

Lesson Five – Logos Educator’s Network Video #5

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Reviewed Questions:

1. The Apostle Paul wrote the majority of the New Testament books.
2. The General Epistles were: Hebrews, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, John, 1st, & 2nd Peter, James and Jude.
3. There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament.
4. There are eight Epistles.

- Apostle Paul was probably born around 5 AD.
 - Paul’s original training and purpose was to be a great leader of the Pharisees of that day. He was trained and raised up under a great Rabbi named Gamaliel.
- (b) Christianity changed his life direction.
- He believed that Judaism, Monotheism (under one God, Yeshua) was the only religion, and that Christianity was a false religion that had to be destroyed so he opposed it violently by persecuting the Christians.
 - Paul was on the road to Damascus going to persecute the Christians and he had a great encounter with Jesus Christ and his name was changed from Saul to Paul.
 - Some of the “firsts” of Paul were, he was the first and greatest theologian and missionary that the church has ever seen, and he planted churches throughout the then known world.
 - Paul’s purpose was to oppose and destroy anyone that represented the church of Jesus Christ.
 - Paul is called the first and greatest missionary in the Church because he planted many churches throughout the known world; the Holy Spirit gave him a revelation of Jesus Christ that we see in all his letters in the New Testament today.
 - We see in the character of Paul, the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - Paul was sustained by revelation from God, he was surrounded by people who loved him, fellow believers; he also had an overwhelming sense of the call of God on his life. The love of Christ kept compelling Paul to go forward; his love for Jesus Christ was overwhelming, it kept moving him forward. He had an eternal perspective, he realized that there was a greater prize, and his purpose was to run the race so as to win the prize.
 - We should be able to hear from God on our own by spending time with him in personal devotions or in prayer where we can hear from the Holy Spirit when he speaks to us; we have to be able to see God in his word and hear him in our hearts and go to him in prayer. We have to find for ourselves what God

made us to do; we need to sense the call of God on our lives and to tap into his calling. Like Paul, we need to have an eternal perspective.

The Early Epistles - 1 Thessalonians

Reviewed Questions:

- According to Pastor Huffman, 1 Thessalonians 5:16—24 are the key verses.
- Paul probably wrote the letter to the Thessalonians while he was in Corinth.
- The theme of this epistle is, “enduring suffering or persevering through suffering”.
- Acts 17 tells us that there were a lot of Jews that were not Christians that were oppressing those that Paul had converted there in the city.
- Paul reminded them that while he was there, he suffered great persecution, he was ran out of the city by a mob; he confirmed with them that their motives were pure that they were connected with the Savior and were moving in the right direction. He reminded them that he was constantly praying for them and that their hope and joy was in Jesus Christ, he also reminded them of their values as a community (Ch.2:19-20)
- The Thessalonians were confused about Christians suffering persecution, they wanted to know if God really cared.
- Eschatology is a theological word that means “end times”, the end of all things, end time events.
- Paul sent Timothy to the Thessalonians to encourage them.

The Early Epistles - 2 Thessalonians

- One of the important themes of this Epistle is understanding end time events.
- Some of the problems resulting from the wrong ideas of the Thessalonians were: people had stopped working and paying their bills.
- Some of the eschatological events described by Paul in 2 Thessalonians were a description of the Antichrist and the order of end times events.

The Early Epistles - Galatians

- The important theme in Galatians is Christian freedom.
- It was addressed to a group of churches in Northern Turkey, Armenia and the entire region.
- The reason for the letter was because the Judaizers, who were very devout to the Hebrew religion would occasionally adopt some of the Christian doctrine and intermingle them with the Jewish faith and theology; whenever Paul planted a church in Galatia and people were converted after he developed the church and moved on, the Judaizers would come in and try to get the Christians from the church to adopt the Mosaic law into their lifestyle.
- Paul was frustrated with the Judaizers because they were trying to convince Christians who had experienced great freedom through Jesus Christ to add on to their faith all of the restrictions, laws, guidelines, and obligations to the extreme of the Mosaic law.
- True circumcision is Spiritual, it is not a circumcision of the flesh but a circumcision of the heart.
- Paul really addressed that justification is by faith, not works, that if righteousness was based on the law, then Christ had died for nothing; he reminds us that Christ had indeed redeemed us from the law.
- We must rely on what Jesus did, he redeemed us from the curse, he saved us from sin, he paid the price for us; we have to focus on walking by the Spirit and living in the Spirit, we must allow him to do in us what he already accomplish on the cross so that we would not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Gal. 5:16)

Apostle Peter:

- Yes, Peter was probably fairly prosperous as a fisherman.
- The disciples did not know that they would have a worldwide impact.
- The perspective we should have today is that whenever we feel the call of God in our hearts, just like the disciples, we should lay aside the things of this world, our own will, our own path in life, our own careers and follow the call of God. When we accept the plan of God for our lives and trust his divine will, we have no idea what God would do through us because with God all things are possible.