The background features a stylized illustration of three saints. At the top left is Peter, with a white beard and hair, wearing a blue robe and holding a book. To his right is James, with a long grey beard, wearing an orange and red robe and holding a book with a cross on its cover. At the bottom center is Jude, with brown hair and a beard, wearing a gold and brown robe. All three have golden halos. The text is overlaid on this illustration.

Just Add Water

A
Devotional Journal
on
1 & 2 Peter, James,
& Jude

Jimmy Bayes, Ph.D.

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On
I & II Peter, James & Jude

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JUST ADD WATER: *Peter, James & Jude*

A Devotional Journal on Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians

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For the Glory of God

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Acknowledgments

The Holy Spirit whom inspires, guides, and strengthens me.

As I am writing this, the world is in the midst of a quarantine because of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). At this point (March 23, 2020) there are 372,602 known infected people, 16,313 known deaths world-wide. There are 41,569 infected and 504 deaths in the US. The numbers are growing hourly.

These are uncertain times we are living in and there has never been more need to dig into God's Word. I am continuing these devotional journals until God's Spirit leads me to other pursuits. I have had good response to these journals and pray their influence grows.

Dedication

God's Spirit has been leading me to Live Transformed. That is to live the life that God has designed for me to live. I thank God for continuing to teach me what it means to live a transformed life. I dedicate this volume of Just Add Water: Peter, James & Jude to those people dedicated to seeing people transformed by God. May God bless you as you work in His vineyard.

Jimmy D. Bayes

www.GodDesignedLife.com

Introduction

But as for you (Timothy), continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 2:14 – 17)

The apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy, to encourage him to continue living according to the scriptures that he had known from when he was a little child. Paul reminded Timothy that scripture is useful for making him wise unto salvation through Jesus Christ, for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, the training for godly living, and for being equipped for the work God had for him. These words also apply to every Christian disciple—including you and me.

Paul was referring to the scriptures that he and Timothy had available to them, the Old Testament. However, once the New Testament scriptures were written, the words of Paul apply to them also. All sixty-six books of the Bible have been given to us by God for our spiritual development and maturity.

Just Add Water has been written to help disciples of Jesus receive and apply Biblical instruction. Disciples should read scripture daily, but reading is not enough. Reading scripture without applying it is like tasting food but not eating it. Our spirit needs nutrition just as our physical bodies need food. We do not merely put food in our mouth for the taste and then spit it out. For the body to get what it needs, we swallow and digest our food.

This devotional journal uses the SOAP method. The acrostic SOAP stands for scripture, observation, application and prayer. This method of scriptural devotion has been used for many years. I was

first introduced to SOAP when I was a teenager, but never utilized it until many years later. We have all been reminded at some point in our lives to wash up before dinner. Our moms often reminded us to use soap and water so our hands will be clean. This devotional uses SOAP as God washes us with His Word.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the **washing with water** through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

The SOAP Method

Scripture

Spiritual maturity begins with the Bible. God chose to communicate His character and will to His people primarily through scripture. I say primarily because God speaks to us in a still small voice, through the preaching of Biblical messages, through the wise council of others, through the spiritual gifts and even through visions and dreams. But they all echo scriptural truth.

Just Add Water takes each disciple through the text of the Bible allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to their heart. This devotion should be led by the Spirit of God. As you read and meditate upon the scripture allow God to guide your thoughts. God wants to communicate with us more than our desire to listen. Approach this devotion with the faith that God will speak and the Holy Spirit will guide you into truth and applying that truth.

This edition of Just Add Water covers four letters to churches for correction and edification. These devotions are meant to provide scriptural knowledge important for Christian maturity.

☞ Scriptures are always better understood when read in

context. It is suggested that you read the entire text before and after the devotional portion in your own Bible for the context. Reading the text in other versions will also clarify its meaning.

Observation

Observation is more than answering the who, what, when, where, why and how questions. God has given His written Word because He wants us to know something or to do something. As you read the selected scripture, take note of what God wants you to know and what God wants you to do (or not to do). Often when meditating on scripture, it is easy to be overwhelmed with the many things we feel God wants us to know and to do. Fight the urge of becoming overwhelmed and look at this as an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to refine your life in one specific area. After reading and meditating on the selected scripture, begin to focus on the main thing that God wants you to know or to do and record it in the space provided. This is the spiritual lesson for your life at that particular moment.

Application

Applying truth is the part of the devotion that gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to transform you. Application is answering the question how will I be different from today forward as a result of what I have just read and meditated upon? Application is the crucial step in the SOAP process because without application, the Bible is merely a book of history and trivia. Applying God's words seals these truths to our hearts and makes the difference between doers of the word and hearers of the Word only. If it has been revealed that God wants you to know something, then write down how this truth will change your thoughts and/or your behavior. If it has been revealed that God wants you to do something (or to quit doing something), then set a realistic, attainable, and measurable goal. When setting goals, be as specific as possible. Journal or write down what and when you will work on this goal. Also write down who else the goal involves (if anyone) and record what kind of

results that you hope to realize.

Prayer

☞ Prayer is the final stage of the SOAP process. Finish your time of devotion with a thoughtful written prayer to God. Ask Him to help you apply what the Holy Spirit has revealed to you. The prayer may be as simple as:

Lord Jesus, help me to be the person that You have called me to be. Help me to listen to your Word and walk according to the Spirit and not my flesh. Give me the ears to hear and the courage to live according to your Word.

Some may object to writing down prayers—that's ok. Others may use this as an opportunity to record their heart felt desire to please God. This is an individual choice.

Summarizing Your Devotions

A space is provided at the end of the devotions to summarize what you have learned from these devotions. You should:

- summarize the major truths that have been revealed
- summarize what God wants you to know or to do
- state how you will apply these truths
- state how your life will change as a result of this devotion

Group Devotions Using "Just Add Water"

Just Add Water can also be used in groups. A group offers an added dynamic. A friend that pastors a growing church told how their men had started meeting together using SOAP for their Bible Study & Prayer. Until then I had always thought of SOAP as a good method of combining Bible study, devotional prayer, and journaling for the growth and discipleship for an individual. However, his church began using SOAP as a group Bible study for their men with good results. He explained that a portion of scripture is chosen and read aloud. Then they each discuss their observations of the text, allowing them all to gain insight from each other.

Next, they discuss how they will apply the Biblical truths to their

lives. Finally, they pray together. In their next meeting, before the start of the new SOAP devotion, they discuss how the application of the previous SOAP went. This allows them to develop accountability to each other. This is a very good method for group Bible study and prayer. As a result of these SOAP meetings, this men's group is growing and maturing. They hold their meetings at local cafés and invite men in the café to join their group. Many of them have started attending the men's group regularly. The significant growth, however, is spiritual and in Biblical knowledge and maturity. Their group is transforming because of applying scripture to their lives.

Journaling 📖

Journaling is a very effective, but little used tool for developing disciples. Journaling requires taking unorganized thoughts, in this case about scriptural truth, and organizing them in some form that are written down. As a result, random thoughts become more real to the person. Just Add Water aids the journaling process by providing space for recording observations, thoughts, applications, and prayers.

Just Add Water has another journaling feature. Space at the end has been provided to write down what the disciple has “taken away” from the SOAP devotions. “Take-Aways” allow the disciple to summarize what the Spirit has revealed to them. “Take-Aways” are those things which the Holy Spirit highlights in your mind and spirit as you journey through these scriptures. God speaks to His disciples through his scriptures. Space has been provided at the end of devotions to summarize what the Holy Spirit has revealed about God's desire for your life.

Take-Aways can be many things including:

- ❖ Things that I learned for the first time.
- ❖ Things I knew, but had forgotten.
- ❖ Things that have a new meaning or freshness.
- ❖ What God wants me to know.
- ❖ What God wants me to start doing.

- ❖ What God wants me to stop doing.
- ❖ What are my areas of strength.
- ❖ What are my areas of weakness.
- ❖ How I can help others to grow.
- ❖ What areas of my life need changed.
- ❖ What is my life calling.

Recording Take-Aways

Review each text and devotion—in fact it would be good to reread the entire book—and look for reoccurring thoughts or feelings. ✎ Record the most significant truths that God has revealed to you during your devotions.

Authors: Peter, James & Jude

These New Testament books are bite sized morsels for the soul and spirit that packs what we need into a short but powerful snack for transformation and power. I remember my mother packing my lunch everyday before I headed to school. I could always count on a tasty sandwich, a sweet snack, and a “healthier” snack like carrots or celery that was seldom ever touched, but were given with loving care for my health and growth. These epistles have exhortations and instructions, but there are also warnings against false teachers and prophets (especially 2 Peter and Jude), messages we may not want to hear, but need to hear. Though these warnings may not be scriptures we memorize for edification, they are none the less important especially in the times in which we are living. Though the content of these epistles may be small, the messages are large.

Peter

Of the personalities in the gospels, Peter stands out. A fisherman from Bethsaida, he was one of the first disciples called to service. The first thing that Jesus said when seeing Peter was to say that he would be called Cephas. The name Peter is the Greek form of the Aramaic Cephas which means rock. We probably know more about Peter than the other apostles. Peter may have been a disciple of John the Baptist or at the very least was well aware of John’s ministry because his bother and fishing partner Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist and was the one who brought Peter to see Jesus. Peter was a fisherman, was a native of Bethsaida, lived in Capernaum, and had a wife. Tradition says he was Bishop in Rome and was crucified upside-down there.

The common man identifies with Peter. While Paul was an educated man and religious leader, Peter was an everyday working Joe and apparently good with a sword (John 18:10). He was presumptive and often spoke without thinking, but Jesus saw something in him and he became the first of the apostles—his name comes first every time the apostles are listed in the gospels. He was one of the “inner three” of the apostles with his friends and fellow fishermen James and John, the sons of Zebedee. It appears that Peter was a man of action more than words. His enthusiasm, earnestness, courage, vigor, and spontaneity are dynamic leadership

qualities. His leadership is unmistakable, yet his name is attached to only two letters.

James

James wrote the epistle that bears his name, but we are not one hundred percent sure which James is the author. James, is a common name in that day and there are at least four men named James in the New Testament, but only three are possibilities for authorship. (One of the James's is Judas Iscariot's father.) I always assumed that James the son of Zebedee and brother of the apostle John was the author until I learned that he was martyred early and his death was recorded in Acts 12:1-2. This was too early for him to have been the author of the epistle and eliminates him as a candidate for the authorship of the epistle.

There are only two realistic possibilities for authorship of the epistle unless an unknown James existed, but that is very unlikely. James the son of Alphaeus the apostle and James the half-brother of Jesus are the only to real possible authors. I don't suppose it really matters which James wrote this epistle, but most people believe that James the half-brother of Jesus is the author.

Each time that James the son of Alphaeus is mentioned in scripture, "son of Alphaeus" is always attached to his name to distinguish him from James the "the son of Zebedee," the more well-known disciple named James. We might expect that this distinction would be made if he authored the epistle. James son of Alphaeus is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but James the brother of Christ rises to prominent leadership in the church at Jerusalem. This James is the most logical candidate for the authorship of the epistle.

James the brother of Jesus has a significant place in the apostolic church. Jude (also a brother of Jesus) begins his letter by describing himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. Jude's mention of James is only significant if James is widely known. It seems logical that James, brother of Jesus and leader at Jerusalem, would write an epistle to the church.

Though scripture says that Jesus's brothers did not believe on Jesus in

the beginning (John 7:5), James became a leader of the church in Rome and Paul met with him (and Peter) in part to vet his apostleship (Gal.1:18-19). Church History records that James became the bishop of Jerusalem where he was martyred by stoning after being thrown from the pinnacle of the temple.

Jude

There is not a lot of information about Jude. The first verse identifies Jude as the author and the brother of James. James is the English form of the Hebrew name Jacob and Jude is the English form of the Hebrew Judah. As with James, there are several Judah's in the New Testament. Because the two names are linked in the first verse, gives support for James and Jude, Jesus's half-brothers, being the authors of the epistles associated with their names.

Jesus had four brothers, James, Joseph, Simon and Judas (Mt. 13:55-56). They are probably listed in birth order making James the eldest and Judas (Jude) the youngest. John 7:5 says that even Jesus's own brothers did not believe in him. I can only imagine how it would have been to grow up with Jesus as my older brother. After Jesus's resurrection, things changed for James and Jude and they became leaders of the church. Both showed humility introducing themselves as servants of Jesus Christ and not as his brothers. Nothing from Jude's epistle gives a glance into the specifics of his life other than his brotherhood to James. The epistle does reflect a pastor's heart for his readers and a heart for evangelism and godliness.

PETER'S FIRST EPISTLE

Understanding the time in which Peter wrote this letter gives greater appreciation for its message. In Peter's day, the Romans viewed Christians as anti-social, atheistic because they rejected the Roman gods, cannibalistic for "eating the body of Christ," and immoral because of their love for their "brothers and sisters." The early church was often persecuted and made political scapegoats receiving blame for things that were going wrong. It is in this climate that Peter writes his letters.

The tone of the first letter is very pastoral and warm and full of encouragement. The immediate problem for the church was living for God in the midst of a people blind to the one true God and being subjected to cruel treatment and suffering. Peter's purpose is to help them see their temporary sufferings in light of the eternal plan of God. In spite of temporal discouragement, God will keep them and empower them by faith to continue in joy. Jesus Christ, through his own suffering has given them (and us) the pattern to follow.

Then, as now, life is difficult and requires humility and submission to God. If the world gets more difficult or if the world gets easier, God will empower the community of God to be faithful and grow in maturity. We must help one another and show love and concern to brothers and sisters in Christ.

Basic Outline of 1 Peter:

1. Greeting - 1:1-2
2. Privileges and Responsibilities of Salvation – 1:3-2:10
3. Christian Submission and God's Honor – 2:11-3:12
4. Suffering and Persecution of the Church – 3:13-5:11
5. Salutations – 5:12-14

Greeting from Peter

1 Peter 1:1-2

Date: _____

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen ones who are living as foreigners in the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Praise God for New Birth*1 Peter 1:3-9**Date:* _____

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, 5 who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved in various trials, 7 that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ— 8 whom, not having known, you love. In him, though now you don't see him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, 9 receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Old Testament Prophets Saw Our Salvation

1 Peter 1:10-12

Date: _____

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets sought and searched diligently. They prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching for who or what kind of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them pointed to when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow them. 12 To them it was revealed that they served not themselves, but you, in these things, which now have been announced to you through those who preached the Good News to you by the Holy Spirit sent out from heaven; which things angels desire to look into.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

We are Redeemed, Live Accordingly*1 Peter 1:13-21**Date:* _____

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action. Be sober, and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ— 14 as children of obedience, not conforming yourselves according to your former lusts as in your ignorance, 15 but just as he who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all of your behavior, 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” [Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2]

17 If you call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judges according to each man’s work, pass the time of your living as foreigners here in reverent fear, 18 knowing that you were redeemed, not with corruptible things like silver or gold, from the useless way of life handed down from your fathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish or spot, the blood of Christ, 20 who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in this last age for your sake, 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

We are Purified, Live Accordingly

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Date: _____

22 Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart fervently, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and remains forever.

24 For,

“All flesh is like grass,

and all of man’s glory like the flower in the grass.

The grass withers, and its flower falls;

25 but the Lord’s word endures forever.” [Isa.40:6-8]

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you..

1 Putting away therefore all wickedness, all deceit, hypocrisies, envies, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babies, long for the pure spiritual milk, that with it you may grow, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Notes:

Christ is the Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4-8

Date: _____

4 Come to him, a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God, precious. 5 You also as living stones are built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Because it is contained in Scripture,

“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen and precious.

He who believes in him will not be disappointed.” [Isa.28:16]

7 For you who believe therefore is the honor, but for those who are disobedient,

*“The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone,” [Ps.118:22]*

8 and,

“a stumbling stone and a rock of offense.” [Isa.8:14]

For they stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

We are a Chosen People

1 Peter 2:9-12

Date: _____

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 In the past, you were not a people, but now are God's people, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

11 Beloved, I beg you as foreigners and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having good behavior among the nations, so in that of which they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good works and glorify God in the day of visitation.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Live Honorably

1 Peter 2:13-25

Date: _____

13 Therefore subject yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether to the king, as supreme, 14 or to governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evildoers and for praise to those who do well. 15 For this is the will of God, that by well-doing you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Live as free people, yet not using your freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but as bondservants of God.

17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

18 Servants, be in subjection to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the wicked. 19 For it is commendable if someone endures pain, suffering unjustly, because of conscience toward God. 20 For what glory is it if, when you sin, you patiently endure beating? But if when you do well, you patiently endure suffering, this is commendable with God. 21 For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps, 22 who didn't sin, "neither was deceit found in his mouth." [Isa.53:9] 23 When he was cursed, he didn't curse back. When he suffered, he didn't threaten, but committed himself to him who judges righteously. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness. You were healed by his wounds. 25 For you were going astray like sheep; but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Notes:

Wives and Husbands to Live Honorably*1 Peter 3:1-7**Date:* _____

1 In the same way, wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, so that, even if any don't obey the Word, they may be won by the behavior of their wives without a word, 2 seeing your pure behavior in fear. 3 Let your beauty come not from the outward adorning of braiding your hair, and of wearing gold ornaments or of putting on fine clothing, 4 but from the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight. 5 For this is how in the past the holy women who hoped in God also adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands. 6 So Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you now are if you do well and are not put in fear by any terror.

7 You husbands, in the same way, live with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman as to the weaker vessel, as also being joint heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

The Lord Sees the Righteous

1 Peter 3:8-12

Date: _____

8 Finally, all of you be like-minded, compassionate, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, courteous, 9 not rendering evil for evil or insult for insult; but instead blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For,

“He who would love life

and see good days,

let him keep his tongue from evil

and his lips from speaking deceit.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good.

Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears open to their prayer;

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” [Ps.34:12-16]

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Be Willing to Suffer for Righteousness

1 Peter 3:13-22

Date: _____

13 Now who will harm you if you become imitators of that which is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "Don't fear what they fear, neither be troubled." 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, with humility and fear, 16 having a good conscience. Thus, while you are spoken against as evildoers, they may be disappointed who curse your good way of life in Christ. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, that you suffer for doing well than for doing evil. 18 Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit, 19 in whom he also went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who before were disobedient when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ship was being built. In it, few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 This is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you—not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Live as to God in the Spirit

1 Peter 4:1-6

Date: _____

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind; for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that you no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles, and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries. 4 They think it is strange that you don't run with them into the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For to this end the Good News was preached even to the dead, that they might be judged indeed as men in the flesh, but live as to God in the spirit.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

The End of All Things is Near

1 Peter 4:7-11

Date: _____

7 But the end of all things is near. Therefore be of sound mind, self-controlled, and sober in prayer. 8 And above all things be earnest in your love among yourselves, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be as of the strength which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Notes:

Do Not be Ashamed of Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

Date: _____

12 Beloved, don't be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you. 13 But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. On their part he is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil doer, or a meddler in other men's matters. 16 But if one of you suffers for being a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God? 18 "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?" [Prov.11:31] 19 Therefore let them also who suffer according to the will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him, as to a faithful Creator.

Notes:

Be Humble and Labor for God

1 Peter 5:1-7

Date: _____

1 Therefore I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who will also share in the glory that will be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily; not for dishonest gain, but willingly; 3 not as lording it over those entrusted to you, but making yourselves examples to the flock. 4 When the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that doesn't fade away.

5 Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to the elder. Yes, all of you clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another; for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Notes:

Final Instructions and Salutation

1 Peter 5:8-14

Date: _____

8 Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Withstand him steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brothers who are in the world are undergoing the same sufferings. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother, as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you. So does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace be to all of you who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Notes:

II PETER

The occasion of Peter's second letter is basically the same as his first letter. However, unlike the first letter that was intended for a specific people—Jewish Christians scattered abroad—the intended audience for his second letter is general and addressed only “to those who have obtained a like precious faith with us,” basically any Christian, any time, and any place.

The contents of the letter reveals a little about whom Peter wanted to hear the contents. After giving instructions about growing in Christ and being godly, he warns them against false prophets and teachers (ch. 2). Peter's warnings resemble the warnings in Jude so much it is hard to believe that Peter did not borrow from Jude, vice versa, or there was a collaboration between them (see the notes on Jude's epistle).

The outline of 2 Peter:

1. Greeting – 1:1-4
2. Essential Christian Value – 1:5-15
 - a. Efforts for Fruitfulness – v5-9
 - b. Confirmation of Election – v10-11
 - c. Need for Reminders – v12-15
3. Christ's Divine Majesty – 1:16-21
 - a. Attested by the Apostle's Eyewitness – v16-18
 - b. Attested by Prophecy – v19-21
4. False Prophets and False Teachers – 2:1-22
 - a. Warning Against False Teachers – v1-3
 - b. Three Examples of Previous Judgements – v4-10a
 - c. Insolence of the False Teachers – v2:10b-16
 - d. Impotence of Their Teaching – v17-22
5. The Promise of the Lord's Coming – 3:1-18
 - a. Certainty of the Day of the Lord – v1-10
 - b. Ethical Implications of the Day of the Lord – v11-16
 - c. Need to Guard Against Error & Grow in Grace v17-18

Make Your Calling and Election Sure

2 Peter 1:1-11

Date: _____

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 Seeing that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and virtue, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and exceedingly great promises; that through these you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Yes, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, perseverance; and in perseverance, godliness; 7 and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love.

8 For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to not be idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be more diligent to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble. 11 For thus you will be richly supplied with the entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Peter was a Personal Witness of Christ's Majesty

2 Peter 1:12-21

Date: _____

12 Therefore I will not be negligent to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the present truth. 13 I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. 15 Yes, I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things even after my departure.

16 For we didn't follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honor and glory when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 We heard this voice come out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 We have the more sure word of prophecy; and you do well that you heed it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. 21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Warning About False Prophets and Teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3

Date: _____

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, as false teachers will also be among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. 2 Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result, the way of the truth will be maligned. 3 In covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words: whose sentence now from of old doesn't linger, and their destruction will not slumber.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

God Destroys the Wicked and Delivers the Godly

2 Peter 2:4-16

Date: _____

4 For if God didn't spare angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus [hell], and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment; 5 and didn't spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly, 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, having made them an example to those who would live in an ungodly way, 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them was tormented in his righteous soul from day to day with seeing and hearing lawless deeds), 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 but chiefly those who walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, don't bring a slanderous judgment against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as unreasoning creatures, born natural animals to be taken and destroyed, speaking evil in matters about which they are ignorant, will in their destroying surely be destroyed, 13 receiving the wages of unrighteousness; people who count it pleasure to revel in the daytime, spots and defects, reveling in their deceit while they feast with you; 14 having eyes full of adultery, and who can't cease from sin, enticing unsettled souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children! 15 Forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wrongdoing; 16 but he was rebuked for his own disobedience. A speechless donkey spoke with a man's voice and stopped the madness of the prophet.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

God's Dealings with False Prophets and Teachers

2 Peter 2:17-22

Date: _____

17 These [men] are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm, for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever. 18 For, uttering great swelling words of emptiness, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by licentiousness, those who are indeed escaping from those who live in error; 19 promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for a man is brought into bondage by whoever overcomes him.

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, "The dog turns to his own vomit again," and "the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire." [Prov.26:11]

Notes:

Be Prepared for the Day of the Lord

2 Peter 3:1-13

Date: _____

1 This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you 2 that you should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets and the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first, that in the last days mockers will come, walking after their own lusts 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 5 For they willfully forget that there were heavens from of old, and an earth formed out of water and amid water by the word of God, 6 by which means the world that existed then, being overflowed with water, perished. 7 But the heavens that exist now and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But don't forget this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [Ps.90:4] 9 The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat; and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed like this, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and godliness, 12 looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens to be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Notes:

Be Diligent to be Found in Peace*2 Peter 3:14-18**Date:* _____

14 Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent to be found in peace, without defect and blameless in his sight. 15 Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things. In those, there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing these things beforehand, beware, lest being carried away with the error of the wicked, you fall from your own steadfastness. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Notes:

JAMES

The book of James is a great little work and is one of my favorites. I did a paper on the book of James in Bible School and found this book difficult to outline. Some writers believe that this book is more a collection of proverbs and sayings than a letter. In fact, James reads more like a sermon than a letter. Some have referred to James as a “letter-essay,” which is a good description. However, James connects each thought such that it is more unified and elegant than it seems at first glance.

James addresses Jewish Christians caught up in the social tensions of his day and the kinds of social tensions that were spreading throughout the Roman world. James addresses the pride of the rich, pay withheld by the rich, those who retaliate with violent acts or words, he calls for wisdom, faith, and patient endurance. In light of the social circumstances, James’s disjointed sayings fits together with profound unity.

Because James weaves thoughts together, it is difficult to render an outline for this book. Instead, of an outline, a list of themes is clearer: Trails and Temptations (testing of faith and source of temptation); Practice of the Word; Condemnation of Partiality; Relation of Faith and Actions; Controlling the Tongue; Two Kinds of Wisdom; the Worldly Attitude; Finding Fault; Arrogant Self-sufficiency; Denouncing the Wicked Rich; Exhortation about Patience, Oaths, Prayer, and Wandering.

Testing and Wisdom

James 1:1-8

Date: _____

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. 7 For that man shouldn't think that he will receive anything from the Lord. 8 He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Notes:

Humility, Temptation, Sin and Death

James 1:9-18

Date: _____

9 Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position; 10 and the rich, in that he is made humble, because like the flower in the grass, he will pass away. 11 For the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass; and the flower in it falls, and the beauty of its appearance perishes. So the rich man will also fade away in his pursuits.

12 Blessed is a person who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," for God can't be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. 15 Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin. The sin, when it is full grown, produces death. 16 Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow. 18 Of his own will he gave birth to us by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Doers of the Word*James 1:19-27**Date:* _____

19 So, then, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man doesn't produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not only hearers, deluding your own selves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he sees himself, and goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of freedom and continues, not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone among you thinks himself to be religious while he doesn't bridle his tongue, but deceives his heart, this man's religion is worthless. 27 Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Observations

Application

Prayer

Do Not Show Partiality

James 2:1-13

Date: _____

1 My brothers, don't hold the faith of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with partiality. 2 For if a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, 3 and you pay special attention to him who wears the fine clothing and say, "Sit here in a good place;" and you tell the poor man, "Stand there," or "Sit by my footstool" 4 haven't you shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers. Didn't God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Don't the rich oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? 7 Don't they blaspheme the honorable name by which you are called?

8 However, if you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. [Lev.19:18] 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," [Ex.20:14; Dt.5:18] also said, "Do not commit murder." [Ex.20:13; Dt.5:17] Now if you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as men who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Notes:

Faith Without Works is Dead

James 2:14-26

Date: _____

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? 15 And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you tells them, "Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;" yet you didn't give them the things the body needs, what good is it? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. 18 Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that God is one. [Dt.6:4] You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder. 20 But do you want to know, vain man, that faith apart from works is dead? 21 Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith worked with his works, and by works faith was perfected. 23 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness," [Gen.15:6] and he was called the friend of God. [Isa.41:8; 2Chron.20:7] 24 You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. 25 In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

The Tongue is a Fire

James 3:1-12

Date: _____

1 Let not many of you be teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive heavier judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. Anyone who doesn't stumble in word is a perfect person, able to bridle the whole body also. 3 Indeed, we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, and we guide their whole body. 4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so big and are driven by fierce winds, are yet guided by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot desires. 5 So the tongue is also a little member, and boasts great things. See how a small fire can spread to a large forest! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire by Gehenna [hell]. 7 For every kind of animal, bird, creeping thing, and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; 8 but nobody can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men who are made in the image of God. 10 Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send out from the same opening fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, yield olives, or a vine figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh water.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Be Wise and Understanding

James 3:13-18

Date: _____

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by his good conduct that his deeds are done in gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, don't boast and don't lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil deed. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

God Gives Grace to the Humble

James 4:1-10

Date: _____

1 Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Don't they come from your pleasures that war in your members? 2 You lust, and don't have. You murder and covet, and can't obtain. You fight and make war. You don't have, because you don't ask. 3 You ask, and don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously"? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." [Prov.3:3-4] 7 Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Life is like a Vapor*James 4:11-17**Date:* _____

11 Don't speak against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 Only one is the lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow let's go into this city and spend a year there, trade, and make a profit." 14 Yet you don't know what your life will be like tomorrow. For what is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 For you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will both live, and do this or that." 16 But now you glory in your boasting. All such boasting is evil. 17 To him therefore who knows to do good and doesn't do it, to him it is sin.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Be Patient and Establish Your Hearts

James 5:1-12

Date: _____

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming on you. 2 Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and your silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be for a testimony against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up your treasure in the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you have kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of those who reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of Armies. 5 You have lived in luxury on the earth, and taken your pleasure. You have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and you have murdered the righteous one. He doesn't resist you.

7 Be patient therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and late rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Don't grumble, brothers, against one another, so that you won't be judged. Behold, the judge stands at the door. 10 Take, brothers, for an example of suffering and of perseverance, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we call them blessed who endured. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and have seen the Lord in the outcome, and how the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 But above all things, my brothers, don't swear— not by heaven, or by the earth, or by any other oath; but let your "yes" be "yes", and your "no", "no", so that you don't fall into hypocrisy.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Prayer of Faith for Healing

James 5:13-19

Date: _____

13 Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praises. 14 Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the assembly, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer of faith will heal him who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it didn't rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 He prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

*19 Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
[Prov.10:12]*

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

JUDE

I can almost hear Peter and Jude discussing the problem of false prophets and teachers. Each decide to write warnings to those whom they have influence upon. Although this conversation probably did not take place, we cannot overlook the similarity of warnings in Jude and 2 Peter 2.

The biggest question concerning the book of Jude is the identity of the heretics Jude warns about. Jude compares the godless men of his day to the godless men of the Old Testament (unbelieving Israelites, fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah). If God did not spare them from judgement, what makes us think that ungodly men will be spared today?

These evil men are not addressed by name. I believe that they represent ungodly men of every era. Through history, God's people has had to contend with ungodly people. Names and faces change, but the spirit stays the same. Jude concludes by encouraging them to "build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit and keep yourselves in God's love as you (we) wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you (us) to eternal life.

The outline of Jude:

1. Greeting v1-2
2. Reason for Writing v3-4
3. Warning Against False Teachers v 5-16
 - a. Examples of God's judgement v5-7
 - b. Doom of False Teachers v8-13
 - c. Enoch's Prophecy of Judgement v14-16
4. Exhortations to the Church v17-23
5. Doxology v24-25

Contend for the Faith

Jude 1-4

Date: _____

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

3 Beloved, while I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I was constrained to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For there are certain men who crept in secretly, even those who were long ago written about for this condemnation: ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into indecency, and denying our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

The Godless are Punished

Jude 5-11

Date: _____

5 Now I desire to remind you, though you already know this, that the Lord, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who didn't believe. 6 Angels who didn't keep their first domain, but deserted their own dwelling place, he has kept in everlasting bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having in the same way as these given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are shown as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire. 8 Yet in the same way, these also in their dreaming defile the flesh, despise authority, and slander celestial beings. 9 But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil and arguing about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him an abusive condemnation, but said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" 10 But these speak evil of whatever things they don't know. They are destroyed in these things that they understand naturally, like the creatures without reason. 11 Woe to them! For they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in Korah's rebellion.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

Godless Men Are Among Us*Jude 12-16**Date:* _____

12 These are hidden rocky reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you, shepherds who without fear feed themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever. 14 About these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." 16 These are murmurers and complainers, walking after their lusts—and their mouth speaks proud things—showing respect of persons to gain advantage.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

We are Called to Persevere

Jude 17-23

Date: _____

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which have been spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They said to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, walking after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are those who cause divisions and are sensual, not having the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, keep building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. 21 Keep yourselves in God's love, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22 On some have compassion, making a distinction, 23 and some save, snatching them out of the fire with fear, hating even the clothing stained by the flesh.

24 Now to him who is able to keep them from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory in great joy, 25 to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Notes:

Observations

Application

Prayer

About the Author

Jimmy Bayes is an author and Director of *Dunamis Empowerment Foundation*. He has a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University. Helping others has always been his focus in ministry. His



passion is to train and to empower people and organizations so people can gain more control of their lives.

Dr. Bayes has over twenty-five years working in corporations, nonprofits, and churches. In addition to leading a nonprofit foundation, he is a Christian Transformation and Development Coach and Trainer.

You can contact him through Dunamis Empowerment Foundation at director@dunamisempower.org.

Other Titles by Dunamis Publications

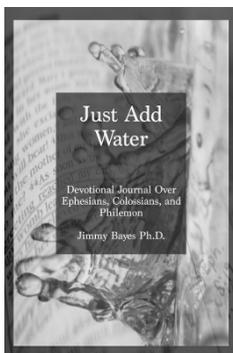
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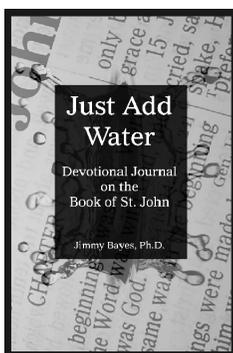


This is the first of the Devotional Journals that takes the disciple through the Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon using the SOAP devotional/study method (Scripture portion, Observations, Applications, and Prayer).

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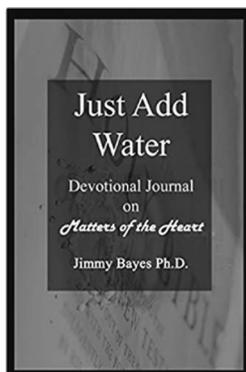


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“Just Add Water”: On Matters of the Heart



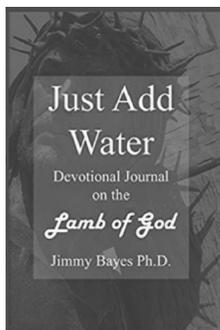
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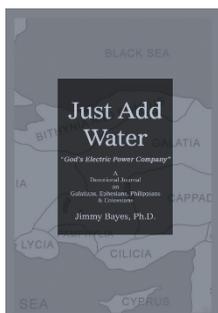
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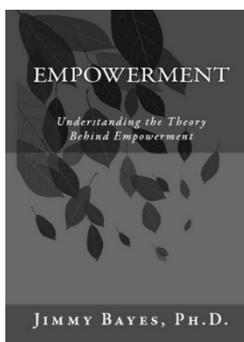


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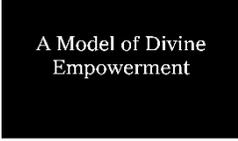
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**His divine power has given us everything
we need for life and godliness...**

2 Peter 1:3a

**As the body without the spirit is dead
so faith without works is dead.**

James 2:26

**But you, dear friends, build yourself up
in your most holy faith and pray in the
Holy Spirit.**

Jude 20