Outlines from Emmaus Bible School

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1 Corinthians

Emmaus Bible School. First Corinthians.

Legend: a - ante; m - middle; p - post.

Lecture I

I. Introductory Notes.

A. Acts 18 contains the historical account of Paul's labors in Corinth - 1½ years plus "a good while", vs. 11, 18

B. Corinth, together with Athens, were the two most important cities of Greece.

1. Its importance as a seaport made it unequalled in Greece, as to commerce.

2. It was a city of riches, luxury, pleasure, sports, gambling, etc.

3. It was proverbial for everything wicked.

4. It was metropolitan in character.

C. It is of great importance to note all that is said about Paul, his attitude, actions and labors while at Corinth.

D. The purpose of the epistle is not stated at the opening, but found throughout the entire epistle.

E. Examples of correction of abuses, - both personal and assembly.

1. Of human religion and wisdom, ch. 1p and 2

2. Rebuke of carnality, ch. 3 and 4

3. Correction in regard to moral evil, ch. 5

4. Rebuke for going to law, brother with brother, ch. 6

F. Information about matters not understood, ch. 7, 8

G. Teachings relating to church order and discipline, ch. 11, 14

H. No reference to elders, bishops, deacons, etc. No reference to any official pastors, teachers, etc.

I. The truths revealed here apply to any church at any time, comp. 1:2; 4:17; 7:17; 11:16

Outline of First Corinthians

I. CHAPTER ONE, VERSES ONE TO SEVENTEEN

A. Introduction, 1-9

B. Carnality of the Corinthians, 1:10, continuing through 4:21

C. Divisions resulting from preference of servants, 1:10-17

II. CHAPTER ONE, VERSE EIGHTEEN, TO CHAPTER TWO

A. Glorying in human religion and wisdom contrasted to divine truth and wisdom, 1:18-2:16

Lecture II

III. CHAPTER THREE

A. Glorying in servants, causing divisions, rebuked, 1-9

B. The building of the church, the united work of all servants, each receiving his own reward, 10-23

1. All is of God, headed up in Christ, and God.

IV. CHAPTER FOUR

A. All true servants to be recognized as the servants of Christ, 1-7

1. No judgments of other servants until the Lord's Coming

a. He will judge

2. Glorying in human attainments rebuked, in contrast to the apostles' sufferings and persecutions, - mental, moral and physical, for Christ's sake, 8-21

Lecture III

V. CHAPTER FIVE

A. An immorality case treated and corrected, and instructions as to proper attitude and rebuke.

VI. CHAPTER SIX

A. Procedure in legal matters among saints, 1-11

B. The case of fornication, again, and the nature of the evil defined, 12-20

1. The added seriousness and new elements of sin, in the case of a Christian.

VII. CHAPTER SEVEN

A. Marriage and its responsibilities, privileges, expectations, 1-9

B. Instructions applying where one is an unbeliever, 10-17

C. Information to Christians, 18-24

1. Circumcised or uncircumcised

2. Slave or free man

D. The case of virgins in relation to marriage considered, 25-40

1. The interests of the married and unmarried contrasted

2. The passing nature of all earthly elements, conditions and fashions.

Lecture IV

VIII. CHAPTER EIGHT

A. Christian liberty, in relation to eating meat offered to idols.

1. Romans 14, the parallel passage, though of more general character.

2. In itself it has no virtue, or condemnation, Godward, 8

3. Love to God and fellow Christians is the right motive in our actions, 1-3

4. The man eating, with a condemned conscience, does wrong, 7

5. The one with liberty, if stumbling others, does wrong, 9-13

IX. CHAPTER NINE

A. How the material needs of those who labor in the Gospel should be met.

1. God's ideal is for believers to take care of this, 14

a. Illustrations of

(1) Soldiers in warfare, 7a

(2) Nature's order, - the orchardist and the farmer, 7-10

(3) Moses' law - ox eating while working, Deut. 25:4

(4) Altar service of O.T., 13

2. Paul's acting above this principle, for a special reason, 15

B. Real motive for preaching, 16-18

1. A free will, a desire born of love, 17a

2. A necessity laid upon Paul, 16p

3. A stewardship committed to Paul, 17p

4. Making no charge for preaching the Gospel, but looking for reward from God, 18p

C. Paul accommodates himself to every circumstance (barring wrong-doing) in order to win souls, 19-23

D. Paul running for the reward, straining every energy, controlling or casting aside every hindrance, 24-27

1. He has no doubt as to the issue, 26

Lecture V

X. CHAPTER TEN

Hebrews, chapter 3, treats of this same subject.

A. A warning from Israel's history, 1-15

1. There are always mere professors among the real. Cf. 2 Cor. 13:5p

a. Outward privileges, or association with professed believers is no proof of reality, 1-4

b. The many examples of unbelievers, (Heb. 3:19)

(1) Lusting after evil (this is an attitude)

(2) Idolatry

(3) Fornication

(4) Tempting Christ

(5) Murmuring

2. Warning, 12

3. God was not guilty of their evil, 13

B. The Christian's unity and fellowship, in contrast to Judaism and Paganism, 26-33

C. Unity and fellowship expressed by the communion service, 16-17

D. The Christian cannot fellowship with Judaism, paganism and Christianity all at the same time, 18-21

E. The Christian's attitude and action in regard to eating meat sacrificed to idols, 22-23

1. Same general principles govern, as in chapter 8

a. Additional circumstances not taken up in chapter 8, vs. 28

XI. CHAPTER ELEVEN

A. The relative position of man and woman, in creation, maintained in the church, 1-16

1. The subject introduced by the following, (1-3)

(a) An appeal to follow Paul, 1

(b) To keep the ordinances, 2

(c) Information concerning the relative position of God, Christ, man, woman, 3

2. The relative place is signified by (4-7)

(a) The man being uncovered while in spiritual exercise before God, 4, 7

(b) The woman being covered while in spiritual exercise, 5, 6

3. Proof that this is creation order, not changed under grace, 8, 9, 12

4. Reason for this teaching explained, 7, 10

(a) Uncovered head is a sign of being under authority, 10

Note: These signs are supposed to evidence the real attitude of heart, of each sex.

5. This is all ordained of God, 12

6. A final appeal to nature, as confirmation of these facts, 13-15

(i.e. - nature in relation to man, not the animal world)

7. Final warning against being contentious in this matter, 16

(Much active opposition there has been to this in church history.)

8. The Lord's supper and rules relating to its celebration, 17-34

9. Disorder and division rebuked, 17-22

(a) Such gathering together would do harm instead of good, 17p

(b) The only beneficial thing resulting from heresies, 19

(c) Further irregularities in connection with the supper described, 20-22 (see also 33, 34)

(1) Each brought his own baskets

(2) Those with abundance shaming those with little

(3) It seems there was also feeding and drinking to excess

(4) We are told it relates to the love feast in connection with the Lord's supper.

10. The proper way of celebrating the supper described, 23-26

Note: It is noticeable that the ordinance instituted by Christ was given again to the church by the glorified Christ, by Paul.

11. Celebrating the supper unworthily calls for discipline of a three-fold variety, 27-33

(a) Weakness

(b) Sickness

(c) Death

Lecture VI

Chapters 12 to 14 deal with the use and abuse of gifts.

XII. CHAPTER TWELVE

A. The various gifts of the Spirit, 1-11

1. "Concerning spiritual gifts" covers the subject of this chapter, 1

2. The Spirit of God identified by confession of Jesus as Lord, 2-3

3. Variety in gifts (Spirit), administrations (Lord), operations (God), 4-6

4. Distinctive gifts to each, 7-11

(a) Each has a gift, 7

(b) Not all have the same gift, 8-10

(c) All from the same source, all bestowed by sovereign grace, 11

B. The one body, and the distinct position in, and function of each member, 12-27 (Note the details here)

1. The body, its unity and variety, 12-14

2. The means of introduction into, 13

3. The interdependence of the members for the proper functioning of the body, 15-27

(a) God's special care bestowed upon the feeble (22), uncomely (23) and lacking part (24).

C. The gifts enumerated in their relative importance and position, 28-31

XIII. CHAPTER THIRTEEN

A. The subject of divine love, - better than all gifts, and the chief principle which should motivate the exercise of gifts.

1. The most eloquent speech, the greatest gift, best understanding, the costliest act of charity, of no profit without love, 1-3

2. Love's qualities and characteristics, negative and positive, 4-7

3. Its abiding character in contrast to gifts, 8

4. Our partial understanding and enjoyment of anything now, 4-7 (contrast to the perfection of the life to come)

(a) Illustrated by child's and man's understanding, 11

(b) Illustrated by seeing through dark glass, or directly, 12

(c) Faith, contrasted to sight; hope, to realization; love, alone, abides eternally, 13

XIV. CHAPTER FOURTEEN

A. The use and abuse of spiritual gifts.

1. The question, and proportionate value, of speaking in tongues versus prophesying considered, 1-33

(a) Love has the preeminent place, spiritual gifts next, and prophecy (N.T. type) the first place in importance, 1-2

(b) Prophecy, as here used, defined, 3

(c) The edification of the church, of the first importance, 3-5

(d) Unknown tongue, not understood by others, unless interpreted, 5p

(e) Illustrated by instruments, voices, languages, with their applications, 7-12

(f) Tongue gift not to be exercised, unless interpreted, 13-14

(1) Speaking in the assembly should only be to fruitfulness (14) and edification to others.

(g) The aim in using tongues is to convince the unbeliever; the aim of prophecy is to edify the believer, 21-22

(h) The impression upon unbelievers by the exercise of the gift of tongues and prophesying, respectively, 23-25

(i) The proper order and use of gifts in the church, 26-33

(1) There is liberty for any brother, also restrictions upon all present.

(1a) Restriction of purpose (26p) - unto edifying.

(1b) Restriction of numbers (27) - two or three.

(1c) This is God's order, - anything else is confusion, 33

(j) Woman's place, publicly, or in general assembly, is silence, 34-35

(k) Further exhortation to abide by these rules, 36-40

Lecture VII

XV. CHAPTER FIFTEEN

A. This chapter is corrective and doctrinal, on the subject of the resurrection.

1. It is an essential feature of the Gospel, 1-4

2. Resurrection fully proven by reliable witnesses, 5-10

a. These appearances were on several separate occasions.

b. Those who saw Him were reliable and many.

c. Paul also saw Christ, and proved its reality by his labors.

3. If no resurrection, as some among them said, (12p) a series of serious consequences follows, 12-19

a. Christ not risen, 13

b. Preaching useless, 14

c. Disciples false witnesses, 15

d. We yet in our sins, 17p

e. The dead, being in Christ, lost, 18

f. Of all men most miserable, 19

4. Christ is risen, therefore a series of blessed consequences follows, 20-28

a. Christ's resurrection the pledge that all believers will be raised, 20-23

b. [A passage here could not be read in the scan.] God will be all in all, 24-28

5. Why take our place as Christians, and why suffer for Christ, if no resurrection? 28-34

6. Two questions are propounded: how raised, and with what body? 35

a. Question No. 1 answered, 35-44

b. Question No. 2 answered, 35-44

c. The Person Who alone does it, 38

7. God's variety in creation illustrates His variety in the resurrection, 39-41

8. The superior qualities of the resurrection body, 42-44

9. Our identification with the first Adam, in contrast to our identification with the last Adam, 45-50

10. The translation, at Christ's coming, a Pauline revelation, - its order, duration and consequences, 51-58

11. Appeal to saints for faithfulness, 58

XVI. CHAPTER SIXTEEN

A. General concluding remarks

1. Concerning collection for saints elsewhere, 1-4

2. His intention to come to see them in his journey, and appeal for fellowship, 5-9

a. His service at Ephesus for the present.

3. His appeal for Timothy, Apollos, and the house of Stephanas, 10-16

a. Fellowship, consideration, and recognition.

4. Giving thanks for coming and supply of three brethren from Corinth, 17-18

5. Final salutations, 19-24

Ephesians

Ephesians Survey.

Historical Background

Sea coast city of Asia Minor - Acts 19-20
Very wealthy and prominent
Paul labored here very zealously privately and publicly - Acts 20:18, 20
Paul was here three years (Acts 20:31); first 3 months in the synagogue (Acts 19:8)

MAIN DIVISIONS - Doctrine - chapters 1-3; Practical - chapters 4-6

MAIN THEME - the Church

Contrast to Romans:

Romans - Man utterly guilty needing justification
Ephesians - Man dead in sins needing life
Romans - from Man (ch. 1-3) and his guilt to God
Ephesians - from God (ch. 1) to man

Contrast to Colossians:

Colossians - head prominent
Ephesians - body prominent

Epistle contains church truth:

1. God's eternal counsels.

2. Centered in Christ and His work of redemption.

3. Being executed since the Cross and to Christ's return.

4. Destined to an eternal heavenly position.

a. The church is seen as Christ's body 1:22, 23. This means

1. His complement or fulness - 1:23

2. Subjection and exercise in relation to the head - 4:16, I Cor. 12.

b. A household - 2:19

1. Order, discipline, behavior (I Tim. 3:15; I Peter 4:17).

c. Building or Temple

1. Dwelling place for God - 2:20; II Cor. 6:16

2. Worship and service - Ps. 5:7; Rev. 7:15

d. A mystery of the Christ

1. A new revelation of Jew and Gentile forming one body related to the Lord - 3:4-6

e. The bride or wife - 5:32

1. The union, nearness, affections

Chapter 1 - Section 1

The church kata God's eternal counsels - 1:4, 5
In time redeemed through Christ's blood - 1:7
The nature of its blessing (heavenly, v. 3)
Its heirship in Christ, v. 11
Sealed by the Holy Spirit, v. 13
Its final redemption, v. 14

Not human responsibility, but God's plan and execution for the church is the subject of 1:1-14, from eternity to our final glorification. It is a marvelous unfolding of God. The Blesser and His blessings.

Chapter 1 - Section 2

Paul's prayer to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Man in whom all is realized) to the Father of Glory (the Author of all this glory)

1. We may enter into - mind and heart - all this positional blessing and hope - 17-19

2. Christ's greatness and glory regarding His inheritance in the saints

3. God's might and power in Christ's resurrection and exaltation far above all powers and names.

Chapter 2:1-10

The depths of sin and slavery from whence the members of the church were taken and their exaltation in Christ.

From:

Dead in trespasses and sins
Kata this world
Kata Satan's superior power
Children of Wrath
Children of Disobedience

To:

Life with Christ, v. 5
Salvation, v. 5
Raised and seated with Christ in the heavenlies

Threefold slavery - verses 1-3:

the world, v. 2
Satan, v. 2
the flesh, v. 3

Who did it? God

On what principles?

Grace contrast with works
Mercy with judgment
Great love with hatred v. 4-5

The Purpose:

a. The endless display of exceeding riches of His Grace, v. 7

b. For us to display this new life in good works, v. 8-10

Chapter 2:11-22

The post-Cross position in contrast to the pre-Cross position of Jew and Gentile.

Since the Cross, both believers from Jews and Gentiles formed into one new man. One body, household, temple - 15, 19, 21

1. Gentiles in the past on the outside - Jews covenant blessing, 11, 12

2. Now brought nigh and united with the Jew into one body through Christ's accomplished redemption 13-14

3. The law abolished by Christ's sacrifice 15

4. Access by one Spirit to God as Father.

5. Christ the one Foundation of the church.

Chapter 3:1-13

The Exegesis of this mystery

1. Made to Paul and others 3-4 (cf. Bullinger)

2. Church called the mystery. 4 (Explain)

3. Not known till New Testament times 5 & 9

4. Jew and Gentile form one body 6 and 2:16

5. The purpose is the eternal display to heavenly creatures of God's manifold wisdom

Chapter 3:14-21

Paul's prayer for their condition (cf. ch. 1, position)

1. Strength in the inner man.

2. Firm rooting and grounding (trees and fruit) (foundation and stability)

3. To know Christ in all directions in His greatness

4. To know Christ's knowledge surpassing love

5. To know He can do more than all we ask

6. Doxology closing the doctrinal sections. Its contents: Eternal glory to God, through Christ, in the church.

Chapter 4:1-16

The calling of the church 1-6
The gifts to the church 7-11
The purpose of these gifts 12-16

The Calling 1-6 is to a

1. Worthy walk

2. Humility and patience (1-3)

3. The Spirit's unity

This unity is divine and made by God 4-6

The Gifts - 7-11

General - the gift of Grace to each, v. 7
The gifts are given by the ascended Christ 8-10
The special gifts enumerated

The Purpose of the Gifts - 12-16

a. For the perfecting of the saints

b. The work of the ministry (v. 12)

c. The edifying of the body of Christ

This should result in:

1. Unity

2. Knowledge, perfection, full growth, stability, and normal development by the contributions of each member its share.

Chapter 4:17-32

A further appeal to a worthy walk.

1. Not as other Gentiles - 17-19

2. Christ is their example, v. 20

   Putting off the old man i.e., what we did in our fallen state, v. 22
   Putting on the new man i.e., what we are in our saved state, v. 24

A list of evils follows which we should not practice 25-29. Some good qualities we should practice 32. The Holy Spirit of God is grieved by our failure v. 30

Chapter 5:1-20

Discipleship - that is, followers of God

a. Based on relationship, v. 1

b. Example - Christ's love and sacrifice, v. 2

Abstinence from social evils - 3-5 and 18. Those characterized by such evils have: No inheritance in the

kingdom, v. 5; are exposed to God's wrath, v. 6; are the children of disobedience, v. 6.

Produce in contrast the fruit of the Spirit - positive and negative, v. 9-20

Chapter 5:21-32

a. Mutual submission to one another in the fear of God, v. 21.

b. The mutual relations of wives and husbands.

The weaknesses of each are implied.

The human marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the church.

Chapter 6

6:1-9 Christian behavior in human relationships continued from chapter 5:22

1. Husbands and wives - 5:22-32

2. Children and parents - 6:1-4

3. Servants and masters - 6:5-9

Notice its logical order. Also that the secular so-called is not divorced from the sacred.

6:10-17 The Christian Warfare. The whole armor of God is needed. The Enemy is Satan and host in the heavenlies. In this armor there is nothing for the back.

6:18-20 Prayer and supplication showing our utter dependence upon God

6:21-24 Closing remarks and salutation.

2 Timothy

Emmaus Bible School. II Timothy.

Legend: a - ante; m - middle; p - post.

I. Introductory Remarks

A. The main contrasts between I Tim. and II Tim.

1. All second epistles emphasize the Apostasy in the last days.

a. The main difference between I and II Tim. is the emphasis on the condition in the last days in II Tim.

2. The exhortations are of a more personal nature suitable to days of departure.

a. II Tim. is the last of Paul's Epistles.

3. Here the church is seen in disorder turning away from the Apostle in his rejection, 1:8, 15 and 4:16.

a. If, in the first epistle, the some were going astray, (I Tim. 1:3, 6, 19; 4:1; 5:15, 24, 25; 6:10, 21) here in II Tim. the some are faithful and the many going astray.

b. If, in the first epistle we have the "house of God" (3:15) in the second epistle we have the "great house" (2:20) with its confusion.

4. All these features show that the last days' departure is considered and the path of the "man of God" marked out.

Outline of II Timothy

I. CHAPTER ONE

A. Contents

1. Commendation of, and exhortation to, Timothy to faithfulness in the day of departure.

2. Individual faithfulness now much desired, 8-16.

B. Introduction, 1-5

1. Paul's thanks and prayers for Timothy, 1-3

2. Paul's great desire to see Timothy because of mutual attachment in love, 4-5

C. Exhortations to Timothy, 6-14

1. To stir up his gift, 6

2. To fearlessness by God's gift, 7

3. To courage in the testimony, 8

4. To hold fast true doctrine in Biblical words, 13

5. To keep that good thing, by the Holy Spirit, 14

6. Exhortations based on his salvation and calling, 9

a. Paul an example of the faithfulness he calls Timothy into, 11-12

D. Information regarding Asian brethren's aloofness from Paul, 15-18

1. Praise of Onesiphorus for faithfulness in the past.

II. CHAPTER TWO

A. Contents

1. Exhortation to faithfulness: diligence in what is good; avoiding profane vanity; separation from evil; meekness toward opposers.

B. Faithfulness in the Christian Warfare, 1-7

1. Strength in Grace, 1.

2. Communicating the truth to others, 2

3. Enduring hardness as a true Christian soldier, 3-7

a. A reward assured.

C. Paul's faithfulness and suffering in the Gospel, 8-14.

1. Three reasons

a. Faithfulness to Christ, 13

b. Reigning with Him, 12

c. Salvation of the elect, 10.

D. Diligence in "the Word of Truth" commanded, 15

1. The object - to be without shame and approved before God, 15

2. Profanity and vanity of talk shunned because it leads to erring and leading others astray, 16-19

3. God only knows, finally, who are real.

E. Separation from the vessels of dishonour in the great house, 20-21

F. Exhortations, 22-26

1. To flee youthful lusts

2. To follow fruits of the Spirit

3. To avoid foolish questions and strife

4. To instruct opposers in meekness, for their deliverance.

III. CHAPTER THREE

A. Contents

1. The last days described and the attitude and action of the true saint under such circumstances.

B. Last days - Apostasy, 1-8

1. Men, in general, described, 1-4

a. This description corresponds to the characterization of the heathen. Comp. Rom. 1:29-31

2. There is, however, a form of godliness here, 5

3. Silly women ensnared by such, 6

4. They are victims themselves of deceit, 7

5. They are reprobate, open opposers, 8

C. Paul's truthfulness set in opposition to these evil ones, 9-13

1. The virtues are Christian and in contrast to men's evils, 10

2. Persecutions are the lot of all living such lives, 11-12

3. No recovery is to be expected in the last days, 13

D. Exhortation to Timothy to continue in the Holy Scriptures, 14-17

1. The teaching received in childhood.

2. The Scriptures and their usefulness for salvation and all along, to Christian perfection.

IV. CHAPTER FOUR

A. Contents

1. Timothy's responsibility relative to his gift and the Word of God.

2. Paul's account of his life

3. Of individuals, faithlessness and faithfulness; and final salutation.

B. Timothy's responsibility to preaching, no matter what the cost, in view of Christ's appearing and Paul's departure, 1-8

1. Paul's readiness to depart, 6-8

2. Satisfaction with his past life, 6-8

3. His reward, 6-8

C. Request for Timothy to come to Paul, if possible, 9-15

1. Information regarding several companions

2. Request for a coat, books and parchments.

D. Of his trial before the Roman Emperor and confidence in the Lord amid it all, 16-18.

E. Salutations from, information relating to, a call to come before winter, and final benediction close the Epistle, 19-22.

Titus

Emmaus Bible School. Titus.

Legend: a - ante; m - middle; p - post.

I. Introductory Remarks

A. Titus was a Greek (Gal. 2:3) and traveled some with Paul (Tit. 1:5; Gal. 2:3)

B. Titus is mainly like Timothy - the teaching is Church order.

C. The contrast is in I Timothy - we have emphasis on doctrine in Chaps. 1, 2, 4 and in Titus, practice, corresponding to I Tim. 3, 5 and 6.

D. Titus was appointed by Paul to ordain elders in every city in the isle of Crete, 1:5

E. Directions for the requisites of an elder are found in Titus

F. Titus was to teach them to live becomingly to the Gospel

Outline of Titus

I. CHAPTER ONE

A. Contents

1. Instruction regarding the appointment and qualification of elders.

B. Introduction 1-4

1. Emphasis is laid on "godliness" (note how fitting with practical subject). 1p

2. In view of the "hope of eternal life" we have what follows in the Epistle. 2

3. Titus was Paul's convert and was with him at Crete, at least. (No record of Titus in Acts). 4

C. The ordaining of the Elders and their qualifications, 5-9

1. His relation to his wife, 6

2. His relation to his children, 6

3. Blameless, negative (7) and positive (8)

4. Have knowledge of, and be true to, the faithful Word (Bible) 9

D. The reason for these qualified Elders in relation to subverters, 10-16

1. Many such, specially Jews, 10

2. This fact was confirmed by one of their own prophets, 12

3. Paul confirms it, 13

4. Their subject matter - fables, and commandments of men, 14

5. Their characteristics, - unruly, vain talkers, deceivers (10), liars, evil beasts, slow bellies (12).

6. Their aim - filthy lucre

7. Such must be rebuked sharply, 13

8. Their mouths stopped, 11

II. CHAPTER TWO

A. Contents

1. A message to each in the household according to age, to put in practice sound doctrine.

B. Exhortations to various members of the assembly, 1-10

1. The aged men, 2

2. The aged women, 3-5

3. Young men, 6-8

4. Servants, 9-10

(Note the details - to each that which is suitable!)

C. The basis of these exhortations and the encouragement of His Coming

1. Salvation, 11

2. Present responsibility in practical life, 12

3. The blessed hope of His Coming, 13

4. One purpose for which Christ gave Himself was to have a sanctified people, 14.

III. CHAPTER THREE

A. Contents

1. Our relation to world rulers and men in general, plus an exhortation to practical Christianity, and salutation, 1-7

a. Our attitude to rulers and men in general, 1-2

b. What we used to be, 3

c. What we are now, by God's grace, 4-7

B. Practical Christianity - positive, 8

C. Practical Christianity - negative, 9

D. How to treat heretics, 10-11

E. Requests regarding individuals, 12-14

1. Coming, going, and fellowship with those in the work, 12-14

F. Final salutation, 15

2 Peter

Emmaus Bible School. Second Peter.

Legend: a - ante; m - middle; p - post.

I. Introductory Remarks

A. Contents, and Purpose of Writing

1. The Second Epistle, as all second Epistles, speaks of the apostasy, and wickedness of the last days, including the close of the Age of Grace.

a. The O.T. predicts this apostasy (Joel 2; Zech. 12, etc.)

b. The Gospels predict it (Mt. 24:38; Mk. 13:14-20, etc.)

c. Paul predicts it (2 Tim.; 2 Thess.)

2. While in the First Epistle God's government of His people is emphasized; in this Second Epistle we find God's government and judgment upon the world, the prominent subject.

3. The Purpose of this Epistle - to stir up their minds, warn, encourage, exhort, in view of the coming of Christ, and of the apostasy (ch. 1:13-15; 3:1).

4. Though the Second Epistle treats of the apostasy, the first chapter speaks of Christian growth, assurance, and need of studying prophecy. How appropriate, and necessary this is when contemplating a future condition of "turning away" from the faith.

Outline of Second Peter

I. CHAPTER ONE

A. Christian growth, in the "Inner Man". - ch. 1

This is accomplished, only, by giving all diligence to the things of God.

1. Introduction and salutations - 1-2

(a) Two chief differences, from introduction of himself in I Peter 1:1.

(1) Calls himself a "servant" here

(2) Written to such as have obtained "like precious faith"

2. The same substance found here as in I Pet. 1:2, with the additional thought of how this multiplication is obtained, - practical inner development is based on positional blessing (compare Rom. 12-16 and Eph. 4-6) - 2

3. All the equipment for Christian growth has been fully supplied to those having "like precious faith" - 3-11

4. This development of the Christian attained by adding Christian virtues one to the other - 5-7

5. Resultant blessings - no idleness, but fruitfulness - 8

6. Description of a real Christian in an unhealthy condition

(a) No growth

(b) Lack of appreciation for sins forgiven

7. Certainty of one's calling and election - 10-11

(a) Being kept from falling

(b) An abundant entrance into the Kingdom dependent on growth, diligence and appreciation.

8. Peter expresses his responsibility, and desire, to bring these things before them for their good after his death - 12-15.

(a) Moral: we may have an effect on others, even after death - (Compare Heb. 11:4p).

9. Two-fold certainty of Peter's information, 16-21

(a) Peter, also James and John, saw the picture of Christ's Power and coming at the transfiguration. The aim of that vision was to draw them to the Saviour, and as seen here, to confirm its certainty - 16-18.

(b) The certainty of the prophetic word ("made more sure", R.V., J.N.D.) - 19-21

(1) Two explanations are given here

(1a) The prophecy made more certain by the vision of the transfiguration and Peter's testimony concerning it.

(1b) The O.T. prophecies are more certain, in a general way, to any and every saint than the record Peter gave of their personal vision.

(2a) All prophecy unites and agrees in its message.

(2b) The Holy Spirit inspired the prophecy.

II. CHAPTER TWO

A. Entrance of false teachers and fearful results of their teaching upon those ensnared by them.

1. The false teachers of Christianity have their prototype in the false prophets of the O.T. - nothing new. (Paul speaks of these, Acts 20:29-30; John, also, I John 2:18; Jude refers to them - Jude v. 4, especially "crept in unawares" - note: Not a frontal attack) - 1-3.

a. These are active

b. Their teaching, damnable heresies

c. "Even denying the Lord that bought them"

d. Their method, "privily", i.e. "by the side".

e. Result of their influence, "many shall follow"

f. Result: truth to be "evil spoken of".

g. Make "merchandise" of believers.

2. Their final judgment is before the mind of God - 3p-9

a. Three examples from the past brought forth, to assure of this fact, and to warn men (Note: given in chronological order) - 4-6p.

(1) The angels - that was before the ascent of man. Compare Jude 6

(2) The world of sinners in Noah's day.

(3) The cities of Sodom and Gomorrha

(4) In each of these three examples some were "kept" (elect angels, Noah, just Lot) - 7-9

(a) Lot spoken of as "righteous" - 7-8

(b) Lot spoken of as "godly" - 9

Note: As concerning Lot, there has been endless controversy as to his salvation and even now is, in spite of the testimony of God's Word.

3. Certain ones brought before us who are chiefly marked out for this judgment. (The Word teaches all shall be judged according to their works, which, no doubt, explains this word "chiefly") 10-22.

4. Their characteristics are described by Peter

a. By factual statements - 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19

b. By illustrations and examples - 12a, 13p, 14p, 15, 16, 17, 19m, 22

c. They are very active - 10, 12p, 13m, 14a, 15p, 18a

d. They are victims themselves - 10a, 12m, 13p, 17m, 19m, 20p

e. They are among the professing saints - 1, 22

5. Their victims are unstable souls - 14

6. Their judgment is announced - 12, 13, 17p.

III. CHAPTER THREE

A. A continuation of chapter 2, concerning false teachers.

1. A restatement of the purpose of writing (containing the same elements as found in chapter 1:12-15, but put more compactly in three verses) - 1-3

a. Stir up their pure minds (memory needs stirring)

b. To give heed to what was spoken by the Holy Prophets (O.T. prophets here)

c. To give heed to what was spoken by the apostles (N.T., note this order).

d. In view of the coming of apostates.

2. These scoffers further described - There is a step of advance, here, it seems from chap. 2. There, they came in privily; here, they are open scoffers.

3. Presents an additional element from chapter 2.

a. They scoffed also at the truth of Christ's coming - 4

4. Here, we see a wilful denial of the facts of history - 4p-6

5. The future judgment announced, and its method - 7

6. Explanation of apparent delay, to us, - creatures of a day, 8-9

a. A thousand years by God, is as one day, and vice versa.

(1) Hence, our estimate of time, is not the gauge to go by

b. Reason given for the day of grace

7. Judgment pictured (called "the day of the Lord". This is its climax. It occurs after the millennium) - 10-11

a. Our lives should now be affected by these events that are to take place 1000 years in the future - 11p

b. These facts repeated and a desire expressed that they may affect us for good - 12-14

(1) "Looking for and hastening unto, etc." (that is, by our life, as in v. 11p) - 12

8. A new heavens and earth follows, - this is the Eternal State, after the millennium - 13

9. A repetition of v. 9. "Salvation", here may mean more than that of sinners, from guilt and judgment. It may include the saints, and refer to our life, in its usefulness, - so the context suggests. Paul's writing is acknowledged, and this may be the Epistle to the Hebrews. This writing of Paul's, to Jews, distinguished from all his epistles - 15

10. Comments on Paul's writings, and the misuse some made of them, 16

11. Purposes of writing to them, again summed up - 17-18

a. Negatively

b. Positively

(1) Closing with the purpose of all, - the Glory of Christ.