

## Study Questions: Lesson 12

### 24. 1 Peter: Partakers of Christ's Sufferings

**First please read chapter 24 in the text.**

#### RESPONSE

#### Why Written

1. Why was *The First Epistle of Peter* written?
2. Why should Christians not think it strange to suffer persecution for righteousness sake?

#### Overview of 1 Peter

3. List three things the believer should remember in the midst of suffering.

#### MAKING IT PERSONAL

4. Grade yourself on the following question:  
“How well do you endure unjust and unnecessary suffering and slander?” (Pick one of the following ‘grades’ and explain your choice.)
  - A Very well. Willing to forgive. Willing to pray for enemies. No feelings of bitterness. Genuine love. Willing to establish fellowship if the opportunity arises. Believe that the Lord has something better. Willing to rejoice in suffering.
  - B Better than average. Fluctuating between feelings of retaliation and releasing the situation to move on in life. Defensive at times; non-defensive at other times. Will *consider* a lawsuit. In the end, will do what is right and offer prayers and seek to be reconciled if possible. Will do good to all others given an opportunity.
  - C Average. Willing to forgive but will never forget. Less trusting in future relationships. In the end, will move on still loving the Lord, still going to church, and still faithful to the Word but always hope that *no* more tribulations will come.
  - D Disgraceful. Will write letters of defense. Will try to retaliate, if not in kind, in some definite way. Might leave the church for a while.
  - F Total failure. Furious every time the situation is thought of, and it is thought of often. Willing to get other people to take offense. Want nothing more to do with Christians or the church.

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## 25. *2 Peter: Knowledge of Our Lord*

**First please read chapter 25 in the text.**

### RESPONSE

#### Why Written

5. Why was *The Second Epistle of Peter* written?

#### True Knowledge: Explained - Ch. 1

6. What two ways can Christians know for sure of their salvation?

#### False Knowledge: Exposed - Ch. 2

7. Give the characteristics of false teachers.

## 26. *1 John: Fellowship with Christ*

**First please read chapter 26 in the text.**

### RESPONSE

#### Why Written

8. Briefly, why was *The First Epistle of John* written?

9. Define the “incarnation” of Jesus.

#### Overview of 1 John

10. What is the basis of joy according to John?

### REFLECTION

11. Do you think that it is presumptuous for a person to claim to know for certain that they are truly saved and will go to heaven when they die? Explain.

### MAKING IT PERSONAL

12. 1 John 2:1 says that the Word of God is written that “you sin not” or literally, that “you may commit no act of sin.” Most conservative Bible teachers believe that the reference here is to *habitual sin*: sin that is on-going in your normal lifestyle. If you find yourself continuing to commit a certain sin, please be encouraged to seek *spiritual* help. Confession to someone you can trust is one of the first steps to freedom and recovery. It is also the most difficult.

Have you responded to this instruction to deal with a habitual sin by becoming accountable to a mature Christian whom you can trust?

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**27. 2 John: Walking in Truth**

**First please read chapter 27 in the text.**

**RESPONSE**

**Why Written**

13. Identify the “elect lady?”

**Overview of 2 John**

14. What is the main message of *2 John*?

15. How is the word “truth” used by John?

**28. 3 John: Hospitality**

**First please read chapter 28 in the text.**

**RESPONSE**

**Why Written and Overview of 3 John**

16. What practical problem does *3 John* discuss?

17. Identify the following:

- a. Gaius
- b. Diotrephes
- c. Demetrius

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*29. Jude: Keep from Falling*

**First please read chapter 29 in the text.**

**RESPONSE**

**Why Written**

18. What topic did Jude write about?

**Danger - :1-16**

19. What were the specific sins of the false teachers?

**Duty - :17-25**

20. How can spiritual truth be recognized?

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## **Lesson 12    1 Peter through Jude**

### ***Chapter 24 - 1 Peter: Partakers of Christ's Sufferings***

1. The churches in Asia Minor were facing the threat of suffering after Nero blamed the fire in Rome on the Christians in 65 AD. Peter, in Rome and facing his own prosecution, writes to reassure and instruct these believers on how to react in suffering: look to heaven for hope that brings courage to persevere.
2. The Lord is the Church's Example. The people of Christ must therefore endure hardships patiently (2:20), and without retaliating in kind (3:9). In the end, God the Father will reward the righteous and judge those who do evil (3:12).
3. 1) All suffering has a purpose (at times not easy to discern - 1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:14). 2) Suffering is to be expected (4:12). 3) Suffering is not to be dreaded or avoided (3:14), but is to be endured patiently (2:23; 3:9), with rejoicing (4:13).
4. Please review this with a mature trusted friend.

### ***Chapter 25 - 2 Peter: Knowledge of Our Lord***

5. Knowing that false teachers would be coming among those who profess to know the Lord, Peter prepares and warns the general Church to stand firm against them, and to hold fast to the true knowledge of God.
6. 1) First, there must be a partaking of the divine nature by faith (1:4). 2) The fruit of righteousness must be manifested.
7. False teachers are characterized by covetousness (2:3), sensuality (2:10), ruthlessness (2:12), with eyes full of adultery (2:14). False teachers are servants of corruption (2:19).

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### **Chapter 26 - 1 John: Fellowship with Christ**

8. John wrote to warn the Christians to reject the errors of *Gnosticism*, and that the Christians should not sin (2:1). Nor should they be deceived. As an apostle, John was determined that all teachers be tested for the truth (4:1). Finally, with a pastor's heart John wanted the Christians to have assurance of their salvation (5:11-13).
9. "Incarnation" means to become human. It is the key to Christ's fulfilling the law: He is God, yet He became fully man in order to teach us, to set an example for us, and perfectly to obey the law (qualifying Him to become a sacrifice without blemish).
10. True joy does not come from circumstances, but from communion with Christ, and fellowship with other believers.

### **Chapter 27 - 2 John: Walking in Truth**

13. It is possible that John has a specific woman in mind. That would not be surprising for women played a vital role in the early church. However, it is also possible that John writes in veiled language as a pastor to his people – where the Church itself is considered in feminine terms (note Eph. 5:23-33).
14. There were false teachers (cp. 1 John 2:18-29) in the early assemblies who would go from church to church, and teach doctrines in the name of Christ which were in reality destructive of the Christian faith. John wants the Church to be aware of such things and refuse hospitality to false teachers.
15. John writes of loving those who are in Truth (1:1), and of others who know the Truth (1:1). He speaks of the Truth which dwells in the saints (1:2), and of grace, mercy, peace coming in Truth (1:3). John rejoices that the saints are found to be walking in Truth (1:4), and embracing Truth (by which he means the doctrines of Christ). That is important, for those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ "hath not God" (1:9).

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### ***Chapter 28 - 3 John: Hospitality***

16. Just as John had written in 2 John to exhort the extreme of too open hospitality, he now writes Gaius to encourage him that Diotrephes was erring on the opposite extreme of too narrow hospitality. Diotrephes was encouraging closed doors to anyone who disagreed with him, on even minor doctrines, in order to maintain a position of power out of a motive of pride. Paul points out that we should maintain fellowship with those who agree with us on the cardinal doctrines, even when there is minor variation in beliefs on other doctrines.
17. a. Gaius - a native of Macedonia, a traveling companion of Paul, and possibly a pastor.  
b. Diotrephes - a church leader in the same city as Gaius. He did not love the brethren, because he denied hospitality to Paul's representatives over minor issues.  
c. Demetrius - a man whose living testimony bore witness to the truth of redeeming grace.

### ***Chapter 29 - Jude: Keep from Falling***

18. Jude wanted to write about the common salvation (1:3), but decided to write and exhort the Church to "*contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,*" *rejecting false teachers.*
19. *First*, they fail to remember past judgments of God illustrated by the Israelites in the wilderness (1:5), by the fallen angels (1:6), and by the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah (1:7). *Second*, they dream filthy dreams for they are spiritually asleep (1:8). *Third*, they defile the flesh with sexual immorality (1:8). *Fourth*, they despise authority including that of God's Word. They speak evil of earthly and heavenly dignitaries (1:8). These teachers of falsehood are self-willed (Gen. 4:3-8). They will not accept the substitutionary work of Christ but go about to establish their own religion.
20. Spiritual truth can be recognized in that it magnifies the person and work of Jesus Christ, and promotes holiness. Titus 1:1 speaks of "the truth which is after godliness."

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