

Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude, and Revelation

Hebrews

Key Themes

- The Superiority of Christ as the Perfect Priest and the All Sufficient Sacrifice
- Christ's humility

Setting: The author is unknown to us but would have been known to the original readers who were likely Jewish Christians. The letter was likely written sometime between AD 67-70. The Greek is some of the best in the NT.

Key Verses:

- 4:16 – “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
- 11:1 – “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
- 12:1-2 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Outline

- I. The Superiority of Christ (1:-8:6)
 - a. The Son is God’s Final Word (1:1-3)
 - b. Superior to the Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - c. Superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-4:13)
 - d. The Perfect High Priest (Hebrews 4:16-8:6)
- II. The Superiority of the New Covenant (8:7-10:18)
 - a. The New Covenant is a better promise (8:7-13)
 - b. The New Covenant provides a better sanctuary (9:1-28)
 - c. The New Covenant is based on a better sacrifice (10:1-18)
- III. Application and Encouragement (Hebrews 10:19-13:25)
 - a. Draw Near to God and Hold Fast (10:19-39)
 - b. Run the Race of Faith with Endurance (11:1-12:29)
 - c. Final Instructions (Hebrews 13:1-25)

James

Key Themes

- The interplay of faith and works
- The dangers of our words
- Persevering under trial
- Resisting the urge to show partiality

Setting: Scholars debate which James wrote the letter with many favoring James, the half-brother of Jesus who died in AD 63.

Key Verses:

- 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
- 1:27 – “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”
- 2:17 – “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
- 3:2 – “We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.”
- 5:16 – “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
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Outline:

- I. Greeting (1:1)
- II. Introductory Summary of Exhortations (1:2-27)
- III. Extended Exhortations (2:1-5:6)
 - a. Favoritism vs. love (2:1-13)
 - b. Faith without deeds is dead (2:14-26)
 - c. The power and peril of speech (3:1-12)
 - d. A call to turn from friendship with the world to friendship with God (4:1-10)
 - e. Exhortation not to judge each other (4:11-12)
 - f. Arrogance of businesspeople (4:13-17)
 - g. Oppression of Landowners (5:1-6)
- IV. Concluding Appeal (5:7-20)
 - a. Endure patiently while waiting for the Lord’s return (5:7-11)
 - b. Speak in plain truth (5:12)
 - c. Pray for the suffering (5:13-18)
 - d. Take responsibility for mutual correction (5:19-20)

1 Peter

Key Themes

- Stand firm through suffering.
- Believer’s Identity

- Life of Holiness
- Life of Submission

Setting: Written by Peter from Rome (aka Babylon – 5:12-13) in the mid-60s AD.

Key Verses:

- 1:3 – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
- 2:9 – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
- 3:15 – “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
- 4:16 – “If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”
- 5:8-9 – “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of suffering”

Outline

- I. Opening Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Praise to God for his Mercy (1:3-12)
- III. Body of the Letter (1:13-5:11)
 - a. Respond to God’s Grace (1:13-2:10)
 - b. Live Positively in a Non-Christian Society (2:11-3:12)
 - c. Do What is Right Even if it Brings Suffering (3:13-4:11)
 - d. In Your Suffering, Be Joyful (4:12-5:11)
- IV. Closing Greetings (5:12-14)

2 Peter

Key Themes

- True Christian Faith
- Warnings Against False Teachers
- The Promise of the Lord’s Coming

Setting: Written by Peter, likely from Rome, in the mid to late 60s.

Key Verses:

- 1:3 – “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”
- 3:8-9 – “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Outline:

- I. Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Confirmation of One's Calling and Election (1:3-11)
- III. Prophecy of Scripture (1:12-21)
- IV. False Teachers and Their Destruction (2:1-22)
- V. The Day of the Lord (3:1-18)

1 John

Key Themes

- Fellowship with God
- Love of One Another
- Rejection of False Teachers

Setting: Written by the Apostle John from Ephesus sometime between AD 85-90.

Key Verses

- 1:3 – “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”
- 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- 2:17 – “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”
- 3:16 – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”
- 4:19-20 – “We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.”
- 5:12 – “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1-4)
- II. Walk in the Light Because God is Light (1:5-2:2)
- III. Love Fellow Believers (2:3-11)
- IV. Do not love the Ways of the World (2:12-17)
- V. Renounce Those Who Teach Lies about Jesus (2:18-27)
- VI. Live as God's Children (2:28-3:10)
- VII. Love Others Since God Loves You (3:11-24)
- VIII. Beware of False Prophets (4:1-6)
- IX. Love Others Since God Loves You (4:7-21)
- X. Faith in the Incarnate Son of God (5:1-12)
- XI. Concluding Words (5:13-21)

2 & 3 John

Key Themes

- Staying Faithful to the Truth
- Discernment Concerning Traveling Teachers

Setting: Both letters written by John sometime between AD 85-90.

Key Verses

- 2 John 4-6 – “It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.”
- 3 John 11 – “Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.”

Jude

Key Themes

- Discerning Truth from Error
- Living a Life of Holiness

Setting: It is difficult to date Jude’s letter with scholars dating it anywhere from the mid-60s AD to as late as AD 80. Jude was a brother of Jesus.

Key Verses

- 20-21 – “But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

Outline

- I. Greeting (1-2)
- II. The Sin and Doom of Ungodly People (3-16)
- III. A Call to Persevere (17-23)
- IV. Doxology (24-25)

Revelation

Key Themes

- Encouraging Faithfulness During Persecution
- The Faithfulness of God
- God’s Sovereignty Over History
- The Lordship of Christ

Setting: Scholars tend to be divided between two different settings. One group argues for the book being written towards the end of Nero’s reign (AD 54-68). Another group prefers a later date during

Domitian's reign (AD 81-96). Tradition holds that John the Revelator is John the Apostle. Many modern scholars contend that this is a different John, though one still highly respected in the church.

Key Verses

- 1:8 – “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’”
- 5:12 – “In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”
- 11:15 – “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.’”
- 16:1 – “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”
- 20:15 – “Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”
- 21:1 – “Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”
- 22:12 – “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1-8)
- II. Vision of Christ and the Seven Churches (2:1-3:22)
- III. Worship in Heaven (4:1-5:14)
 - a. Seven Seals (6:1-8:1 and 8:3-5)
 - b. Seven Trumpets (8:2 and 8:6-11:19)
- IV. God’s People in Conflict with the Forces of Evil (12:1-14:20 and 15:2-4)
- V. Seven Bowls (15:1 and 15:5-16:21)
- VI. Final Judgment: Harlot Babylon (17:1-19:10)
- VII. The Rider in the White Horse and the 1000 Years (19:11-20:15)
- VIII. Final Victory: The New Jerusalem (21:1-22:5)
- IX. Epilogue (22:6-21)