

**CHAPTER 1**  
***The New Testament Canon***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the names, dates, and characteristics of the three stages in the development of the New Testament canon?

*The First Stage: Oral Transmission and Literary Activities ( A.D. 30-90 ). The written Scriptures for Christian of New Testament.*

*The Second Stage: Collection of Letters ( A.D. 90-180 ). The collection of New Testament writings. Paul's letters and others, for example.*

*The Third Stage: An Accepted Canon ( A. D. 180-400 ). Early Christian leaders discussed what should and should not be considered as writings of divine revelation.*

2. Did some Christian groups depend upon other works as authoritative Scripture? Explain.  
*Yes, by the end of the first century, Christians depended upon a collection of Paul's letters and perhaps a greater collection of New Testament Scriptures as they taught and lived the Way of Christ.*

**CHAPTER 2**  
***The Inspiration of Scripture***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are factors to consider in the divine-human aspects of the Bible?  
*When Christians begin to talk about Scripture, they will agree that both divine and human activity in the producing of Scripture must kept in proper balance. Since so much humanness was involved in the development of the New Testament canon may disturb them. However, God as the biblical account reveals, He often worked His will through human beings.*
2. What have some modern scholars said about the canon?  
*A New Testament scholar, B.F. Westcott stressed the superintending providence of God in guiding the church to a conclusion about the New Testament canon. Karl Barth, a major theological influence in this century, emphasized that the church cannot give the canon to itself. 'The church cannot form it, without being aware of theological implications.*
3. What is meant by "simple biblicism"?  
*It refers to those who approach the Bible, not in simplemindedness, but simply saying that they believe the Bible to be true. They aware of some of the theological issues of the inspiration and interpretation, but they have found that the Bible corroborates their experience, needs, and beliefs and leads them to the truth about themselves and God*

**CHAPTER 3**  
***The Interpretation of the New Testament***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are some helpful translations, dictionaries, and commentaries of the Bible?  
*A Bible dictionary contains articles on important words, concepts, and people of the Bible. Commentaries give background information on a book or books of the Bible.*
2. What are the factors to consider in choosing a translation, dictionary, or commentary?  
*In choosing a dictionary, a commentary, the certain questions should be asked. Who researched and wrote the work? Did that person has the educational background to research and write the book.*
3. What is ultimate goal of interpretation?  
*The ultimate goal of interpretation is the practical result. Interpreting the Bible is a life-changing and life-enriching process, not simply an intellectual exercise. Proper interpretation leads one to understand the New testament faith as something one lives, not only something one reads about.*
4. Why in achieving the historical result so important?  
*Because, the authors of the texts of the New Testament wrote to particular readers with particular needs at a particular point in history.*
5. What are the types and characteristics of the literature of the New Testament?  
*The types and characteristics of the literature of the New Testament are; Gospels, letter, homilies, apocalyptic, Hyperbole, confessional formulas, and hymn.*

6. What is the structural arrangement of the New Testament?

*The structural arrangement of the New Testament is a way of grouping of the New Testament books, as shown below;*

*Gospel*

*Matthew*

*Mark*

*Luke*

*John*

*Acts*

*Letter of Paul*

*Romans*

*1,2 Corinthians*

*Galatians*

*Ephesians*

*Philippians*

*Colossians*

*1,2 Thessalonians*

*1,2 Timothy*

*Titus*

*Philemon*

*Hebrews*

*General Letters*

*James*

*1,2 Peter*

*1,2,3 John*

*Jude*

*Revelation.*

**CHAPTER 4**  
***Influences Arising During Early Jewish History***

Questions for Consideration

1. The name *Israel* was used in what three ways?  
*In the Old Testament, the name Israel has three uses. First, it was the new name of Jacob. Second, Israel was used as a national, political identity and sometimes as the people who belong to God. It became the name designating the people of God. Third, Israel became the name of the Northern Kingdom when Israel divided into two nations.*
2. What is the significance of the number twelve?  
*The number twelve is significant in the New Testament for referring to God's people. Jesus chose twelve disciples intended to reconstitute Israel on a new basis. James addressed Christians scattered everywhere as the "twelve tribes in the Dispersion."*
3. Why was the Exodus so influential upon Israel?  
*The exodus shaped the Hebrews' understanding of God and their relationship to Him more than any other event in Jewish history.*
4. Who destroyed each of the two kingdoms?  
*The Assyrians destroyed the Northern Kingdom, or Israel. The Babylonians, under King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed the Southern Kingdom, or Judah.*

**CHAPTER 5**  
***Influences Arising During Later Jewish History***

Questions for Consideration

1. What was the significance of the Law and the Sabbath in the Exilic Period?  
*The Law and the Sabbath helped the Hebrews remain together. The Hebrews considered the Sabbath as a sign of God's covenant with them, and they considered the observance of the Law as the means for keeping their obligations under the covenant.*
2. Why were the Jews and Samaritans antagonistic toward each other?  
*After the destruction of the Northern Kingdom, some of those left behind by the Assyrians inter-married with non-Jews. 'Samaritans' refer to the offspring of mixed marriages, so a long history of hostility existed between the Samaritans and the Jews.*
3. What did Antiochus Epiphanes attempt to do to the Jews?  
*Antiochus Epiphanes tried to force the Jews who rejected Greek ways into worshipping Greek gods.*
4. Who were the sons of Mattathias?  
*The sons of Mattathias were Judas, Jonathan, Simon, Eleazer, and John.*
5. Which of the sons led in the restoration of freedom of worship and which in political freedom?  
*Judas led the restoration of the freedom of worship, and Simon secured political freedom.*
6. What were the influences arising out of each period?
  - (1) *The Babylonians period ( 605-358 B.C. ). is also known as the Exilic period. The Hebrews had no temple in exile. They could not sacrifice, for the sacrificial system had its locus in the temple at Jerusalem.*
  - (2) *The Persians period ( 537-331 B.C.). Under King Cyrus, Persia defeated Babylonia and became the major power of the Old Testament world during this time.*
  - (3) *The Greek period (331-167 B.C.). Alexander the Great dominated this period.*
  - (4) *The Maccabean period ( 167-63 B.C.). Mattathias and his five sons escaped into the hill country to prepare for resistance to Antiochus' forces.*
  - (5) *The Roman period ( 63 B.C.-A.D. 135 ). After Pompey captured Palestine in 63 B.C., certain vassals of Rome (Hyrcanus II, Antipater, and Herod the Great) ruled over Palestine.*



**CHAPTER 6**  
***Influences Arising During the Interbiblical Period***

Questions for Consideration

1. Why did the law take the place of prophecy?  
*Religious leaders among the Jews, believing that God spoke His ultimate revelation in the Law. They felt that the function of prophets and prophecy had been fulfilled. Prophets were no longer considered necessary.*
2. Which canon included the Apocrypha, and how did that inclusion occur?  
*Some copies of the Septuagint included the Apocrypha. The Septuagint with the Apocrypha influenced the Latin Vulgate, which in turn influenced the books included in the English translation of the Old Testament.*
3. How did the Pharisees plan for the renewal of the nation?  
*The Pharisees of Jesus' time worked for renewal in the totality of Israel's life. Their emphasis upon maintaining ritual purity in the home, much as temple priests did in the temple, was the way to turn Israel into the holy nation that God wanted them to be.*
4. What are the indications that John the Baptist may have been influenced by an Essene group?  
*John's manner of dress, his diet, his appearance out of the desert or wilderness, his message of repentance, and his practice of baptism may reflect Essene influences (Matt 3:1-6).*
5. What was the Stoic concept of divine reason (*logos*)?  
*According to Stoic thought, divine reason (*logos*) pervaded all thing. To be in harmony with the divine reason, humans need to accept their destinies in order to be set free from the destructive excesses of life.*

**CHAPTER 7**  
***The Gospels***

Questions for Consideration

1. What is another method of referring to the Gospels?  
*The Gospels are sometimes referred to by number according to their sequential order. Matthew is the First Gospel, Mark the Second Gospel, Luke the Third Gospel, and John the Fourth Gospel.*
2. What is the meaning of the word Synoptic?  
*The word 'synoptic' is from the Greek word, means "seeing together" or "viewing together."*
3. What is the Synoptic problem?  
*The Synoptics share so much in common that somehow they are dependent upon a common source or sources of oral tradition or written materials.*
4. What are some solutions to the synoptic problem?  
*The solutions of the synoptics problem include: (1) A shared oral tradition: (2) A common written source. (3) Dependence upon one another. (4) Multi-document hypotheses. (5) Independent hypothesis.*
5. What is the significance of studying sources for the Gospels?  
*Studying sources for the Gospels is significance. First, it illuminates how God guided human being to write Scripture. Second, these sources should encourage us about the strength of the Gospels' witness. Third, the authors did not write in vacuum or did not depend upon their own memories and experiences.*
6. What are the possible dates for the Synoptic Gospels?  
*The possible dates for the Synoptic Gospels vary from before A.D. 50 to as late as A.D. 100. Usually the dating occurs in relationship to A.D. 70.*

**CHAPTER 8**  
***The Gospel of Matthew: Jesus the King***  
Questions for Consideration

1. What are some of the considerations for the authorship of Matthew?  
*A tax collector, accustomed to keeping records, could be the kind of person to write an orderly and structured account about Jesus. So, orderliness may support Matthew the apostle as author.*
  
2. Who were the audiences addressed by Matthew?  
*The Gospel seems to have three groups of readers, a Jewish audience, the Christian Community, and the world beyond Judaism and the Christian Community.*
  
3. What was the possible location for the Christian community of Matthew? What was their situation?  
*The possible location for the Christian Community of Matthew was Jerusalem.*
  
4. What is the message of Matthew?  
*The message of Matthew affirms that Jesus is King, the Messiah, who has come and whose reign has begun.*
  
5. What is the structure of Matthew according to the five section approach?  
*Prologue: Chapter 1-2*  
*Section I*  
*Narrative: Chapter 3-4*  
*First Discourse: Chapter 5-7*  
*Section II*  
*Narrative: Chapter 8-9*  
*Second Discourse: Chapter 10*  
*Section III*  
*Narrative: Chapter 11-12*  
*Third Discourse: Chapter 13*  
*Section IV*  
*Narrative: Chapter 14-17*  
*Fourth Discourse: Chapter 18*  
*Section V*  
*Narrative: Chapter 19-23*  
*Fifth Discourse: Chapter 24-25*  
*Conclusion*  
*Trial, death, burial, resurrection, Chapter 26-28*

6. What is the reasoning behind the proposal that Jesus may have been a farmer?

*The people of Jesus' home area identified Him as the "carpenter's son" (Matt 13:55). The word translated "carpenter" (tekton) may be translated "farmer." The word 'tekton' basically means "to cut," and the regular usage referred to cutting wood as a carpenter does. But another usage refers to cutting ground as a farmer does. Most of Jesus' illustrations were from agricultural life rather than the carpenter's shop, so the view that He was a farmer may have some support.*

7. What was the major thrust of Jesus preaching? What did "kingdom of heaven" mean?

*The major thrust of Jesus preaching primarily involved the proclamation of the kingdom (Matthew 4:17) Actually, kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are the same reality, which basically means "rule of God."*

8. How are the "gates of Hades" in Matthew 16:17-19 to be explained?

*The "gates of Hades" in Matthew 16:17-19 to be explained as the powers of death, and they shall not stand against the church. Gates were for keeping something out in order to protect something within. The church, Jesus said, would storm the gates of the powers of death to rescue people from death to life.*

## CHAPTER 9

### *The Gospel of Mark: The Strong Son of God and His People*

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What are the arguments for Mark as author?  
*At no place in the biblical text of the Gospel are we told that John Mark was the author. However, Mark was the disciple and interpreter of Peter and that he handed down in writing what he heard Peter preach. These are two strong early witnesses to John Mark as the author of the book of Mark*
2. In what situation was the Second Gospel written?  
*The writing of Mark may have preceded the fire in Rome, but the church who read Mark's writing probably had to live under Nero's rule.*
3. What is the message of Mark?  
*Mark presented Jesus the Messiah as the strong Son of God from the beginning to end.*
4. Why was the suffering of Jesus a problem to many who did not believe that he was the Messiah?  
*Yes, for example, Romans and other Gentiles had difficulty understanding how a Messiah, or king, could be a strong king if he suffered and died by execution. Mark's Gospel dispels such concerns since the suffering and death of the Messiah, the Son of God, are shown to be divine initiatives to accomplish the salvation of humankind.*
5. According to Mark's Gospel, who were the twelve apostles?  
*According to Mark's Gospel, the twelve apostles were: Simon Peter and Andrew is brother; James and John sons of Zebedee; Philip; Nathanael; Matthew; Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot.*

## CHAPTER 10

### *The Gospel of Luke: Jesus, the Savior for All People*

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What support does Lukan authorship have from early Christian leaders?  
*Early Christian leaders seem to point to Luke as the author. Irenaeus (c. 185 ) wrote that "Luke, the follower of Paul, put in a book the Gospel that was preached by him." Tertullian (c. 200 ) referred to a writing of Luke, an obvious reference to Acts, about certain events in the lives of the apostle. Within the first half of the fourth century A.D., Eusebius indicated that Luke was the autor of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.*
2. What are the "We" sections? What is their significance?  
*The "We" sections in Acts are 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-29; 28:11-16. The "We" sections is significance, becuase they tell us that Luke's presence with Paul in prison agrees with the "we" section of Acts 28:11-16. Luke, was likely the writer who included himself in the "we" and "us" used in Acts 28:11-16. Luke seems to be the most likely person to fit the situation for the authorship of the Third Gospel.*
3. Who was Luke? What do we know about him?  
*Luke was probably a Gentile, in all likelihood Greek. We do not know anything of his conversion experience. He appeared with Paul at Troas as one who was already a follower of Jesus.*
4. What is the message of Luke?  
*Luke presents Jesus as the universal Savior. That is, He is the Savior for anyone, regardless of the racial, culturaleal, national, or economic distinctions tht people give to each other. The poor and the isolated especially come into view in Luke's Gospel.*
5. What are some of the distinctive emphases in Luke?  
*Women and children come into view and received special attention from Jesus in the Luke Gospel. Jesus included individuals often excluded by other, it indicated that His ministry was person-centered in almost redundant. In it Jesus answered the question, "Who is our neighbor?", Jesus was a neighbor to those who need Him, including the excluded and destitute of society. We learn from Luke about Jesus' forgiveness of the penitent thief on the cross ( 23:40-43). Luke is a rich Gospel, telling us of the compassionate, inclusive Savior for all people*

**CHAPTER 11**  
***The Gospel of John: Christ the Source of Life***

Questions for Consideration

1. Who are possible authors for John?  
*Possible authors for John are John the apostle, John the Elder, John Mark, and unknown John, and a "school" of John.*
2. What was John's purpose in writing?  
*In John 20:31 clearly stated that he wrote so that people may "believe" in Jesus Christ and receive, consequently, "life in His name."*
3. What is the significance of the "signs" in John?  
*The sign is in actuality a miracle, but John preferred to designate them "signs." Each sign points the way to the reality of Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God who enhances and gives life.*
4. What are the seven signs?  
*The seven signs are:*
  - (1) *Turning the Water into Wine (1:1-11)*
  - (2) *Healing of the Official's Son (4:46-54)*
  - (3) *Healing of the Man by the Pool (5:1-9)*
  - (4) *The feeding of the Five thousand (6:1-14)*
  - (5) *Jesus Walking on the Water (6:16-21)*
  - (6) *Healing of the Man Born Blind (9:1-7 or 9:1-41)*
  - (7) *The Raising of Lazarus (11:38-44 or 11:1-44)*
5. What is the overall structure of John in its four parts?  
*The overall structure of John in its four parts is he proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, the King, the "Word" become flesh, the only-one-of-a-kind Son of God who give life to those who believe (1:14, 3:16)*
6. What is the development and significance of the "sign" in which the blind man is made to see?  
*The development and significance of the "sign" in which the blind man is made to see is; first, he identified Jesus as a "man" ( 9:11). Next, he called Jesus a "prophet" ( 9:17). Then, the one who is "from God" ( 9:33). Finally, after being questioned by Jesus, he confessed Jesus as the "Son of Man" ( 9:35-38 ).*



## CHAPTER 12

### *Acts: The Church Breaks Through with the Good News of Christ*

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What is the purpose of Act?

*Acts is the second volume and Luke is the first volume of a two-volume work by the same author. Acts is a continuation of the story of what Jesus continues to do and teach through His church. The Acts of the Apostles is about the work of the church, or all the disciples of Christ.*

2. Was the experience with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the first time the Holy Spirit came? Was this the first acquaintance of the disciples with the Holy Spirit?

*The experience with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit came. The Holy Spirit has been present with humanity previously, as recorded in the Old Testament (Ex. 19:3-6; Ps 51:11; Isa. 51:2). This was not the first acquaintance of the disciples with the Holy Spirit. The disciples had experienced the Holy Spirit in the presence of Jesus, for John the Baptist had said that although he baptized with water, Jesus would baptize them in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16).*

3. What Jews received the first persecution after the death of Stephen?

*The Hellenistic Jewish converts and proselytes from places other than Jerusalem received the first persecution after the death of Stephen.*

4. What was the significance of Simon Peter's vision about the sheet?

*After seeing the faith of Cornelius, a Gentile, and others, Peter later understood this vision to mean that "God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right" (10:34-35).*

5. Where were the disciples first called "Christians?"

*The disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch (11:25-26).*

6. What were the two dominant churches in the account in Acts? What was the mission of each?

*The two dominant churches in the account in Acts were Jerusalem church and Antioch church. The Jerusalem church concerned itself primarily with work among the Jews, while the Antioch church sponsored and supported the work with the Gentiles.*

7. What are the Acts references for the three missionary journeys of Paul?

*The First Missionary Journey mentioned in Acts 13:1-15; 15. The Second Missionary Journey stated in Acts 15:36-18:22. The Third Missionary Journey explained in Acts 18:23-21:36.*

8. Name some cities visited during each of the three missionary journeys.  
*The cities visited during the first missionary journeys were Derbe, Iconium, and Lystra; the second missionary journey were Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Achaia (Greece); the third missionary journey were close to the coasts of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas.*
9. What letters did Paul write on the second journey. On the third?  
*On the second journey Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians and on the third journey he wrote 1 and 2 Corinthian, probably Galatians and Romans.*
10. What is the significance of Acts ending with the word "unhindered" or "unhinderedly"?  
*The last word, in the Greek text, which is translated "unhindered" is significant because it means no barrier, not even imprisonment, can ultimately hinder the spread of the Gospel.*

## CHAPTER 13

### *The Apostle Paul: His Life and Letters*

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What were the five major background influences in Paul's life?  
*The five major background influences in Paul's life were Pharisaic Judaism, Hellenism, the revelation of Jesus Christ, Christian teaching and tradition, and his experience as missionary and apostle.*
2. Who was to be the focus of Paul's ministry according to his commission or calling?  
*According to Paul's commission or calling the Gentiles was to be the focus of his ministry.*
3. What are the parts of a Greek letter form?  
*The parts of a Greek letter form are the name of the sender first, the name of the recipients or readers second, the expression of greetings third, the body of the letter fourth, and a closing, sometimes a benediction, last.*
4. What are the categories of Paul's letters? Which letters belong to which categories?  
*The categories of Paul's letters are Earlier Letter, Church or Gospel Letters, Prison or Captive Letters, and Pastoral Letters.  
1,2 Thessalonians belong to Earlier Letter; 1,2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans belong to Church or Gospel Letters; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon belong to Prison or Captivity Letters; and 1,2 Timothy and Titus belong to Pastoral Letters.*
5. What are the dates of the major events in Paul's life?  
*The dates of the major events in Paul's life are;*  
*10-15 A.D. Birth*  
*32-35 A.D. Conversion*  
*47-48 A.D. First missionary journey*  
*49 A.D. Jerusalem conference*  
*49-52 A.D. Second missionary journey, writing of 1,2 Thessalonians ( and perhaps Galatians)*  
*52-57 A.D. Third missionary journey, writing of 1,2 Corinthians (perhaps Galatians and Romans)*  
*57 A.D. Travel to Jerusalem with the offering; arrest, imprisonment*  
*57-59 A.D. Imprisonment at Caesarea*  
*59-60 A.D. Voyage to and arrival in Rome*  
*60-62 A.D. Under house detention in Rome, writing of Ephesians, Colossians, Phillipians and Philemon*  
*62-65 A.D. Pastoral letters written, 1,2 Timothy, Titus*  
*64-67 A.D. Dead in Rome*



## CHAPTER 14

### *Romans: The Righteousness of God Through Christ for Salvation*

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What are the suggestions as to the establishment of the church at Rome?  
*Simon Peter and Paul have been suggested as the founders of the church. Other options for the church's beginnings include Jewish Christians converted at Pentecost ( Act 2 ) who returned to Rome and began the church. Another suggestion is that converts from missionary work in Asia Minor, perhaps both Jews and Gentiles, eventually made their way to Rome and established church.*
2. What was Paul's purpose in writing Romans?  
*One possibility was that Paul wrote to prepare the church to defend itself against the judaizers who gave the Galatian Christians such troubles.*
3. What is the theme of Romans, and what does it mean?  
*The theme of Romans is "salvation by God's righteousness granted through Jesus Christ to those who believe." It means people cannot generate right standing with God, which constitutes a saved status, by their own righteousness. Rather, by their faith in Jesus Christ people receive and stand in God's righteousness.*
4. What freedom does each of the chapters 5-8 emphasize?  
*Chapter 5 shows that a person is free from wrath (5:9). Chapter 6 emphasizes that a Christian is free from sin (6:18). Chapter 7 Paul established that a person is free from law. Chapter 8 tells of a last and great freedom, freedom from death.*
5. What are the meanings of *flesh* and *Spirit*?  
*Flesh means life in the flesh or sinful nature. Spirit means life in the Spirit, which is life in Christ.*

**CHAPTER 15**  
***1 and 2 Corinthians***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the places and dates of writing for 1 and 2 Corinthians?  
*1 Corinthians wrote about A.D. 55., 2 Corinthians wrote around A.D. 55-56. Both were written from Macedonia.*
2. What are the correspondence contacts Paul and the Corinthians had with each other?  
*The correspondence contacts Paul and the Corinthians had with each other are;*
  - (1) *Previous letter; This letter is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:9. It is called "Previous" because Paul wrote the letter prior to 1 Corinthians.*
  - (2) *A letter from the Corinthians: Paul refers to this letter in 1 Corinthians 7:1. By this means, the Corinthians raised questions to which they wished him to respond.*
  - (3) *First Corinthians, written from Ephesus.*
  - (4) *A "painful" or "tearful" letter, so called because of Paul's language in 2 Corinthians 2:1-9; 7:8.*
  - (5) *Second Corinthians, which may in itself be a composite of two or more letters.*
3. What were the problems of the church at Corinth?  
*The church was Gentile, and converts came into the church from a wide variety of backgrounds and religious experiences. That variety encouraged the difficulty and complexity of problems in the church at Corinth.*
4. What were the identities of the four factions ( 1 Cor 1:12, and what beliefs might have distinguished each party?  
*The identities of the four factions are: the parties of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, and Christ. Perhaps the parties of Paul claimed freedom from the law. The Apollos party may have placed emphasis upon human wisdom as an approach to the gospel. The Cephas overemphasized the law. Speculation about the Christ party is more difficult.*
5. How did Paul deal with the party division ( 1 Cor. 1:13)?  
*Paul attacked this party division by asking three questions: Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor 1:13) The answer to all three questions was no. The point is that the church exists in Christ. The church was brought into being by Christ because Christ died for them, as being baptized in His name indicated.*

6. What actions by the Corinthians dishonored the Lord's Supper?

*Perhaps the early arrivals thought they celebrated the messianic banquet of the kingdom, but they missed what Jesus had told them to be. Indeed, the early arrivals acted selfishly. They were the ones taking the supper in an "unworthy manner" (11:27).*

7. Why is prophecy superior to speaking in tongues?

*Throughout chapter 14, Paul showed the superiority of prophecy over tongues-speaking. Prophecy builds up the church (14:3), gives a clear message (14:6-12), is valuable for instruction (14:19), is a witness to outsiders (14:24), and lends itself to order (14:33, 40). Paul did not disallow tongues-speaking, but he saw it as having little value for the church.*

8. What are the major divisions and content of 2 Corinthians?

*Second Corinthians has three major divisions. Chapter 1-7 generally understood as the section reflecting reconciliation. Chapter 8-9 discuss the offering for Jerusalem and the Corinthians's support of the effort. Chapter 10-13. Paul reflected on the criticism directed against him.*

**CHAPTER 16**  
***Galatians: Freedom in Christ***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the possible places of the origin of Galatians and the possible dates for the writing of Galatians?

*The possible places of the origin of Galatians and the possible dates for the writing of Galatians are Ephesus, Macedonia, Antioch, and Corinth, and written about A.D. 48.*

2. Who were the opponents of Paul? What did they preach?

*Interpreters often identify the opponents with the name Judaizers. Judaizers were probably exclusive Jews and not proselytes. The opponents of Paul preached a different gospel to the Galatians. A different gospel that some of the Galatians Christians followed (1:6).*

3. What are the North (territory) and South (province) Galatian hypotheses? What are some of the factor supporting each hypothesis?

*The North (territory) are those who believe Paul addressed churches in the territory, and South (province) are those who hold to address for the readers in the Roman province. Paul could have written from Corinth around A.D. 51-52 or A.D. 54-55 from Ephesus. Both of these dates would support the South Galatian hypothesis, although the North Galatian hypothesis would fit with the later date as well.*

4. What are two patterns of making the Jerusalem visits of Acts correspond to the Jerusalem visits recorded in Galatians?

*Two patterns of correspondence of visits are:*

*Visit 1 ( Acts 9:26 ) = Galatians 1:18*

*Visit 2 ( Acts 11:30; 12:25 ) = Galatians 2:1*

5. What distinction is made between "Spirit" and "flesh" in the discussion of Galatians 5?

*If believers are in Christ, they are in "Spirit." If they are not in Christ, they are in the sinful nature, which literally means "flesh."*

**CHAPTER 17**  
***Ephesians: The People of God in Christ***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are some of the issues as regards the authorship of Ephesians?  
*Some of the issues as regards the authorship of Ephesians are: How are the different from Paul's other letters in theological emphasis, vocabulary, and style to be explained? Since Ephesians has such identity with Colossians, is it not likely that someone copied and used Colossians to communicate a message in the name of Paul? In answer, heological emphasis, much vocabulary, and style are the same as in Paul's other letters.*
2. What is the difficulty in determining the recipients of the letter (1:1)?  
*The letter lacks the personal contact usually associated with letters to one specific church.*
3. What is the overall message of Ephesians?  
*The overall message of Ephesians are: Christ in His Church and the church in Christ may serve as the overall message of the letter. Some of the loftiest thought in the New Testament on Christ in relationship to His people in found here.*
4. What is the meaning of "mystery" (1:7-9)?  
*"Mystery," a word related to religions where only those initiated knew the secrets of the religion, is a word Paul adapted to special use. The mystery is really an open secret, God made plain His purposes for all to see if they will see.*
5. What does "in Christ" mean?  
*Many times Paul used "in Christ" to mean "in church", which is not reference to a church building. It is a denominational structure, or church organization.*
6. What is the function of leadership (4:11-12)?  
*The function of leadership it "to prepare God's people for works of service."*
7. How does one prepare for moral warfare? Are Christians to use violence in this warfare?  
*Christians should be prepared for moral warfare by putting on the "full armor of God" Eph. 6:13-18 ).*

**CHAPTER 18**  
***Philippians: Joy in Christ***

Questions for Consideration

1. What was the history of Paul's relationship with the Philippians?  
*The Philippians seemed to accept his authority and authenticity as an apostle. He needed to defend for himself since they accepted him and obviously cared for him.*
2. What is the overall message Paul intended to communicate in the letter?  
*Paul wrote the letter to share his appreciation for the Philippians and to thank them for their gift and ministry, to explain Epaphroditus' recovery from illness and calm their fears about his well-being. He wrote to affirm that Epaphroditus' success in carrying out the church's ministry to Paul, and also he dealt with certain matters troubling the church..*
3. What were the Judaizers preaching?  
*They probably preached that the Philippians had no assurance of salvation unless they engaged in circumcision and some other Jewish prerequisites contained in the law.*
4. Of what significance to Christians today is Paul's illustration of himself running a race?  
*Paul's illustration of himself running a race is significant to Christians today. Christians must forget the past, refusing to live in or by the past, and strain "toward what is ahead. If a Christian always looks back, he will lose as an athlete in a race.*

**CHAPTER 19**  
***Colossians: The Sufficiency of Christ***

Questions for Consideration

1. What were some of the elements of the false philosophy?

*The elements of the false philosophy were they threatened to lead the church away from the reality of Christ. They gave central place to cosmic powers; these were angelic beings that were worshipped and believed to possess the fullness of God. Certain legalistic and ascetic elements belonged to the philosophy. Some interpreters identify the philosophy as "incipient Gnosticism," because they believe a defined Gnosticism developed only in the second century.*

2. What are the elements of the "hymn to Christ," and what do they mean?

*The elements of the "hymn to Christ" are:*

- (1) "the image of the invisible God." He is not image in the sense of a reproduction or likeness, but in the sense of essence.*
- (2) "firstborn." "Firstborn" does not mean the first among created beings and things, but first in the sense of having priority before all created beings and things.*
- (3) "creator." Just as Christ is God's expression of Himself in salvation, so Christ is God's expression of Himself in creation.*
- (4) "before all things, in him all things hold together." Christ unites all things in harmony. His superiority "before all things" is prominent in this hymn.*
- (5) "the head of the body, the church." As head, Christ gives the church life and direction.*
- (6) "firstborn from among the dead." He is not first in order of happening or appearance, but over all things by virtue of His resurrection.*
- (7) "the 'fullness' of God." All revelation of God is contained in Him. He is not one of the angelic beings of partial revelation standing among a hierarchy of beings between God and humanity.*
- (8) "Reconciler." Christ removes estrangement existing between God and all things. He reconciles them to God.*

3. What connections do Tychicus and Onesimus and the letters of Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon have with each other?

*Onesimus brought the Philemon letter and traveled with Tychicus. The Colossians were encouraged to read the letter to the Laodiceans. Ephesians or Philemon may have been that letter.*

**CHAPTER 20**

***Philemon: In Christ, All Are Family***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the possible relationships of Philemon, Apphia, and Archippus to each other?  
*The relationship of these individuals is uncertain, the possible relationship of them could be: Apphia was the wife of Philemon, and Archippus was their son.*
2. What is the message of Philemon?  
*The message of Philemon is that a run away slave, Onesimus, should be forgiven and accepted back as a brother in Christ. At the end Paul addressed the church as well, for the church should be involved in dealing with Onesimus.*
3. What is John Knox's explanation about the collection of Paul's letters?  
*John Knox proposed that Onesimus collected Paul's letters, put them together, and wrote Ephesians in the name of his teacher, Paul, as a cover letter for the Pauline collection.*

**CHAPTER 21**

***1 and 2 Thessalonians: Life in the Light of Christ's Return***

Questions for Consideration

1. Why was Thessalonica a strategic place to preach the gospel?  
*Because Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. Thessalonica also had an excellent harbor for sea trade. Therefore, this city of influence in the area, on a major land route and possessing a significant harbor, was a strategic place to preach the gospel and begin a church.*
2. Where was Paul when he wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians? When did he write the letters?  
*When Paul wrote 1,2 Thessalonians he was in Corinth. He wrote the letter about 50 A.D.*
3. What were the two major questions discussed in reference to 1 Thessalonians 4-5?  
*The two major questions discussed in reference to 1 Thessalonians 4-5 were family members and friends of the Thessalonian Christians had died. Since these persons would not be present at the return of Christ, what would happen to those who were "asleep?" The second question the Thessalonians asked about concerned the time of the return of Christ.*
4. In 2 Thessalonians, what had some people done in regard to their vocations? What problems did this cause?  
*In the expectation of Christ's return at any moment, some thought it unnecessary to continue working at their jobs. The problem was that they used up their resources, and became a burden on the rest of the church.*

**CHAPTER 22**  
***1 and 2 Timothy and Titus***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are some of the difficulties involved in accepting Paul as author of the Pastoral Epistles?

*The difficulties involved in accepting Paul as author of the Pastoral Epistle are: First are the historical difficulties. We have no historical record of Paul's being released from prison which could put Paul in a time framework to write the letters, although 2 Timothy reflects a situation with Paul in prison. A second difficulty is connected with church organization. Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy reflect a rather developed church organizational structure. A third difficulty focuses on vocabulary and style. Over one-third of the words in the Pastorals are not found in Paul's other writings.*

2. What are some of the answers to the difficulties?

*Three out of four of these views give direct authorship to Paul in some way. After all considerations, much weight of evidence exists for direct or indirect authorship of Paul for the three letters.*

3. What were the characteristics and identity of the opponents alluded to in 1 Timothy?

*The identity of the particular heresy is uncertain. Certain elements of false teaching surface in the letter. The false preachers give attention to myths and genealogies, they teach the law without understanding.*

4. What is the major message of each of the Pastoral Epistles?

*Paul urged Timothy to be faithful, to endure the difficulties, and to fulfill his calling as a preacher of the Gospel.*

5. What were Timothy and Titus to accomplish in their respective places of ministry?

*Timothy was to present himself a "workman" who has no need to be ashamed and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Titus received a charge, in effect, to fight for the life of the church. Leaders and the church as a whole are called to hold to commitments and standards of conduct very basic to the life of any church.*

## CHAPTER 23

### ***Hebrews: The Superiority of Christ***

#### Questions for Consideration

1. What must be taken into consideration in discussion of the author of Hebrews? What names are among those suggested as writers of the book?

*Hebrews itself does not identify its author, so the author of Hebrews remains anonymous. Church tradition through many centuries has associated Hebrews with Paul's name.*

*After about the year 400, under Augustine's influence, Pauline authorship was widely accepted in the church, so earlier church leaders were reluctant to identify authorship with Paul. Even Luther and Calvin, leaders of the Protestant Reformation, doubted that Paul was the author. The names among those suggested as writers of the book are Peter, Philip, Barnabas, Apollos, Luke, Priscilla, Aquila, and Clement of Rome.*

2. What suggestions are offered as to the status of the readers?

*The suggestions offered as to the status of the readers are (1) The readers became disillusioned and were contemplating a return to Judaism. (2) The readers faced hardship and persecution as Christians, so they wanted to return to a more secure and more accepted Judaism. (3) The readers were lazy, neglecting their responsibility to participate in the world missionary enterprise to which they were called. (4) A Jewish-Gnostic philosophy, mixed with Christian elements, proved attractive to the readers.*

3. What is the major theme of Hebrews?

*The major theme of Hebrews is "The Superiority of Christ."*

4. In what ways is Christ superior as outlined in the discussion?

*Christ superior as outline in the discussion are as follows; Christ's Superiority to Previous Revelation, Christ's Superiority Over the Angel, Christ's Superiority Over Moses and Aaron, Christ's Superiority Over the Levitical Priesthood, and Christ's Superiority Through the New Covenant and the New Sanctuary.*

5. Who was Melchizedek and what was his significance?

*Melchizedek was the priest of his kind, and he is so forever. Therefore, Melchizedek is an illustration of who Jesus actually is.*

**CHAPTER 24**

***James: Faith in Christ Issues in Works***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are the possibilities for the authorship of James?  
*Three "James" in the New Testament may be considered for the author of James; James, the son of Zebedee, James, son of Alphaeus, and James, the Lord's brother.*
2. What is the major thrust of the message of James?  
*James encouraged his readers in the trials and tribulations of the life and challenged them to engage in right living. James gave the heart of his message, "But be doers of the word, and not merely bearers who, deceive themselves" (1:22), and "So faith by itself, if it has no work is dead" (2:17).*
3. What is wisdom?  
*Wisdom is a person's knowledge and life informed from God's viewpoint. Such "wisdom" can only come by faith, because faith in God leads to the divine perspective.*
4. Was James in conflict with Paul over the matter of faith and works?  
*No, there is no contradiction exists between James and Paul over the matter of faith and works.*
5. What are some of the validating works of faith?  
*Real faith issues in good works. "Faith without deeds is dead" (2:26). Another of the validating works of faith is control of the tongue (3:1-12).*

**CHAPTER 25**  
***1 and 2 Peter and Jude***

Questions for Consideration

1. What are some of the arguments for and against Petrine authorship of both letters: Jude?  
*Objections to Petrine authorship are several. (1) The vocabulary is too sophisticated and the Greek too polished to come from the hand of a rough fisherman. (2) The persecution reflected must be either the Domitianic or the Trajanic persecution making 1 Peter too late for Petrine authorship. Ultimately, the objections to Simon Peter as author can be met with strong arguments. The text itself must be taken seriously, which names Simon Peter the author.*
2. What are the three possibilities for dating the persecution reflected in 1 Peter?  
*The three possibilities for dating the persecution reflected in 1 Peter are the Neronian persecution (A.D. 64-68), Domitian (A.D. 90-100), and Trajan (A.D. 110-117).*
3. What are the evidences in 1 Peter that the church is the new Israel, the people of God?  
*The translation "exiles of the Dispersion" is a unique designation for the addressees. The expression usually referred to Israelites away from the homeland in areas outside of Israel. Obviously, Peter addressed Christians, or the church. The expression normally used for Israel as the people of God refers to Christians, the church, as the Israel of God.*
4. What is the keynote of 1 Peter? What is the meaning of "hope"?  
*"Hope" is the keynote of the 1 Peter. The meaning of "hope" is an unrealize reality.*
5. What is true about time in relationship to the "day of the Lord"?  
*Second Peter reminds readers that the last days will be filled with scoffers. But the timing of that coming is not determined by human agency or understood from limited human perspective for "with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day"(3:8).*
6. What problems did the recipients of each of the three letters face?  
*First Peter's readers both Gentile and Jewish Christian were under persecution. Second Peter's readers are not identified, they could be the same readers named in 1 Peter 1:1-2. Jude's readers are "those who have been called" (1). The readers did face false teachers whose beliefs threatened the churches.*



**CHAPTER 26**  
***The Letters of John***

Questions for Consideration

1. Who are the possible authors of three letters and what are the reasons for supporting each?  
*Some suggest that an elder named John was the author. The writer identified himself as the elder in 2 and 3 John. Another suggestion is that the apostle John had a "school" whom he taught. Perhaps some of these disciples helped to organize and write the Gospel and the Epistles. The Muratorian Canon, in existence around A.D. 170, refers to circumstances around the origin of the Gospel of John and alludes to John having written about the Lord in his letters. The traditional, therefore, agreeing with the titles of the writings as they appear in our Bibles now, is that John the apostle wrote all five of the books with which his name is associated.*
2. What were the major problems created by the heresy as reflected in 1 John?  
*The recipients of 1 John faced a heresy that threatened to undermine faith in Jesus Christ. They created a theological problem by denying the humanity of Christ. Since the false teachers thought themselves to have special knowledge and special spiritual experiences, they felt superior to others who were not as they were, which caused a fellowship problem. The heretical teachers believed that with their special knowledge, spiritual experiences, and fellowship with God, sin was not a factor for them.*
3. What are the different kinds of Gnostic-like approaches that may be reflected in 1 John?  
What  
did each approach propose about Jesus?  
*One form of Gnostic thinking was "docetism," which means "to seem." In this view, Christ was not really human, He only seemed to be. Another form of Gnostic-like thinking was that of Cerinthus, whose view may be reflected in the heresy 1 John combats. Cerinthus taught that Christ came upon Jesus at his baptism but left him at his crucifixion.*
4. What was the concern in 2 John? What did the author recommend?  
*The elder stressed his love for his readers, and urged members to love one another. The elder wanted his readers to understand that hospitality was not to be extended to the false teachers(10-11). Their duty did not include them; in fact, they were not even to greet them (10).*

5 What was the problem in 3 John?

*The letter shows briefly some of the troubles of the church and reflects something of a developed church organization or ecclesiology, for the elder wrote as a leader in authority over the congregation. Diotrephes opposed the elder by resisting the elder's authority. One form of the resistance was refusal to "welcome the brothers," who may have been representatives, or at least friends, of the elder.*

**CHAPTER 27**  
***Revelation: The Victory and Reign of Christ***

Questions for Consideration

1. Who were the possible persecutors of John's readers? Which is the most likely persecution?  
*The possible persecutors of John's readers were: Nero, evidently he unjustly blamed Christians, perhaps as a way of hiding his own responsibility, for setting the fire that burned a significant portion of the city of Rome (A.D. 64). Another persecutor was Domitian, he demanded to be worshipped as a god by his subjects, which Christians and Jews refused to do.*  
*Domitian's forces persecuted Christians in particular, which by the accounts in Revelation would have included martyrdom for many followers of Christ.*
2. What information may point to a conflict with Gnosticism for the context of Revelation?  
*Perhaps, John wrote to combat Gnostic-like ideas, teachings, and beliefs. In this approach, the struggle depicted in the highly intensive symbolism of Revelation is a struggle and victory against the evil represented in a Gnostic-type philosophy.*
3. What is apocalyptic literature? What are the characteristics of apocalyptic writing?  
*Apocalyptic literature is a writing in a style or thought form. The characteristics of apocalyptic writing are symbols, images, visions, numbers, and other expressions to convey messages.*
4. What is the message of Revelation?  
*It is one of the victory of Christ over evil, of the reign of Christ in which His followers participates, and of the judgment and destruction which comes upon evil. John wrote to encourage Christians who experienced a very difficult persecution because they identified themselves with Christ.*
5. What are the meanings of numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12 as sometimes used in apocalyptic material?  
*The meanings of numbers 1,2,3,4,6,7,10, and 12 as sometimes used in apocalyptic material are;*  
*1 = unity, or the oneness of God*  
*2 = companionship, added strength*  
*3 = the divine number*  
*4 = visible creation*  
*6 = imperfection, incompleteness*  
*7 = perfection, completeness*  
*10= human completeness*  
*12= organized religion or God's people*

