

The Pauline Epistles to Individuals

13

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This last group of Paul's letters we call the Pauline Epistles to Individuals, because, unlike the Pauline Epistles to Churches, each of these letters was written to an individual recipient – Timothy, Titus and Philemon. The Pauline Epistles to Individuals are also often called the Pastoral Epistles, because of their intimate, pastoral nature.

The Pauline Epistles to Individuals total just four letters. Take time to look up the one key verse or passage* which summarizes the main point of each letter:

- 1 Timothy – **6:11-16**
- 2 Timothy – **3:14-4:5**
- Titus – **3:3-8**
- Philemon – **17-21**

The next block of eight epistles are often called the General Epistles, because unlike the other epistles of the New Testament, they are not written by Paul. In order, they are:

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude

In your next lesson we will begin reading James' epistle (leaving the book of Hebrews for a little later in our studies.)

* There is no hard and steadfast rule in choosing a key verse for an epistle, for the Lord is seeking to communicate a vast number of things through each letter. However, these selected verses should help you to pinpoint the main message of the letter, in order to remember its contents.

Memory Exercise

Instead of a memory verse today, your exercise today is to memorize all the epistles of Paul. Even if you know them already, we recommend that you go over the list during today and remember the message that each book brings.

Romans	1 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians
2 Corinthians	1 Timothy
Galatians	2 Timothy
Ephesians	Titus
Philippians	Philemon
Colossians	

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your list:

- Run through the list, speaking each book aloud, in the same way that you normally memorize your memory verse.
- Once you have done this several times, take a look at the list as a whole. Note where each book falls – what comes before the book and what comes after it.
- Close your eyes and see if you can quote the list from memory.
- Test yourself again, but this time using two sheets of paper to cover all the books except one. Choose a book at random (with all other books covered) and see if you can remember which book comes before it and which book comes after it.
- Ask a friend to test you. Get him or her to call out one of the books, then see if you can say which book comes before and which book comes after.
- Print out the list or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Find time to run through your list during the day.
- In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your list from memory (without cheating!)