

TVC STUDY NOTES

New Testament Survey Lessons 1 Corinthians – 2 Thessalonians

1 CORINTHIANS – Lesson 10

Author: [1 Corinthians 1:1](#) identifies the author of the Book as the apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Corinthians was written in approximately A. D. 55.

Purpose of Writing: After founding the church in Corinth. A few years after leaving the church, Paul heard some disturbing reports about the Corinthian church. They were full of pride, excusing sexual immorality, Spiritual gifts were being abused and there was rampant misunderstanding of key Christian doctrines. This letter was written to the Corinthians in an attempt to restore the Corinthian church to its foundation—Jesus Christ.

Key Verses:

[1 Corinthians 3:3](#): “You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?”

[1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#): “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

[1 Corinthians 10:31](#): “So...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

[1 Corinthians 12:7](#): “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given...”

[1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#): “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud...always perseveres.”

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#): “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

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Brief Summary: The Corinthian church was plagued by divisions. The believers in Corinth were dividing into groups loyal to certain spiritual leaders ([1 Corinthians 1:12](#); [3:1-6](#)). Paul exhorted the Corinthian believers to be united because of devotion to Christ ([1 Corinthians 3:21-23](#)). Many in the church were essentially approving of an immoral relationship ([1 Corinthians 5:1-2](#)). Paul commanded them to expel the wicked man from the church ([1 Corinthians 5:13](#)). The Corinthian believers were taking each other to court ([1 Corinthians 6:1-2](#)). Paul taught the Corinthians that it would be better to be taken advantage of than to damage their Christian testimony ([1 Corinthians 6:3-8](#)).

Paul gave the Corinthian church instructions on marriage and celibacy (chapter 7), food sacrificed to idols (chapters 8 and 10), Christian freedom (chapter 9), the veiling of women ([1 Corinthians 11:1-16](#)), the Lord's Supper ([1 Corinthians 11:17-34](#)), spiritual gifts (chapters 12-14), and the resurrection (chapter 15). Paul organized the book of 1 Corinthians by answering questions the Corinthian believers had asked him and by responding to improper conduct and erroneous beliefs they had accepted.

2 CORINTHIANS - Lesson 11

Author: [2 Corinthians 1:1](#) identifies the author as the apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Corinthians was very likely written approximately A.D. 55-57.

Purpose of Writing: In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul expresses his relief and joy that the Corinthians had received his "severe" letter (now lost) in a positive manner. That letter addressed issues that were tearing the church apart, primarily the arrival of self-styled (false) apostles ([2 Corinthians 11:13](#)) who were assaulting Paul's character, sowing discord among the believers, and teaching false doctrine. Paul was overjoyed to learn from Titus that the majority of Corinthians had repented of their rebellion against Paul ([2 Corinthians 2:12-13](#); [7:5-9](#)).

Key Verses:

[2 Corinthians 3:5](#): "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:21: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Brief Summary: After greeting the believers in the church at Corinth and explaining why he had not visited them as originally planned (vv. 1:3–2:2), Paul explains the nature of his ministry. Triumph through Christ and sincerity in the sight of God were the hallmarks of his ministry to the churches (2:14-17). He compares the glorious ministry of the righteousness of Christ to the "ministry of condemnation" which is the Law (v. 3:9) and declares his faith in the validity of his ministry in spite of intense persecution (4:8-18). Chapter 5 outlines the basis of the Christian faith—the new nature (v. 17) and the exchange of our sin for the righteousness of Christ (v. 21).

Chapters 6 and 7 find Paul defending himself and his ministry, assuring the Corinthians yet again of his sincere love for them and exhorting them to repentance and holy living. In chapters 8 and 9, Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth to follow the examples of the brothers in Macedonia and extend generosity to the saints in need. He teaches them the principles and rewards of gracious giving.

Paul ends his letter by reiterating his authority among them (chapter 10) and concern for their faithfulness to him in the face of fierce opposition from false apostles. He calls himself a "fool" for having to reluctantly boast of his qualifications and his suffering for Christ (chapter 11). He ends his epistle by describing the vision of heaven he was allowed to experience and the "thorn in the flesh" he was given by God to ensure his humility (chapter 12).

Galatians – Lesson 12

Author: Galatians 1:1 clearly identifies the apostle Paul as the writer of the epistle to the Galatians.

Date of Writing: Galatians is likely the first New Testament book to be written, composed sometime soon after AD 49.

Purpose of Writing: The churches in Galatia were comprised of both Jewish and Gentile converts. Paul's purpose in writing to these churches was to confirm them in the faith, especially concerning justification by faith alone, apart from the works of the Law of Moses.

Key Verses:

Galatians 2:16: "Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Galatians 3:11: "Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

Galatians 4:5-6: "to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'"

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Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 6:7: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Brief Summary: The fact that we are justified by grace through faith means we have spiritual freedom. We are not under bondage to the dictates of the Old Testament Law. Paul soundly condemns anyone who would denigrate the grace of God and attempt to change the gospel (Galatians 1:8–10). He gives his apostolic credentials (Galatians 1:11–2:14) and emphasizes that righteousness comes through Christ not the works of the Law (Galatians 2:21). The Galatians must stand fast in their freedom and not be “entangled again with a yoke of bondage (that is, the Mosaic law)” (Galatians 5:1). Christian freedom is not an excuse to gratify one’s sin nature; rather, our freedom is an opportunity to love one another (Galatians 5:13; 6:7–10). The Christian life is to be lived in the power of the Spirit, not the flesh (Galatians 5:16–18). The flesh has been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20); as a consequence, the Spirit will bear His fruit in the life of the believer (Galatians 5:22–23).

In the end, the issue is not whether a person is circumcised but whether he is a “new creation” (Galatians 6:15). Salvation is the work of the Spirit, and we must be born again (see John 3:3). External religious rites such as circumcision are of no value in the realm of the Spirit.

Ephesians – Lesson 13

Author: [Ephesians 1:1](#) identifies the author of the Book of Ephesians as the apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of Ephesians was very likely written between A.D. 60-63.

Purpose of Writing: Paul intended that all who long for Christ-like maturity would receive this writing. Enclosed within the Book of Ephesians is the discipline needed to develop into true children of God. Furthermore, a study in Ephesians will help to fortify and to establish the believer so he can fulfill the purpose and calling God has given. The aim of this epistle is

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to confirm and to equip a maturing church. It presents a balanced view of the body of Christ and its importance in God's economy.

Key Verses:

[Ephesians 1:3](#): "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

[Ephesians 2:8-10](#): "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

[Ephesians 4:4-6](#): "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

[Ephesians 6:10-11](#): "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Brief Summary: Doctrine occupies the greatest portion of the Book of Ephesians. Half of the teaching in this epistle relates to our standing in Christ, and the remainder of it affects our condition. All too often those who teach from this book bypass all the foundational instruction and go directly to the closing chapter. It is this chapter that emphasizes the warfare or the struggle of the saints. However, to benefit fully from the contents of this epistle, one must begin at the beginning of Paul's instruction in this letter.

First, as followers of Christ, we must fully understand who God declares us to be. We must also become grounded in the knowledge of God's accomplishment for all humanity. Next, our present existence and walk must become exercised and strengthened. This must continue until we no longer totter or stagger back and forth with every spirit of teaching and subtlety of men.

Practical Application: Perhaps more than any other book of the Bible, the Book of Ephesians emphasizes the connection between sound doctrine and right practice in the Christian life. Far too many people ignore "theology" and instead want to only discuss things that are

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"practical." In Ephesians, Paul argues that theology is practical. In order to live out God's will for us in our lives practically, we must first understand who we are in Christ doctrinally.

Philippians – Lesson 14

Author: [Philippians 1:1](#) identifies the author of the Book of Philippians as the apostle Paul, likely along with the help of Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of Philippians was written in approximately A.D. 61.

Purpose of Writing: The Epistle to the Philippians, one of Paul's prison epistles, was written in Rome. It was at Philippi, which the apostle visited on his second missionary journey ([Acts 16:12](#)), that Lydia and the Philippian jailer and his family were converted to Christ. Now, some few years later, the church was well established, as may be inferred from its address which includes "bishops (elders) and deacons" ([Philippians 1:1](#)).

The occasion of the epistle was to acknowledge a gift of money from the church at Philippi, brought to the apostle by Epaphroditus, one of its members ([Philippians 4:10-18](#)). This is a tender letter to a group of Christians who were especially close to the heart of Paul ([2 Corinthians 8:1-6](#)), and comparatively little is said about doctrinal error.

Key Verses:

[Philippians 1:21](#): "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

[Philippians 3:7](#): "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."

[Philippians 4:4](#): "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

[Philippians 4:6-7](#): "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God..."

[Philippians 4:13](#): "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Brief Summary: Philippians can be called "Resources Through Suffering." The book is about Christ in our life, Christ in our mind, Christ as our goal, Christ as our strength, and joy

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through suffering. It was written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome, about thirty years after Christ's ascension and about ten years after Paul first preached at Philippi.

Paul was Nero's prisoner, yet the epistle fairly shouts with triumph, the words "joy" and "rejoice" appearing frequently ([Philippians 1:4, 18, 25, 26; 2:2, 28; Philippians 3:1, 4:1, 4, 10](#)).

Practical Application: Philippians is one of Paul's most personal letters, and as such it has several personal applications to believers. Written during his imprisonment in Rome, Paul exhorts the Philippians to follow his example and be "encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly" ([Philippians 1:14](#)) during times of persecution. All Christians have experienced, at one time or another, the animosity of unbelievers against the gospel of Christ. This is to be expected. Jesus said that the world hated Him and it will hate His followers as well ([John 15:18](#)). Paul exhorts us to persevere in the face of persecution, to "stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel" ([Philippians 1:27](#)).

Another application of Philippians is the need for Christians to be united in humility.

Colossians – Lesson 15

Author: The apostle Paul was the primary writer of the Book of Colossians ([Colossians 1:1](#)). Timothy is also given some credit ([Colossians 1:1](#)).

Date of Writing: The Book of Colossians was likely written between A.D. 58-62.

Purpose of Writing: The first half of the Book of Colossians is a theological treatise that includes one of the most profound presentations of [Christology](#) anywhere in the New Testament. The second half is a mini-ethics course, addressing every area of Christian life. The theme of this book is the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His sufficiency in meeting our needs in every area.

Key Verses:

[Colossians 1:15-16](#), "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him."

[Colossians 2:8](#), "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

[Colossians 3:12-13](#), "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

[Colossians 4:5-6](#), "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Brief Summary: Colossians was written explicitly to defeat the heresy that had arisen in Colosse, which endangered the existence of the church. While we do not know what was told to Paul, this letter is his response. We can surmise based on Paul's response that he was dealing with a defective view of Christ (denying His real and true humanity and not accepting His full deity). Paul appears also to dispute the "Jewish" emphasis on circumcision and traditions ([Colossians 2:8-11](#); [3:11](#)). The heresy addressed appears to be either a Jewish-Gnosticism or a mix between Jewish asceticism and Greek (Stoic?) philosophy.

Practical Application: Although Paul addresses many areas, the basic application for us today is the total and complete sufficiency of Christ in our lives, both for our salvation and our sanctification. We must know and understand the gospel so as not to be led astray by subtle forms of legalism and heresy. We must be on guard for any deviation that would diminish the centrality of Christ as Lord and Savior. Any "religion" that tries to equate itself with the truth using books that claim the same authority as the Bible, or which combines human effort with divine accomplishment in salvation must be avoided. Other religions cannot be combined with or added to Christianity. Christ gives us absolute standards of moral conduct.

I Thessalonians – Lesson 16

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Author: [1 Thessalonians 1:1](#) indicates that the Book of 1 Thessalonians was written by the apostle Paul, probably along with Silas and Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Thessalonians was written in approximately A.D. 50.

Purpose of Writing: In the church of Thessalonica there were some misunderstandings about the return of Christ. Paul desired to clear them up in his letter. He also writes it as an instruction in holy living.

Key Verses:

[1 Thessalonians 3:5](#), "For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless."

[1 Thessalonians 3:7](#), "Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith."

[1 Thessalonians 4:14-17](#), "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#), "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Brief Summary: The first three chapters are about Paul longing to visit the church in Thessalonica but not being able to because Satan stopped them ([1 Thessalonians 2:18](#)), and how Paul cared for them and was encouraged to hear how they had been. Paul then prays for them ([1 Thessalonians 3:11-13](#)). In chapter 4, Paul is instructing the believers in Thessalonica on how to live, in Christ Jesus, a holy life ([1 Thessalonians 4:1-12](#)). Paul goes

on to instruct them of a misconception they had. He tells them that the people who have died in Christ Jesus will also go to heaven when He comes back ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#), [5:1-11](#)). The book ends with final instructions of living the Christian life.

Practical Application: This book can be applied to many life situations. It gives us the confidence as Christians that dead or alive when Christ comes back we will be together with Him ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). It assures us as Christians that we won't receive God's wrath ([1 Thessalonians 5:8-9](#)). It instructs us how to walk the Christian life daily ([1 Thessalonians 4-5](#)).

2 Thessalonians – Lesson 17

Author: [2 Thessalonians 1:1](#) indicates that the Book of 2 Thessalonians was written by the apostle Paul, probably along with Silas and Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Thessalonians was likely written in AD 51-52.

Purpose of Writing: The church in Thessalonica still had some misconceptions about the Day of the Lord. They thought it had come already so they stopped with their work. They were being persecuted badly. Paul wrote to clear up misconceptions and to comfort them.

Key Verses:

[2 Thessalonians 1:6-7](#), "God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with powerful angels."

[2 Thessalonians 2:13](#), "But we ought always thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

[2 Thessalonians 3:3](#), "But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."

[2 Thessalonians 3:10](#), "For even when we were with you we gave you this rule: If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

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Brief Summary: Paul greets the church at Thessalonica and encourages and exhorts them. He commends them for what he hears they are doing in the Lord, and he prays for them ([2 Thessalonians 1:11-12](#)). In chapter 2, Paul explains what will happen in the Day of the Lord ([2 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#)). Paul then encourages them to stand firm and instructs them to keep away from idle men who don't live by the gospel ([2 Thessalonians 3:6](#)).

Connections: Paul refers to several Old Testament passages in his discourse on the end times, thereby confirming and reconciling the OT prophets. Much of his teaching on the end times in this letter is based on the prophet Daniel and his visions. In [2 Thessalonians 2:3-9](#), he refers to Daniel's prophecy regarding the "man of sin" ([Daniel 7-8](#)).

Practical Application: The Book of 2 Thessalonians is filled with information that explains the end times. It also exhorts us not to be idle and to work for what we have. There are also some great prayers in 2 Thessalonians that can be an example for us on how to pray for other believers today.