 11	11. Paul before Festus and Agrippa	Acts 25:1—26:32
Wednesday, August 14	12. Paul Travels to Rome	Acts 27-28
Sunday, August 18	13. Review of Acts	Acts 1-28
Wednesday, August 21	14. Jews and Gentiles: One in Christ	Ephesians 1-3
Sunday, August 25	15. Life in Christ	Ephesians 4-6
Wednesday, August 28	16. The Incomparable Christ	Colossians 1-2
Sunday, September 1	17. The New Self	Colossians 3-4
Wednesday, September 4	18. Paul's Condition and Christ's Humility	Philippians 1-2
Sunday, September 8	19. "Pressing on Toward the Goal"	Philippians 3-4
Wednesday, September 11	20. Paul's Letter to Philemon	Philemon
Sunday, September 15	21. The Household Code of the Church (Part 1)	1 Timothy 1-3
Wednesday, September 18	22. The Household Code of the Church (Part 2)	1 Timothy 4-6
Sunday, September 22	23. Paul's Letter to Titus	Titus
Wednesday, September 25	24. A Good Servant and Soldier	2 Timothy 1-2
Sunday, September 29	25. Paul's Dying Concerns	2 Timothy 3-4
Wednesday, October 2	26. Review of Paul's Life	Acts and Paul's Epistles

# 17 Periods of Bible History

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1. Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
2. The Flood	Genesis 6-10
3. The Scattering of the People	Genesis 11
4. The Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5. The Exodus	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers 1-13
6. Wandering in the Wilderness	Numbers 14-36, Deuteronomy, Joshua 1-5
7. Invasion and Conquest	Joshua 6-24
8. The Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
9. The United Kingdom	
Saul	1 Samuel 8-31, 1 Chronicles 10
David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 11-29
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9
10. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-30*
11. Judah Alone	2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 30*-36
12. Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel
13. Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
14. Years of Silence	(Prophesy in Amos 8:11)
15. Life of Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. The Early Church	Acts
17. Letters to the Christians	Romans - Revelation

## The Acts Facts

1. Jesus' Ascension and Matthias Replaces Judas
2. The Day of Pentecost
3. Peter and John Heal a Lame Man
4. Peter and John in Prison
5. Ananias and Sapphira
6. Seven Chosen to Serve
7. Stoning of Stephen
8. Philip in Samaria and the Ethiopian Eunuch
9. Conversion of Saul
10. Conversion of Cornelius
11. The Disciples Were First Called Christians in Antioch
12. James Executed and Peter in Prison
13. Paul's First Missionary Journey
14. Paul's First Missionary Journey
15. The Conference in Jerusalem
16. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
17. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
18. Paul's Second Missionary Journey
19. Paul's Third Missionary Journey
20. Paul's Third Missionary Journey
21. Paul Arrested in Jerusalem
22. Paul Speaks to the People
23. Paul before the Council
24. Paul before Felix
25. Paul before Festus
26. Paul before Agrippa
27. Paul's Voyage to Rome (Shipwreck)
28. Paul's Voyage to Rome (Arrival)

*I learned this breakdown in fifth grade. It has stuck with me all these years and has been extremely helpful!*





# Lesson 1: Issues from the Previous Letter

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 1-5

## **Overview:**

- Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is not a typical Pauline letter full of doctrine and application. It is a very personal letter, specific to the Corinthian church.
- The Corinthian church has had others come in claiming superiority to Paul and, most likely, teaching something contrary to what Paul taught. Paul responds to these claims of other teachers by fake boasting in his afflictions.
- In this early section, he covers some responses to his previous letters.

## **Questions:**

1. Why do bad things sometime happen to us? What do they cause us to do?
2. Paul was unable to make a trip to Corinth that he planned to make. Of what did the Corinthians accuse him?
3. Paul refers to a painful trip he made to the Corinthians. What might this have concerned?
4. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul tells the church to withdraw from a man who had taken his father's wife. Did the Corinthians obey?
5. Why does Paul say he may need "letters of recommendation" to them?
6. What is the "ministry of death" in 2 Corinthians 3:7?
7. Who is the "god of this world" in 2 Corinthians 4:4?
8. What is the "ministry of reconciliation"?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Why might the Corinthian church have preferred a different "apostle" than Paul?

## Lesson 2: Joy and Giving

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 6-9

### Overview:

- Keep in mind Paul's letter for writing this epistle. In essence, he is defending his apostleship but, also, he continues to address previous issues he has had with the church at Corinth.

### Questions:

1. What obstacles were being placed in the way of potential believers?
2. In 2 Corinthians 6:14, Paul says "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers." What is he referencing in this context?
3. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians was strong and harsh. At first, he felt bad for having caused them grief. What changed his mind?
4. What does Repentance involve (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)?
5. Rightly, we often use 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 to exhort us on Sunday to give as we ought. What was the purpose of this original giving?
6. What are Paul's rules for giving?
7. Who is the brother famous for preaching in 2 Corinthians 8:18?

### Be Ready to Discuss:

Should we be stern like Paul or gentle like Aquila and Priscilla when we approach a brother in error?

## Lesson 3: Paul Defends His Apostleship

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 10-13

### Overview:

- Paul changes tone as he begins chapter 10. It appears that he begins to think about something that has annoyed him.
- Some have argued that 2 Corinthians 10-13 is a separate letter. I don't believe the evidence for that is very good.

### Questions:

1. What did the people of Corinth think about Paul in his letters versus Paul in person?
2. The Corinthian brethren were still comparing and ranking teachers and preachers. What had Paul already said about this in 1 Corinthians?
3. Paul had humbled himself in an effort to teach the Corinthians and set a good example. How did these other "super apostles" use this against Paul?
4. How does Satan disguise himself?
5. These other teachers built themselves up through boasting. So Paul, foolish by his own admission, participates in the boasting competition too. Except Paul boasts in his affliction. What are they?
6. Why was Paul given a thorn in the flesh?
7. Paul would prefer for he to be \_\_\_\_\_ and the Corinthians to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the problem with boasting? How does Paul mock the idea of boasting?



## Lesson 4: Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Part 2)

**Text:** Acts 20

**Overview:**

- Acts 20 tells about the final leg of Paul's third journey—the return to Jerusalem.
- We also read of his, likely, emotional meeting with the Ephesian elders.

**Questions:**

1. How many plots have already been made against Paul in Acts?
2. What did these men (20:4) enable Paul to do?
3. What are the conditions surrounding Eutychus' sleeping and death?
4. Where did Paul meet with the Ephesian elders?
5. Paul begins his discussion with the Ephesian elders by talking about his own way of living and working. How might this help the elders?
6. What seems to happen every time Paul leaves a city?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the main job of an elder of the church?

## Lesson 5: Saved by Faith

**Text:** Romans 1-4

### **Overview:**

- One of, if not the, main issues in the first century church was the question about Jews and Gentiles. We should not be surprised that Jews assumed Gentiles had to, first, become Jews to be saved.
- Romans presents the gospel Paul preaches and it shows us how he dealt with this question.
- Martin Luther and John Calvin believed that Paul is rebuking the idea of works righteousness. This led to an over reaction to the Catholic church and labelled all obedience works. We cannot forget that most references to works in Romans is a reference to the Law.
- Paul is not saying that we can't be saved by keeping the Law. He is saying we can't be saved by being a Jew. And the sign that someone was a Jew was whether or not they kept the law.
- Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ!

### **Questions:**

1. What role does Paul see himself fulfilling?
2. What is the "righteousness of God"?
3. What does the phrase "from faith to faith" mean?
4. Paul's discussion in Romans 1 is about the sins of the Gentiles in acting contrary to nature. What is his main example of this kind of sin?
5. Chapter 1 shows that Gentiles have sinned. But what about the Jews?
6. What advantage(s) did the Jews have?
7. Was the promise made to Abraham before or after the Law? Was Abraham justified before or after circumcision? What do these things imply?

*Note: Again, this is not about the importance of obedience or not. This is about whether one can attain salvation through the Law of Moses!*

## Lesson 6: Sin and Death VS Life and Spirit

**Text:** Romans 5-8

### Overview:

- Because of sin, death entered the world. And the Law could only point out sin. It could not fix it. Life came through the promise and the death of Jesus. Therefore, we live, not by the Law, but by the spirit.
- Chapter 5: Introduction of sin and death into the world by Adam. Introduction of obedience and life into the world by the second Adam.
- Chapter 6: Death to sin through baptism.
- Chapter 7: The Jew's struggle with sin.
- Chapter 8: Life in the spirit.

### Questions:

1. What words does Paul use to describe our condition before salvation?
2. We don't die because we inherit Adam's sin. We die because, like Adam, we \_\_\_\_\_.
3. How do we imitate Christ's death, burial, and resurrection in our baptism?
4. It is my opinion that in Romans 7, Paul is describing the struggle that a Jew has with the Law and sin. He speaks as if he is another person (something he does a lot in Romans). He says that he is held captive by sin. But what had he claimed in chapter 6?
5. What is the difference between life in the flesh and life in the spirit?
6. How is Romans 8:28 often taken out of context?
7. According to Romans 8, what can separate us from the love of God?

### Be Ready to Discuss:

Salvation is not about keeping the Law. It is about a relationship with Christ. How do we enter that relationship?

## Lesson 7: Gentiles, The Wild Olive Branch

**Text:** Romans 9-11

### **Overview:**

- The promises were made to Jews. The Law was for Jews. The Messiah came from the Jews. Everything had pointed to the Jews. So how is God going to bring in the Gentiles?
- First, Paul will argue that being a Jew does not make one a descendant of Abraham. One is a descendant of Abraham by having faith in Jesus.
- Then, Paul will turn to an example from the natural world of botany to show how God will bring this about.

### **Questions:**

1. For what reason does Paul wish himself accursed?
2. Who were the many descendants of Abraham who were not of the promise?
3. How does Pharaoh, clay, and Hosea fit into Paul's argument?
4. What is the chain of salvation beginning in Romans 10:13?
5. What is one purpose of the inclusion of the Gentiles as it concerns the Jews (cf. 11:11-12)?
6. Why were branches broken off? How can they be grafted back in?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Could the Jews blame God for their condition? Can we blame God for our condition?

## Lesson 8: Be Transformed

**Text:** Romans 12-16

**Overview:**

- As we have seen, Paul doesn't just leave his readers with facts and principles. He explains how we can put them to use in our lives.

**Questions:**

1. Most sacrifices are slaughtered as they are offered to God. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
2. Every body part has a function. How does this metaphor apply to the church? Where else does Paul use this metaphor?
3. Study the commandments of Romans 12:9-21. Which of these are most difficult for you?
4. What is the role of government? And what is our responsibility to it?
5. If we are going to be children of Abraham and servants of God how should we treat our brethren when we have differences of opinion and thought?
6. Who is the example we are to follow in this regard?
7. What is one of Paul's main reasons for wanting to come to Rome?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**

If Paul had not been to Rome, how did he know all the people of chapter 16?



## Lesson 9: Paul Returns to Jerusalem

**Text:** Acts 21:2—22:29

### **Overview:**

- This section presents the end of Paul's third journey and the beginning of his incarceration in Jerusalem.
- As one would expect, Paul uses even imprisonment as an opportunity to preach the gospel.

### **Questions:**

1. What does Paul seem to do in every city?
2. What was prophesied about Paul in Caesarea?
3. What was being said of Paul in Jerusalem?
4. What did James suggest Paul do?
5. Of what did the Jews from Asia accuse Paul?
6. Who saved Paul's life?
7. Who did the tribune think Paul was?
8. As Paul begins to discuss his conversion, why does he seek common ground with his accusers? In what had Paul participated?
9. How did the Jews respond?
10. What kept Paul from being whipped?

## Lesson 10: Paul Before the Council and Felix

**Text:** Acts 22:30—24:27

### **Overview:**

- Paul begins a series of trials or hearings in front of various groups and rulers.
- Sadly, Paul will not get a fair hearing. However, everything begins to point to Paul going to Rome. This likely means more expansion of the gospel message.

### **Questions:**

1. How does Paul respond when he is told that he had insulted the high priest?
2. How does Paul remove himself from the limelight?
3. Who heard about and told the tribune about the plot against Paul?
4. To where and to whom is Paul sent?
5. Who acted as prosecutor for the Jews?
6. After the Jews bring charges against Paul, what confession does he make in 24:14?
7. What was Felix hoping to receive from Paul?
8. How long was Paul imprisoned under Felix?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What can we learn from the interaction between Paul and the high priest?

## Lesson 11: Paul Before Festus and Agrippa

**Text:** Acts 25:1—26:32

### Overview:

- Paul found himself in the unenviable position of being imprisoned during a change of governor. Prisoners did not have the rights we enjoy today. To a great extent, Paul was at the mercy of Felix and Festus.
- Paul had been told that he would preach the gospel in Rome, maybe Paul thought the easiest way to get there would be by appealing to Caesar.

### Questions:

1. Why did the Jews want Festus to return Paul to Jerusalem?
2. Why does Paul appeal to Caesar?
3. Festus told Agrippa that this whole mess was about a man named Jesus who was \_\_\_\_\_, but whom Paul asserted to be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did Festus want from Agrippa?
5. What things did Paul formerly do to Christians?
6. Why does Paul, again, tell the story of his conversion, this time to Agrippa?
7. Paul says that Agrippa knows about all the things surrounding Jesus. How would he?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
How should we read Agrippa's  
comment in 26:28?

## Lesson 12: Paul Travels to Rome

**Text:** Acts 27-28

### **Overview:**

- To sail from one port to another, one did not book passage on a passenger ship. One usually had to find a trader's vessel with enough room for your party and supplies. This was not a cruise for Paul. Sailing was hard work and, as we see, very dangerous.

### **Questions:**

1. Who is with Paul as he sets sail for Rome?
2. Sailing in the winter was a suicide mission. Paul argued that it was safer to stay where they were. Why might the owner of the ship want to reach one more harbor? Why should they have listened to Paul?
3. Do people begin to listen to Paul?
4. Why did the soldiers plan to kill the prisoners and why did the centurion stop them?
5. What happened to Paul on the island of Malta?
6. Who met Paul in Rome?
7. The Jews in Rome had not heard about Paul's trial from Jerusalem. How did this benefit Paul and the gospel?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Consider how the gospel has moved from Jerusalem to the heart of the Empire.

# Lesson 13: Review of Acts

**Text:** Acts 1-28

## **Objectives:**

- As we review Acts, let's remember that Luke is not doing the same thing as Paul in his letters.
- Luke is giving a summary of the expansion of the Kingdom.
- Paul writes to deal with specific problems and issues in local churches.

## **Questions:**

1. Why is "Acts of the Risen Lord" a better title than "Acts of the Apostles"?
2. How is Acts 1:8 a "table of contents" for the book of Acts?
3. Write down a quick outline of Acts noting the alternating from internal to external issues.
4. Use the same outline to note the alternating from positive stories to negative stories.
5. Why does Luke change from following Peter's activity to Paul's activity?
6. What is implied when the text changes from "they" and "them" to "we" and "us"?
7. Who are Paul's main travelling companions?



## Lesson 14: Jews and Gentiles: One In Christ

**Text:** Ephesians 1-3

**Overview:**

- Again, Paul finds himself addressing the Jew / Gentile distinction.
- In Ephesians 1-3, Paul emphasizes the blessings of Christ for all (Jew and Gentile) who are found in Jesus Christ.

**Questions:**

1. When was the plan to save and bless mankind made?
2. In 1:18-19, what are the three things Paul wants the Ephesians to know?
3. Paul has numerous titles for Satan. What does he call the devil in the beginning of chapter 2?
4. What is the connection between working and boasting?
5. In Ephesians 2:15, who is the new man and who were the two men?
6. Sometimes we may feel jealous of the knowledge of the apostles. But what point does Paul make in Ephesians 3:4?
7. In Ephesians 3:18 Paul speaks of the “breadth and length and height and depth.” What is he discussing?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What has happened to the distinction between Jew and Gentile?

## Lesson 15: Life in Christ

**Text:** Ephesians 4-6

### **Overview:**

- It is common for Paul to spend the first part of his letters dealing with doctrine, facts, and principles. The second part usually is focused on application.
- If we are no longer Jew or Gentile, if we are a new man in Christ, then how should we live? This is Paul's focus in Ephesians 4-6.

### **Questions:**

1. What are the seven “pillars of unity” in Ephesians 4:4-6?
2. What is the purpose of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers in the church?
3. What are some characteristics of the “new self”?
4. Check the NIV's translation of Ephesians 5:3. Why is this so powerful?
5. In Ephesians 5:22 Paul begins, what is typically referred to as, a household code. Every member in the house has a role or code of conduct. What is the role of the wife?
6. What is the role of the husband?
7. What is the role of the children?
8. What is the role of the father?
9. What is the role of the servant?
10. What is the role of the master?
11. What do we do after putting on the whole armor of God (cf. Ephesians 6:18)?

## Lesson 16: The Incomparable Christ

**Text:** Colossians 1-2

### **Overview:**

- Colossians is another of Paul's "prison epistles." There are many parallels with Ephesians which should not surprise us since the Jew-Gentile issue was a major question in the first century.
- In Colossians, Paul has a lot to say about Jesus, His role, and work.

### **Questions:**

1. Who taught the Colossians the gospel?
2. What does Paul mean when he calls Jesus the "firstborn of all creation"?
3. There are similar phrases in Colossians 1:19 and 2:9. What does Paul mean?
4. How does Paul "fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions"?
5. Has Paul ever met the Colossians?
6. Consider Colossians 2:13-14. What was nailed to the cross?
7. Explain how the old law is a shadow and Christ is the substance.

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the problem with the appearance of wisdom (Colossians 2:23)?

## Lesson 17: The New Self

**Text:** Colossians 3-4

### **Objectives:**

- If Christ is our savior and through Him we have died, what impact does that have on our lives? This is the discussion of Colossians 3-4.
- Paul does not just present facts and doctrine. He is also concerned about the rubber meeting the road.

### **Questions:**

1. Why does Paul call covetousness “idolatry”?
2. According to Colossians 3:10; what does the new man look like?
3. Make two lists. What do we put away? What do we put on?
4. While we can use it to promote *a cappella* singing, Colossians 3:16 was not originally about instrumental music. What is Paul discussing?
5. Paul presents another “household code” like the one found in Ephesians. What is the advice given to wives? Husbands? Children? Fathers? Servants? Masters?
6. What two things should we be careful about when dealing with “outsiders”?
7. Who is Onesimus?
8. What were the Colossians to do after reading this letter?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What do we discover about John Mark and Barnabas that might explain Barnabas’s insistence on taking him?

## Lesson 18: Paul's Condition and Christ's Humility

**Text:** Philippians 1-2

### **Overview:**

- Philippians is considered one of Paul's most personal letters. Certainly, he had a good relationship with the Philippian brethren.
- Paul is obviously in prison. He is not 100% sure about what is going to happen. He has an idea, but whatever the case, he continues to work.

### **Questions:**

1. How were the Philippian brethren "partners" with Paul in the gospel?
2. How has Paul's imprisonment advanced the gospel?
3. How might one preach Christ out of envy or rivalry?
4. In Philippians 1:29, Paul speaks of suffering as a positive thing. How can this be?
5. As we interact with others, especially brethren, what should be our guiding example?
6. How are we to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"?
7. Who was Epaphroditus and what did he, likely, take to Paul?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
If Epaphroditus was so sick,  
why didn't Paul just heal him?



## Lesson 19: “Pressing Toward the Goal”

**Text:** Philippians 3-4

### **Overview:**

- It is commonly noted that Philippi was a Roman colony. This granted the city the same privileges as the city of Rome itself. Residents of Philippi were proud of their city. Might this have an impact on Paul’s discussion of citizenship in heaven?
- The city of Philippi was home to many retired soldiers. Men who knew what it meant to “press toward the goal.”

### **Questions:**

1. What is Paul talking about when he references “those who mutilate the flesh”?
2. Some were coming in teaching things contrary to Paul and thumping their Jewish chests. How does Paul respond to that?
3. While on earth, we cannot attain the ultimate goal (cf. Philippians 3:12-15). So what should we do while here?
4. What does Paul mean by the phrase “their god is their belly”?
5. Who are Euodia and Syntyche? And what was wrong?
6. What is Paul’s paradigm of focus?
7. We know that Philippians 4:13 is an abused passage. What does Paul mean by it in context?
8. Paul didn’t necessarily need money from the Philippians. But what did it mean that they were striving to help him?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
To what does Paul liken the gift from the Philippians?

## Lesson 20: A Slave Named Onesimus

**Text:** Philemon

**Overview:**

- Philemon is an interesting epistle unlike anything we see in the New Testament. It is the story of reconciliation between a slave and master because of the reconciliation between them and God.

**Questions:**

1. Why didn't Paul just give Philemon a command?
2. What happened while Onesimus was with Paul?
3. Why did Paul wish to keep Onesimus with him? Why didn't he?
4. What does Paul offer on Onesimus's account?
5. Based on some information in this letter, where did Philemon likely live?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
Is Paul being manipulative  
with Philemon?

## Lesson 21: The Household Code of the Church (Part 1)

**Text:** 1 Timothy 1-3

### Overview:

- Paul's letters to Timothy are instrumental in understand some essential things about the work of preachers, elders, deacons, and the church.
- Paul's reason for writing is spelled out in 1 Timothy 3:15 – “that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God.”

### Questions:

1. Where is Timothy when Paul writes this letter?
2. Give the letter a quick scan and notice Paul's emphasis on “sound doctrine.”
3. Paul claims that he is the chief of sinners. He is not bragging. He is not having a pity party. That Paul was, in his own opinion, the chief of sinners emphasizes what about Christ?
4. What does the phrase “handed over to satan” mean?
5. What is the connection between 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and verses 3-4?
6. “Modesty” does not just refer to the length of a dress. What does Paul emphasize about the dress of a woman?
7. What two reasons does Paul give for the practice of male leadership in the church?
8. What is the first and last qualification of an elder? Does this help to frame the other qualifications?

### Be Ready to Discuss:

Paul is preparing the second generation of Christians. They will soon move from the leadership of the apostles to others who follow the apostolic teaching.

## Lesson 22: The Household Code of the Church (Part 2)

**Text:** 1 Timothy 4-6

### **Overview:**

- Paul explains the purpose of his letter in 1 Timothy 3:15 – “that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God.”
- This is especially true of Timothy, a young preacher who is being coached in what it means to be an evangelist.

### **Questions:**

1. What does it mean to have a “seared conscience”?
2. What is Paul’s advice to Timothy about his progress?
3. What are the rules for enrolling a widow in a program of support from the local church?
4. What is a servant to keep in mind as they deal with their master?
5. 1 Timothy 6:7 says, “for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.” What Old Testament character said something like that?
6. Timothy is told not to seek money but what?
7. It is not a sin to be rich. But Paul does have some advice for wealthy Christians. What is it?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What is the “deposit” Paul speaks of?

## Lesson 23: Paul's Letter to Titus

**Text:** Titus

**Overview:**

- Paul's letter to Titus is more like 1 Timothy than is 2 Timothy so we will study it first.
- Like Timothy, Titus is a young preacher and Paul writes to advise him on several matters as he works with local churches.

**Questions:**

1. Where is Titus? Why is he there?
2. Who "must be silenced" and why?
3. What does Paul say about Cretans?
4. What does Paul say about older men? Older women? Younger women? Younger men? Bondservants?
5. How is Titus to be an example to the Christian on Crete?
6. How are Christians to behave in the world?
7. What does Paul say to do to one who stirs up division?

**Be Ready to Discuss:**  
What does Paul say about Titus's age?



## Lesson 24: A Good Servant and Soldier

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1-2

### **Overview:**

- 2 Timothy is likely Paul's last letter (at least that we have). He seems convinced that his life on earth is almost over.
- This letter seems emotional and final. He has a few more things to say to his student, friend, and son in the gospel.

### **Questions:**

1. Some have said that Timothy had a problem of timidity. How might 2 Timothy 1:7-8 support that idea?
2. Consult various translations and explain what Paul means in 2 Timothy 1:12.
3. Who are Phygelus and Hermogenes? Onesiphorus?
4. What is the "chain of teaching" in 2 Timothy 2:2?
5. What are Paul's metaphors for Christians in 2 Timothy 2:4-6?
6. Why does Paul constantly warn Timothy (and Titus) not to quarrel about words and such?
7. Who are Hymenaeus and Philetus?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Is the command to flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness only given to young Christians?

## Lesson 25: Paul's Dying Concerns

**Text:** 2 Timothy 3-4

### **Overview:**

- Paul has worked hard and written much to help Timothy do the work of an evangelist. This involves warning him of the hard work and difficulty ahead of him.
- It also means preparing Timothy for Paul's eventual death.

### **Questions:**

1. What will make the last days so difficult?
2. Who are Jannes and Jambres?
3. What are the "sacred writings" and "scripture" able to do?
4. Why does Paul tell Timothy to "be ready in season and out of season"?
5. Who is Demas?
6. Why is Paul alone? Where are his coworkers and friends?
7. Why does Paul need books and parchment if he is about to die?

### **Be Ready to Discuss:**

Do you have a problem with Paul's strong statement against Alexander the coppersmith?

## Lesson 26: Review of Paul's Life

**Text:** Acts and Paul's Epistles

**Overview:**

- We need to keep Paul in his appropriate place. He is not our savior. But he was a major player in the spread of the gospel. We know more about the way we should believe and live because of him than any other single writer. But remember, he is only relating the truth about God and His plan for our salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Questions:**

1. Who was Paul and where is he first seen in the story of the church?
2. By the end of Acts where is Paul and what is he doing?
3. What did Paul do between Damascus and Antioch?
4. How many major evangelistic journeys did Paul make?
5. Who were Paul's main traveling companions?
6. Which churches supported Paul financially?
7. In what order were Paul's epistles written?
8. Why does Acts end the way it does—so abruptly?