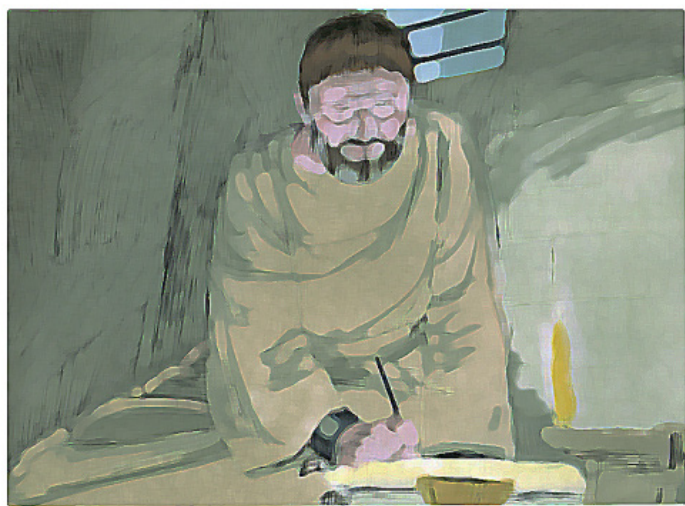


Lesson 7: Remembrance



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

NT Letters not written by Paul are known as the "General Epistles."

The New Testament: Letters

In addition to the letters written by the Apostle Paul to congregations in various cities, some of the original disciples of Jesus also wrote letters to encourage their fellow believers. These letters of these disciples were shared from church to church, so that all could hear directly from the people who knew Jesus the best.

Biblical Background

In the letters of 1 and 2 Peter we have the eyewitness testimony of one of Jesus' closest followers. Peter is perhaps the most famous of the original twelve disciples, and the one about whom the most is written in the Gospels. Some scholars suggest that the biblical letters of Peter may have been written down at a later date by Peter's helpers, but nevertheless, they still bear witness to Peter's direct experience of having been with Jesus and record the experience of someone who had been with Jesus from the beginning.

Introduction

Paul wrote many of the letters in the New Testament, but some were written by other Apostles, like Peter, James, and John. Paul had become a Christian after Jesus died and rose again, but Peter, James, and John had been followers of Jesus during his time on earth. They were eyewitnesses to all Jesus had done.

Read: 2 Peter 1:1-21

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Order of the Letters in the New Testament

The letters in the New Testament are not listed in the order they were written, but in the order that they were acknowledged as part of the canon of Holy Scripture. The word "canon" means "rule" or "standard." It refers to the official list of books that are contained in the Bible.

The Pauline Letters

The General Letters

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts	Romans	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians	Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians	1 Timothy	2 Timothy	Titus	Philemon	Hebrews	James	1 Peter	2 Peter	1 John	2 John	3 John	Jude	Revelation
---------	------	------	------	------	--------	---------------	---------------	-----------	-----------	-------------	------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------	-----------	-------	----------	---------	-------	---------	---------	--------	--------	--------	------	------------

Discuss: 2 Peter 1:1-21

1. Based on verses 1-2, to whom do you think Peter is writing? Were they believers? How can you tell?
2. According to verses 3-4, where do we get the power to live and obey God? How does God bestow this power upon us? What means does he use?
3. Who is the Giver of faith? According to verse 5, what kind of things should this faith produce in us?
4. Verse 10 refers to “your calling and election.” Why is it important to know that you have been *chosen* by God? How does this help in times of struggle and doubt?
5. In verses 12-15, for what reason does Peter say he wants to remind people about the promises of Jesus? What does he foresee will happen soon?
6. What does it mean to say that Peter was an “eyewitness” of Jesus’ majesty? What particular event does he refer to in verse 17-18? (Hint: See Mark 9:2-8.) How does Peter’s experience confirm his message about Jesus?
7. In verses 19-21, how does Peter describe the Word of God? How is Peter’s message backed up by the rest of Scripture? Have you found that to be true in your own life?
8. Read Acts 10:38-43. In these verses, Peter speaks of his first-hand experience in being with Jesus. How are Peter’s words here similar to what we confess to believe in the Creeds?

Where in the World?

The word “epistle” refers to a letter that is passed around and shared with many people beyond those to whom it was originally sent.

- Many of the epistles found in the New Testament get their name from the specific city or region to which they were written (shown in red on the map to the right):*
Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Philippians, and Galatians.
- Others were named for individuals or groups to which they were sent, including:*
Hebrews, Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- Other New Testament letters were named after the people who wrote them, including:*
Peter, James, John, and Jude

