

ALSON – ALABAMA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

BIB 117 – THE PRISON EPISTLES

STUDY GUIDE for FINAL EXAM

(Note: All of these study statements are TRUE statements from the Prison Epistles. Approximately half of these study statements will make up your final exam.)

The books of the Bible known as the prison epistles include Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, and Philippians.

Paul describes the false teaching at Colosse as philosophic, ritualistic, and Christless.

In Paul's opening remarks to the Colossians, he is thankful for their faith, hope and love.

In Colossians 2 Paul warned the church against people who claimed to have a lot of visions, or new revelations, or visitations from angels, for such people were arrogant, unspiritual, and had lost connection with Christ.

Colosse was in Asia Minor, modern Turkey, where people feared "the powers", evil spirits and gods they thought controlled events and oppressed humanity.

Paul reminded the Colossian believers that Christ was supreme, that he had defeated all opposing spiritual powers, and that Christians were "in Christ" sharing in his victory.

Epaphras was originally from Colosse and he probably started the church in Colosse.

False teachers were telling the Colossian believers that to be real Christians they had to observe Jewish customs such as circumcision, Jewish holy days, and food laws.

There is now no difference between Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus, because together they are now God's One True People.

In Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, all of the Old Testament promises to Israel were fulfilled, and Israel has been redeemed, resurrected, and restored "in Christ", outside of whom there is no membership in God's family.

Becoming a member of God's family, being accepted by God, is now based solely on being placed "in Christ" and not on keeping religious rules, regulations, or the Torah.

Paul taught that Christ has eliminated ALL cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and racial barriers, and there was now no special status associated with being Jewish, Greek, rich, poor, male, or female.

According to Colossians 1:15, Jesus is the image of the invisible God, meaning that Jesus is God, bearing an exact likeness to the Father.

According to Colossians 1, Jesus is the firstborn over creation and from among the dead, meaning that he is preeminent and supreme.

According to Colossians 1:24, Paul's response to suffering for the cause of Christ and the Colossian believers was rejoicing.

When the Colossian believers met in Philemon's house to hear Paul's letter read, they all heard Paul favorably mention Onesimus, the runaway slave but not Philemon his master.

When the Colossian believers met in Philemon's house to hear Paul's letter read, they all heard Paul correct Euodia and Syntyche, two female leaders in their church, who were not getting along.

Effective ministry is accomplished through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Instead of focusing upon earthly things, Paul instructs believers at Colosse to set their heart and minds upon things above.

Paul emphasizes that Christ has eliminated ALL cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and racial barriers and made one new humanity in himself.

The most important virtue listed in Colossians 3:12-14, which unites all other virtues together is love.

Submission is yielding voluntarily to another.

Paul instructs the Colossians that Christian worship songs sung in church are supposed to be filled with the gospel, with Scripture, and with wisdom.

Paul instructs the Colossians that we are supposed to sing worship songs in church in order to teach, instruct, and warn one another.

According to Scripture, we may sing various styles of songs, but they must all be teaching us something about the Gospel, God's word, and sound doctrine.

Paul says that we must sing with "all wisdom" meaning that we should be thoughtful and tactful in choosing the songs, their content, and how we sing them.

According to the Bible, the songs we sing in church should be primarily God-focused and Gospel-centered, not focused on human feelings or wishes.

In Colossians 3, Paul's instruction to husbands is to love their wives.

The church in Colosse met in the home of a wealthy member named Philemon.

The politically challenging thing Paul was asking Philemon to do was to give up his legal rights.

A major theme in the letter to Philemon is the church as a family and believers and brothers.

Paul thanks God for Philemon's characteristic(s) of faith in Jesus and love for the saints.

Paul's request to Philemon required an especially costly decision because in Roman culture, a slave was a valuable piece of property.

Paul carefully structured his letter to Philemon according to the Greco-Roman genre of a formal request for a favor: He first built rapport, he then appealed with logic to Philemon's mind, and he finally tried to move Philemon's emotions.

Paul appealed to Philemon to receive Onesimus back "as a dear brother" knowing that this meant Philemon would free Onesimus, because you do not enslave a brother in Christ.

In the New Testament and especially in Philemon, the church is set on a redemptive trajectory regarding slavery which in time meant it would inevitably be abolished.

The New Testament writers did not immediately condemn slavery and tell slaves to revolt because the Empire would have reacted by destroying the infant Church.

The leading city in the Roman province of Asia was Ephesus.

Colosse was located about 120 miles from Ephesus in the Lycus Valley, near Laodicea and Hieropolis.

The purpose of the Ephesians was to underscore the centrality of Christ and the resources available to those in Him.

When Paul told the Colossians that the gospel had been preached "all over the world" and "to every creature under heaven" he was using hyperbole and universalistic language, not speaking literally.

According to Ephesians 1, in Christ believers are adopted and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians 1, Paul says believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit, which means the Holy Spirit is the down payment guaranteeing what is yet to come.

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, believers are saved by grace thru faith, not by trying to be holy or by keeping religious rules and regulations.

A major emphasis in Ephesians is that God's plan was always to create one people "in Christ" for himself, made up of Jews and Gentiles, saved by grace through faith.

Life, hope, position, and purpose/potential are a result of salvation.

A major emphasis in Ephesians is the necessity of unity in Christ by the Holy Spirit in our local church.

Christians are to maintain unity in the local church in our relationships, our worship, our homes, and our warfare against the enemy.

Believers are reconciled in Christ, bringing them near, peace, unity, and access to God.

Paul uses Indicative-imperative moods throughout Ephesians to explain who we are and how we live out our lives in Christ.

In the person and work of Christ, God has permanently destroyed the division between Jew and Gentile and God is creating for himself one renewed people in Christ Jesus, saved by grace through faith.

In the Bible a “mystery” is something once hidden to Old Testament people and prophets but now revealed in the person and work of Christ.

Humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance are character qualities that contribute to unity.

According to Ephesians 2 and many other passages, it is the followers of Jesus who are the one true people of God.

According to Ephesians 3, God’s plan (the mystery now revealed) had always been Christ and the Church, made up of Jews-and-Gentiles from every nation, saved by grace through faith, and marked by the indwelling Holy Spirit as the one people of God.

“Love that surpasses knowledge” does not mean love is greater than knowledge but means that God’s love can never be fully known.

According to Ephesians 4, the ultimate goal of church leadership should be to develop maturity in the body of Christ.

In Ephesians 4 Christ coming to the lower earthly regions refers to the incarnation when the eternal Son came from heaven to earth to live, die, and rise again, and does not refer to a trip to hades or hell.

The wording of Ephesians 4 requires that there are four ministry gifts listed there: Apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher.

In the New Testament the words for authority, rule, government, and direction are only in conjunction with apostles and pastor-teachers (elders), and never with prophets, evangelists, or deacons.

Five behaviors Paul instructs Christians to put on in Ephesians 4 are truthfulness, righteous anger, a good work ethic, wholesome speech, and a positive attitude.

In his actions and teaching Jesus described himself as True Israel, and all who received him became part of God’s one true people, the true Seed of Abraham, the Israel of God.

According to Ephesians 5:3, in the life of a believer there should be no hint of sexual immorality, impurity, or greed.

According to Ephesians 5:21-33, a wife demonstrates the lordship of Christ in her marriage by lovingly submitting to her husband.

According to Ephesians 5:25-33, Christ's love for the church can be characterized as sacrificial, eternal, and indissoluble.

According to Ephesians 6, parents are not to exasperate their children, but instead they should train them and instruct them in the Lord.

Based upon Ephesians 6, Christian employers must have a proper perspective, right motives, good management habits, their employees respect, and a right heart.

According to Ephesians 6, a Christian warrior must be strong and stand firm.

The helmet of salvation is needed to protect believers against a satanic attack by providing an inner witness that they are children of God.

Praying in the Spirit is emphasized by Paul as being essential for spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, but is not directly listed as a piece of armor.

Philippians is written in the genre of a Friendship Letter, reflecting the reciprocal partnering relationship Paul had with the church at Philippi, obligating each of them to help the other.

Philippi was the leading city in the Roman province of Macedonia.

Philippi was a Roman colony which meant they were a "little Rome" with special rights such as paying no taxes, being Roman citizens, governed by the laws of the city of Rome.

A Roman colony was designed as an outpost of Rome, intended to show the surrounding region what Rome itself and Romans themselves were like.

Paul taught the Philippian believers they were no longer defined by their Roman citizenship but were now defined by their citizenship in God's heavenly city, the New Jerusalem above.

Paul directed the Philippian believers to live out their citizenship in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, and so demonstrate that they were truly followers of Jesus.

There is so much military imagery in Philippians because the people were either former military or descended from legionnaires and Paul's language would have resonated deeply with them.

Philippi was located on the major trade route, the Egnatian Way, and was home to many rich and proud merchants and businessmen.

Paul emphasized every Christian's identity as a servant, and described how Jesus Christ, Paul himself, and Timothy were all humble servants.

In Philippians 1:5, the Greek word *koinonia* is translated as partnership.

The Greek word *splagchnon* is translated as affection in Philippians 1:8.

Steadfastness in suffering was not one of the outcomes Paul sought for in prayer for the Philippian believers.

Five anchors that sustained Paul in the face of an uncertain future were confidence in God's faithfulness, the prayers of God's people, the help of the Holy Spirit, God's plans and purposes, and that he would not be put to shame.

Paul assures the congregation in Philippi that Satan is defeated through the qualities of unity, cooperation, and resolve.

Paul taught the Philippians to maintain unity among themselves through humility, servanthood, and love.

Paul's command in Philippians 2:12 is for one to work out one's salvation with fear and trembling.

Two servant leaders Paul mentioned specifically in Philippians were Timothy and Epaphroditus.

Epaphroditus nearly lost his life due to sickness while he was taking care of Paul in prison.

Paul's language clearly means that even though Paul and his team were praying for him, Epaphroditus was not immediately healed of his critical illness, but recovered gradually.

Neither here nor anywhere else in Scripture is there any evidence of people "claiming" or "declaring" a desired outcome when praying.

True joy comes stems from knowing and trusting the Lord.

For those living in a state of lawlessness, their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, their glory is their shame, and their mind is on earthly things.

As he does in all of his writings, Paul emphasizes to the Philippian believers that it is only those who are marked by the Holy Spirit as followers of Jesus Christ who are the true people of God.

In Philippians 3:11-13 Paul says he can "do all this through him who gives me strength" and this refers only to living in contentment whether rich or poor.

Many Christians twist Philippians 3:11-13 out of context and try to apply it to many challenges or situations they face. This is an error.

In Philippi, Euodia and Syntyche were the two key church leaders that had worked alongside Paul, but were now in sharp disagreement.

Based upon Philippians 4:6, Paul's cure for anxiety is to pray to God with thanksgiving.

God's peace is beyond human understanding and will guard a Christian's heart and mind.

According to Philippians 4:12, Paul was able to enjoy contentment in any and every situation.

