**Lesson 12- General Epistles and Revelation**

1. Hebrews
2. Anonymous writer. Much of church history suggests Paul, others have been suggested. Either way, this was clearly written at the time of the apostles and was widely received as apostolic.
3. Clearly written to Jewish believers, or at least those who know Old Testament very well, hence the name *Hebrews*
4. Work of Christ as priest, prophet, and king.
5. Fill with Old Testament quotes and shows that the New Covenant in Christ is greater than the Old.
6. Hebrews 7:25- He saves to the uttermost as our intercessor.
7. Heb 1:3 He is the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of His person.
8. Heb 1:4- Far superior to angels.
9. 1:8- The Father calls the Son, “God.”
10. James
11. Most likely the James we see in Acts who is called the brother of Christ.
12. Proverbs of the New Testament.
13. James aims to show that the gospel of grace is not a license to sin all we want.
14. 1 Peter
15. Written around 63-64 AD.
16. Written to a persecuted people (“aliens” “scattered”0
17. Christ as the ultimate example of suffering.
18. Key passage is 2:23-24
19. 2 Peter
20. Written shortly after 1 Peter.
21. Written mainly to pastor/elders.
22. Peter makes a big deal about doctrine and addressing false teachers.
23. Emphasizes looking closely at Scripture.
24. 1 John
25. Tradition holds that this is the John who wrote the Gospel according to John. Claims to be an eyewitness.
26. John emphasizes much about loving the church. He also emphasizes much about not sinning.
27. 1 John 5:13 he tells us the reason he is writing this letter is so we could know we have eternal life.
28. If you want to know if you have eternal life, you should be examining yourself often to see (1) Do you love the brethren? (2) Are you practicing lawlessness? (3) Do you have the Son?
29. 2 John
30. John refers to the recipient as “the elect lady and her children.”
31. Emphasizes the truth and the importance of loving one another and walking in God’s commands, just as he did in 1 John.
32. Warns that if anyone does not bring the true doctrine of Christ, we should not receive them in fellowship. 2 John 1:10 is a very important verse to keep in mind when discussing things with cults.
33. 3 John
34. Demetrius- a servant who has a great testimony in the church
35. Diotrephes- loves to be first and loves to slander even the apostles themselves.
36. John will remove Diotrephes when he arrives. This demonstrates not putting up with false professors of the faith.
37. Jude
38. Yet another book that strongly emphasizes how important it is to be careful that we have proper doctrine.
39. Jude 1:3- The faith once for all delivered to the saints.

1. Revelation
2. A vision that John received while he was exiled on an island of Patmos.
3. Begins with letters to seven churches, all of which are in modern day Turkey, and show us that Christ’s eyes are on the church.
4. After this is a vision of heaven itself and God’s work. One seated on the throne and the Lamb who was slain.
5. Written to show us things John saw, things that were at the time of John, and things that will take place in the future.

**Bible Study Discussion Questions**

* + - 1. Hebrews 7:20-28- Hebrews provides much on Christ as our priest, prophet, and king. Using just this passage, what are things we can learn about Jesus as our High Priest?
      2. Read through Hebrews 1 together and examine how you might use these verses to discuss with a cult that claims Jesus was created (**Realize how often Jesus is exalted as far more than any other creature. Point out when God the Father calls the Son “God.”)**
      3. James 2:14-26- In what sense are works involved in the Christian faith? **(Works do not cause someone to be saved. Works are the sure result that will come to those who are truly saved. We don’t get to say we prayed a prayer one time and now can live as wickedly as we want)**
      4. 1 Peter 1:17-21- Read through these verses and discuss what you learn about the nature and work of Christ.
      5. 1 Peter 4:12-17- What place does suffering have in the Christian faith? What should our attitudes be like in the midst of persecution?
      6. 2 Peter 1:3-11

1. 1:3-4- What has been given to us to help us become mature?
2. 1:5-11- Walk through each step of what we should supplement/add to our faith. Why is each one important? What does it look like practically to add these things to our faith?
   * + 1. In 2 Peter 1:16-18 Peter explains that he and the other apostles were eyewitnesses. With that in mind, read 1 Peter 1:19-21 and discuss how important evaluating their word based on the Old Testament was to Peter. What does it tell us about God that the apostles insisted that even their message be weighed by other Scripture?
       2. 1 John 3:16- How is God’s love known? What are false ways of trying to examine if God loves you?
       3. 1 John 5:11-13- How can a Christian know for sure that they have eternal life? (**We must put the focus on Christ and His work and promises)**
       4. 2 John 1:9-11. Why does John say we should not have fellowship with people bringing a false doctrine? What does this tell us about the importance of sound doctrine in each Christian’s life?
       5. 3 John 1:9, 12. Compare Diotrephes and Demetrius. What are the contrasts you see and what does this teach us about our role in the body of Christ?
       6. Revelation 1:3- How does this verse compare to when people claim Revelation cannot be understood?