

# **New Testament Recovery Version**

## **Study Guide**

### **Book XI**

THE EPISTLES OF

**JAMES - JUDE**

**Week 1 Day 1 James 1:1-18**

**I. Key Verses:**

James 1:3 Knowing that the proving of your faith works out endurance.

James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect work that you may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Although James might not have had a clear view concerning the distinction between \_\_\_\_\_ and law, his Epistle is distinguished and remarkable in its presentation of Christian \_\_\_\_\_, emphasizing \_\_\_\_\_ Christian perfection that the believers might be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing. This may be considered the main \_\_\_\_\_ of this Epistle. Such perfection in Christian \_\_\_\_\_ requires the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's governmental dealing and the believers' \_\_\_\_\_ by the virtue of the divine birth through regeneration by the implanted \_\_\_\_\_. (See James 1:4 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of James Message 1-3.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 2 James 1:19-2:13**

**I. Key Verse:**

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues in it, becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in his doing.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The perfect law, the law of \_\_\_\_\_ (or liberty), is not the law of \_\_\_\_\_ written on tablets of stone outside us but the law of \_\_\_\_\_ inscribed on our hearts (Heb. 8:10), the \_\_\_\_\_ standard of which corresponds with that of the kingdom's \_\_\_\_\_, decreed by the Lord on the mount (Matt. 5--7)...The perfect law of life...is the law of \_\_\_\_\_. This law is the law of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 9:21), even Christ \_\_\_\_\_, who lives within us to \_\_\_\_\_ us by \_\_\_\_\_ the divine nature into our being, that we may live a life that expresses God's image. James might have considered this law the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian life for practical Christian \_\_\_\_\_. (See James 1:25 note 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of James Message 4-6.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 3 James 2:14-3:18**

**I. Key Verse:**

James 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith only.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

To be justified by faith is for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the divine life (Rom. 5:18); to be justified by works is through \_\_\_\_\_ the divine life. Since the living is the issue of life, to be justified by works is the \_\_\_\_\_ of being justified by faith. Abraham's offering of Isaac and Rahab's receiving of the messengers and sending them out are works that issued from their \_\_\_\_\_ faith. A \_\_\_\_\_ tree surely brings forth fruit. Being justified by works is not inconsistent with being justified by faith. The latter is the cause, bringing forth the former; the former is the effect, the outcome and proof, of the latter. (See James 2:24 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of James Message 6-8.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 4 James 4:1-17**

**I. Key Verse:**

James 4:7 Be subject therefore to God; but withstand the devil, and he will flee from you.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

To be proud toward God is to side with God's enemy, the \_\_\_\_\_; to be \_\_\_\_\_ toward God, i.e., to be subject to God, is to withstand, i.e., to stand against, the \_\_\_\_\_. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ strategy for fighting God's enemy; it always causes him to flee from us.

The flesh implied in James v. 1, the \_\_\_\_\_ in v. 4, and the \_\_\_\_\_ in v. 7 are the three major enemies of the believers. They are related to one another: the flesh is against the \_\_\_\_\_, the world is against \_\_\_\_\_, and the devil is against \_\_\_\_\_. The flesh indulges in pleasures by loving the world, and the world usurps us for the devil. This annihilates God's eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in us. (See James 4:7 note 2, note 3)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of James Message 9- 10.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 5 James 5:1-20**

**I. Key Verse:**

James 5:8 You also be long-suffering; establish your hearts because the coming of the Lord has drawn near.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Why can our maturing in life shorten the period of our long-suffering?
2. What is the meaning of “earnestly pray”?
3. What is the meaning to “save one’s soul from death”?

Answer:

1. See James 5:8 note 1.
2. See James 5:17 note 1.
3. See James 5:20 note 1, 1:21 note 2, 1 Pet. 1:5 note 5, Heb. 10:39 note 3, James 5:20 note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of James Message 11-14.*

**Note:**

**Week 1 Day 6 1 Pet. 1:1-5**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Both of Peter's Epistles (2 Pet. 3:1) are concerned with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. God's government is \_\_\_\_\_ and deals with all His creatures that He may have a clean and pure \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 3:13) in order to express Himself. They need to \_\_\_\_\_ anything and everything that happens to them, whether \_\_\_\_\_ or any other kind of trial or suffering (v. 6; 5:9), is just a part of God's precious \_\_\_\_\_ dealing. Such a \_\_\_\_\_ will perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground them (5:10) that they may grow in \_\_\_\_\_. (*See 1 Pet. 1:2 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 1-5, 7.*

**Note:**

## Week 1 Day 7 1 Pet. 1:6-12

### I. Key Verse:

1 Pet. 1:7 So that the proving of your faith, much more precious than of gold which perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In his two Epistles Peter presents to us five precious things: (1) the precious \_\_\_\_\_, which is the Lord Himself (2:4, 6-7); (2) the precious \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19); (3) the precious \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 1:4); (4) the precious \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 1:1); and (5) the precious \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 7).

The Lord is with us today (Matt. 28:20), but in a \_\_\_\_\_, veiled way. His coming back will be His revelation, when He will be seen \_\_\_\_\_ by all. At that time not only He but also the proving of our \_\_\_\_\_ will be revealed. (See 1 Pet. 1:7 note 3, note 5)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 6, 8-10.*

#### Note:

## THE PRACTICAL PERFECTION OF CHRISTIAN

In [James] 1:2 James says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various trials." Here we see that the first virtue related to practical Christian perfection covered by James is that of enduring trials by faith.

Persecution is a suffering. However, trials are not merely a suffering, for trials are a suffering that serves the purpose of trying or proving us. We may use final examinations in school as an illustration. Students know that final examinations can be a real suffering and trial. But such a trial is actually a help to the students. If there were no final examinations in school, the students would probably be careless concerning their studies. But when they know that a final examination is coming, they concentrate on their studies with much diligence. Therefore, a final examination helps a student learn the necessary material. For this reason, the parents of those who are students should be grateful for the final examinations, knowing that this helps their children to profit from their education.

God uses trials to perfect us. If we see this, we shall thank God for perfecting us through trials. Trials not only help us in the matters of our spiritual education and the experience of life, but also help us with our character and our behavior in our daily living. Before you believed in the Lord, you may have been like a wild lion. But after a period of time of trial, the "lion" has been tamed. I can testify that God has used trials to "tame" me and thereby to perfect me in a practical way in my Christian life.

In 1:2 James even encourages us to "count it all joy" whenever we fall into various trials. The reason we can count it a joy when we fall into trials is that these trials perfect us. Notice that in 1:2 James speaks not only of trials but of "various trials." This indicates that we should count all trials a joy, not just certain trials. On the one hand, we do not like trials, opposition, and persecution. But on the other hand we should count it all joy when we experience such things because God uses them to perfect us. (Life-Study of James, Msg. 1.)

**Week 2 Day 1 1 Pet. 1:13-25**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 1:15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The Holy One is the Triune God — the choosing \_\_\_\_\_, the redeeming \_\_\_\_\_, and the sanctifying \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1-2). The Father regenerates His elect, imparting His \_\_\_\_\_ nature into them (v. 3); the Son redeemed them with His \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ manner of life (vv. 18-19); and the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them according to the Father's holy nature, \_\_\_\_\_ them from anything other than God (v. 2) that they, by the holy nature of the Father, may be \_\_\_\_\_ in all their manner of life, even as \_\_\_\_\_ as God Himself. (*See 1 Pet. 1:15 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 11-14.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 2 1 Pet. 2:1-10**

**I. Key Verses:**

1 Pet. 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,

1 Pet. 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

A living stone is one that not only possesses life but also \_\_\_\_\_ in life. This is \_\_\_\_\_ for God's building. Here Peter changed his metaphor from a seed, which is of the \_\_\_\_\_ life, to a stone, which is of the \_\_\_\_\_. The seed is for life-\_\_\_\_\_; the stone is for \_\_\_\_\_. Peter's thought went on from life-planting to God's building. As life to us, Christ is the seed; for God's building, He is the \_\_\_\_\_. After receiving Him as the seed of life, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ that we may experience Him as the \_\_\_\_\_ living in us. (*See 1 Pet. 2:4 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 15-18.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 3 1 Pet. 2:11-3:7**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Lit., a writing copy, an underwriting (used by students to trace letters and thereby learn to draw them). The Lord has set His suffering life before us so that we can copy it by \_\_\_\_\_ and following His \_\_\_\_\_. This does not refer to a mere \_\_\_\_\_ of Him and His life but to a \_\_\_\_\_ of Him that comes from enjoying Him as \_\_\_\_\_ in our sufferings (see note 19<sup>1</sup>) so that He Himself as the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit, with all the riches of His life, reproduces Himself in us. We become the reproduction of the original writing copy, not a mere imitation of Him produced by taking Him as our outward \_\_\_\_\_.  
(See 1 Pet.2:21 note 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 19-23.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 4 1 Pet. 3:8-22**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, on the one hand being put to death in the flesh, but on the other, made alive in the Spirit;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please explain how Christ has suffered for sins.
2. Why does it say “(Christ) was made alive in the Spirit”?
3. Can baptism itself save a person?

Answer:

1. See 1 Pet 3:18 note 1.
2. See 1 Pet 3:18 note 3.
3. See 1 Pet 3:21 note 3.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 24-25.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 5 1 Pet. 4:1-14**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 4:14 If you are reproached in the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

In 1 Pet. 4:14 the name denotes the person. To be in the name of Christ is actually to be in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, in Christ Himself. When they are reproached in His \_\_\_\_\_, they are reproached with Him, sharing in His \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13), in the \_\_\_\_\_ of His sufferings.

The Spirit of glory is the One through whom Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:4). This very Spirit of glory, being the Spirit of God Himself, \_\_\_\_\_ upon the suffering believers in their persecution, for the glorifying of the resurrected and exalted \_\_\_\_\_, who is now in glory. (See 1 Pet.4:14 note 1, note 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 26-28.*

**Note:**

**Week 2 Day 6 1 Pet. 4:15-5:4**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 Pet. 4:16 But if as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Gk. *Christianos*, a word formed from Latin. The ending *ianos*, denoting an adherent of someone, was applied to \_\_\_\_\_ belonging to the great families in the Roman Empire. One who worshipped the emperor, the Caesar, or *Kaisar*, was called *Kaisarianos*, which means *an adherent of Kaisar, a person who \_\_\_\_\_ to Kaisar.*

Today the term *Christian* should bear a positive meaning, that is, a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, one who is \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, not only belonging to Him but also having His life and nature in an organic \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, and who is \_\_\_\_\_ by Him, even living Him, in his daily life. If we suffer for being such a person, we should not feel \_\_\_\_\_. (See 1 Pet.4:16 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 28-32.*

**Note:**

## Week 2 Day 7 1 Pet. 5:5-14

### I. Key Verse:

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober; watch. Your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking someone to devour.

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To watch is to be vigilant as in warfare, as with soldiers on the \_\_\_\_\_. Here it refers especially to the suffering believers' being watchful against the \_\_\_\_\_ that the enemy brings in while they suffer persecution.

Peter here warned the believers who were suffering in persecution. If they would not be \_\_\_\_\_ under God's mighty hand (v. 6) and cast their \_\_\_\_\_ on God (v. 7), they would be devoured by the roaring \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, their adversary. This teaches us that \_\_\_\_\_ and anxiety make us delicious prey to satisfy the hunger of the roaring lion. In this matter Peter no doubt could not forget the Lord's warning to him regarding the devil's desire. (*See 1 Pet. 5:8 note 2, note 7*)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Peter Message 33-34.*

#### Note:

## THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND ITS SUFFERINGS

Christ lived a life of suffering, a suffering life. Now we are His partners living the same kind of life. According to the book of Hebrews, we are not only partakers of Christ but are also His partners (Heb. 3:14). We cooperate with Him in living a life of suffering. We follow Him along the way of suffering. This means that what Christ suffered, we also suffer. Therefore, when we suffer for Christ in this way, our sufferings are counted by God as the sufferings of Christ.

We should not be discouraged because we must suffer as Christians. These sufferings are positive and very precious. What a privilege it is to experience the sufferings of Christ! Paul could even say that he made up what was lacking of the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His Body, the church (Col. 1:24). He also speaks in Philippians 3:10 concerning the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. Today we should be Christians, followers of Christ, who undergo the sufferings of Christ. We need to participate not only in the riches of Christ, but also in the sufferings of Christ. If we take this point of view, we shall be encouraged whenever we suffer for Christ. We may even welcome this kind of suffering. Yes, we may face fiery ordeals, but these are the sufferings of Christ in which we have the privilege to participate.

The reason the persecutions we suffer are the sufferings of Christ is that we suffer in the name of Christ. According to Peter's word in verse 14, we are blessed if we are reproached in the name of Christ. Do not think that it is a curse to be reproached in the name of Christ. This is to be blessed. However, it may be a curse if people appreciate us too highly. Regarding this matter, we need to have a change of concept.

The more we suffer and are persecuted, the more glory there will be upon us. This is truly a blessing. I can testify that the more I am persecuted and evil spoken of, the more I am empowered. Persecution and reproach does not hold me down. On the contrary, it lifts me up. Therefore, we should rejoice when we are reproached in the name of Christ, because the Spirit of glory is resting upon us. (*Life-Study of 1 Peter, Msg. 28*)

**Week 3 Day 1 2 Pet. 1:1-4**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Here, in his second Epistle, he unveiled to them the energy, the strength, by which they were enabled to escape the corruption in lust, and the result of that escape. The energy is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the divine life, and the result is that the believers partake of the divine nature of God and thus enjoy all the riches of \_\_\_\_\_ the Triune God is. In our partaking of the divine nature and in our enjoying of all that God \_\_\_\_\_, all the riches of the divine nature will be fully \_\_\_\_\_, as described in vv. 5-7. Having escaped the corruption of lust in the world and having thus removed the \_\_\_\_\_ to the growth of the divine life in us, we are \_\_\_\_\_ to become partakers of the divine nature and to enjoy its riches to the fullest extent in its development by the virtue of God unto His \_\_\_\_\_. (See 2 Pet. 1:4 note 5)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 1-5.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 2 2 Pet. 1:5-18**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 1:11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. What is the difference between “brotherly love” and “love”?
2. How shall we enter into the eternal kingdom of our Lord?
3. What is “the present truth”?

Answer:

1. See 2 Pet 1:7 note 1, note 2.
2. See 2 Pet 1:11 note 1, note 2.
3. See 2 Pet 1:12 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 6-8.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 3 2 Pet. 1:19-2:3**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 1:19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Peter likened the word of prophecy in the Scripture to a \_\_\_\_\_ shining in a dark place. This indicates that (1) this age is a dark place in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:12), and all the people of this world are moving and acting in darkness; and (2) the prophetic word of the Scripture, as the shining \_\_\_\_\_ to the believers, conveys spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that shines in their darkness (not merely knowledge in letters for their mental apprehension), guiding them to enter into a \_\_\_\_\_, even to pass through the dark night until the day of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ dawns. Before the Lord as the sunlight appears, we need this word as \_\_\_\_\_ to shine over our footsteps.. (See 2 Pet.1:19 note 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 8-9.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 4 2 Pet. 2:4-22**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 2:9 The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of trial and how to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please explain the judgment of God upon the angel.
2. Please explain the judgment of God upon the false teachers.
3. What is the meaning of “animals without reason”?

Answer:

1. See 2 Pet 2:4 note 4.
2. See 2 Pet 2:10 note 1.
3. See 2 Pet 2:12 note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 9-10.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 5 2 Pet. 3:1-9**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 3:9 The Lord does not delay regarding the promise, as some count delay, but is long-suffering toward you, not intending that any perish but that all advance to repentance.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

With the Lord God, who is eternal, the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ is compressed a thousandfold compared with man's sense of time. Hence, for the fulfillment of His word, especially the word of His \_\_\_\_\_, the crucial matter is not the time but the \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever He has promised will sooner or later become a fact.

The Lord's heart is set not on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fulfillment of His promise but on His \_\_\_\_\_, whom He possesses peculiarly as a treasure. His desire is that none of us, His precious redeemed ones, would be \_\_\_\_\_ by His governmental judgment but would have a prolonged season to \_\_\_\_\_ that we may be spared from His punishment. (See 2 Pet. 3:8 note 2, 9 note 4)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 11.*

**Note:**

**Week 3 Day 6 2 Pet. 3:10-14**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 Pet. 3:12 Expecting and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and the elements, burning with intense heat, are to be melted away?

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

In 2 Pet. 3:12, *day* is used mainly in the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ for governmental dealing. Before the Lord comes, it is "\_\_\_\_\_ day," in which man \_\_\_\_\_ until the Lord comes (1 Cor. 4:3-5). Then, it will be "the day of the \_\_\_\_\_," which will begin with the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ (presence — Matt. 24:3 and note 3) with all its judgments and will end with the judgment upon men and the demons at the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, not counting the one thousand years, the day of the Lord will be very short, probably not more than \_\_\_\_\_ years. This will be the main part of the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ (seven years) of the seventy weeks in Dan. 9:24-27. (See 2 Pet. 3:12 note 3)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 12-13.*

**Note:**

**I. Key Verses:**

- 2 Pet. 3:15 ...even as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you,
- 2 Pet. 3:16 As also in all his letters, speaking in them concerning these things...

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Peter referred to Paul's writings to strengthen his own writings, especially concerning God's governmental and disciplinary \_\_\_\_\_ upon the believers. Paul strongly and repeatedly emphasized this matter in his writings.

The apostles participated in the same, unique ministry, the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_. Such a ministry ministers to people, as its focus, the all-inclusive \_\_\_\_\_ as the embodiment of the Triune God, for the building up of the church as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, which will consummate in the full expression, the \_\_\_\_\_, of the Triune God, according to the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father. (*See 2 Pet. 3:16 note 2*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 Peter Message 13.*

**Note:**

If we have at least a general idea concerning the Lord's coming, we shall know why Peter says that the day of the Lord will come as a thief. Not only will the Lord Himself come as a thief, but even the day of the Lord will come in this way. The coming of that day will be hidden, not open.

We have pointed out that in 3:10 Peter says that in the day of the Lord the heavens will be burned. This will take place after the millennium. The day of the Lord will come before the millennium, but the burning of the heavens will be after the millennium. This is the reason we say that here Peter passes over the millennium, a period of a thousand years, and regards the burning of the heavens and the earth as the last matter that will take place in the day of the Lord.

All things, both in the heavens and on the earth, have been defiled by the rebellion of Satan and the fall of men. Although all things whether on earth or in the heavens have been reconciled to God through Christ by His blood (Col. 1:20), the heavenly things having been purified by the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:23), they still need to be cleared up by being burned up in God's governmental dealing so that they may become new in nature and appearance in God's new universe (2 Pet. 3:13). Thus, what kind of persons ought we, the children of the holy God, to be in holy manner of life and godliness; that is, what kind of transformation ought we to have to live a life in the manner of God's holy nature and godliness to express Him so that we may be qualified to match His holy government? How wonderful that the divine power has provided us with all things that are needed to live such a life in the holy manner and godliness (1:3).

While we live a transformed life in a holy and godly manner, we are expecting, awaiting, and hastening the coming of the day of God. Knowing that God is so holy as to dissolve all things, we ought to be in a holy manner of life and godliness as we expect and hasten the coming of the day of God. Not only do we expect the day of God—we would hasten it. (*Life-Study of 2 Peter, Msg. 12*)

**Week 4 Day 1 1 John 1:1-4**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The Greek word means *joint participation, common participation*. Fellowship is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal life and is actually the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal life within all the believers, who have received and possess the divine life. It is illustrated by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the water of life in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1). All genuine \_\_\_\_\_ are in this fellowship (Acts 2:42). It is carried on by the \_\_\_\_\_ in our regenerated spirit. Hence, it is called "the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit" (2 Cor. 13:14) and "fellowship of [our] spirit" (Phil. 2:1). We enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son by virtue of the fellowship of the Spirit. (See 1 John 1:3 note 3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph )

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 1-5.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 2 1 John 1:5-7**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

In 1 John 1:5-7, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ in our spiritual life, a cycle formed of four crucial things — the eternal \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal life, the divine light, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus the Son of God. Eternal life issues in its fellowship, the fellowship of eternal life brings in the divine light, and the divine light increases the need for the blood of Jesus the Son of God that we may have more eternal life. Such a cycle brings us onward in the growth of the divine life until we reach the \_\_\_\_\_ of life. (See 1 John 1:7 note 3, paragraph 2)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 6-11.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 3 1 John 1:8-2:11**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

God is \_\_\_\_\_ in His word (v. 10) and \_\_\_\_\_ in the blood of Jesus His Son (v. 7). His word is the word of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His gospel (Eph. 1:13), which tells us that He will forgive us our sins because of Christ (Acts 10:43); and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ has fulfilled His righteous requirements that He might forgive us our sins (Matt. 26:28). If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, He, according to His word and based on the redemption through the blood of Jesus, forgives us because He must be faithful in His \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus; otherwise, He would be unfaithful and unrighteous. (*See 1 John 1:9 note 2*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 12-18.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 4 1 John 2:12-24**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

God created man to live on the earth for the fulfillment of His \_\_\_\_\_. But His enemy, \_\_\_\_\_, in order to usurp the God-created man, formed an anti-God world system on this earth by \_\_\_\_\_ men with religion, culture, education, industry, commerce, entertainment, etc., through men's \_\_\_\_\_ nature, in their lusts, pleasures, and pursuits, and even in their \_\_\_\_\_ in necessities for their living, such as food, clothing, housing, and transportation. The whole of such a satanic system lies in the \_\_\_\_\_ one (5:19). Not loving such a world is the ground for \_\_\_\_\_ the evil one. (*See 1 John 2:15 note 2*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 19-21.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 5 1 John 2:25-3:5**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

It is not an outward teaching by \_\_\_\_\_ but an inward teaching by \_\_\_\_\_, through our inner spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. This teaching by anointing adds the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of the Trinity, which are the elements of the anointing \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit, into our inner being. It is like the repeated painting of some article: the \_\_\_\_\_ not only indicates the color, but also by coat upon coat being added, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the paint are added to the thing painted. It is in this way that the Triune God is \_\_\_\_\_, infused, and added into all the inward parts of our being that our \_\_\_\_\_ man may grow in the divine life with the divine elements. (See 1 John 2:27 note 5)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 22-26.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 6 1 John 3:6-18**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please explain the meaning of “everyone who abides in Him does not sin”.
2. How are the children of God and the children of the devil manifested?
3. Please explain how love toward the brothers is the evidence that we have passed out of death into life.

Answer:

1. See 1 John 3:6 note 1, note 2.
2. See 1 John 3:10 note 1.
3. See 1 John 3:14 note 1.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 26-28.*

**Note:**

**Week 4 Day 7 1 John 3:19-4:6**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 3:24 And he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And in this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He gave to us.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

1 John 3:24 is the conclusion of 1 John 2:28-3:24, which begins in 2:28, on our \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord according to the teaching of the divine \_\_\_\_\_. This section reveals that abiding in the Lord is the living of the children of God by His eternal life as the divine \_\_\_\_\_, which grows in the practicing of the \_\_\_\_\_ of their begetting God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their begetting Father. Such an abiding and its bases — the divine \_\_\_\_\_ and the divine life as the divine \_\_\_\_\_ — are mysterious yet \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit. (See 1 John 3:24 note 1)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 29-33.*

**Note:**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE DIVINE LIFE**

The flowing of electricity is a good illustration of the fellowship of the divine life. Electricity flows from the power plant into a building. The electrical current connects the power plant to the building. Furthermore, in a lighted ceiling of a particular room in the building, the individual lights are connected to each other by the flow of the electrical current. Apart from the flow of the current, the lights in the ceiling are separate. But through the flow of electricity, the lights are brought into a “fellowship” with one another, for they are all in the one flow of electricity. This is an illustration of the fact that the apostles and the believers enjoy fellowship together in the divine life.

When we are in the divine fellowship, we are in the light, and when we are in the light, we are exposed by the light. The divine light is much stronger than an x-ray. This light exposes whatever is wrong in our being. As we walk in the light and practice the reality in the light, the light shines within us, upon us, and through us. Exposed by this shining, we realize that we are wrong in many matters. We may see that we are wrong in our thoughts, emotions, motives, and intentions. We may also see that we are wrong with certain brothers and sisters. Because we are exposed in this way, our conscience is condemned. In order to deal with this condemnation in our conscience, we need the cleansing of the Lord’s blood. It is when we are in the fellowship and under the light that we see our failures, mistakes, wrongdoings, impure motives, and evil intentions. But at this very juncture, the blood of the Lord Jesus cleanses us from every sin.

In 1:1-7 we see a cycle in our spiritual life formed of four crucial things—the eternal life, the fellowship of the eternal life, the divine light, and the blood of Jesus the Son of God. Eternal life issues in the fellowship of the divine life, the fellowship of eternal life brings in the divine light, and the divine light increases the need of the blood of Jesus the Son of God so that we may have more eternal life. The more we have of eternal life, the more of its fellowship it brings to us. The more fellowship of the divine life we enjoy, the more divine light we receive. The more divine light we receive, the more we participate in the cleansing of the blood of Jesus. Such a cycle brings us onward in the growth of the divine life until we reach its maturity. (Life-Study of 1 John, Msg. 5, 8)

**Week 5 Day 1 1 John 4:7-21**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 4:12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

In God Himself the love of God itself is perfect and complete. However, in us it needs to be perfected and completed in its \_\_\_\_\_. It was manifested to us in God's sending of His Son to be both a propitiatory \_\_\_\_\_ and life to us (vv. 9-10). Yet if we do not love \_\_\_\_\_ with this love as it was manifested to us, that is, if we do not express it by loving one another with the love with which God loved us, it is not \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly and completely. This love is perfected and completed in its manifestation when we express it in our living by habitually loving one another with it. (*See 1 John 4:12 note 4*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 34-35.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 2 1 John 5:1-13**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Jesus, the man of Nazareth, was attested to be the \_\_\_\_ of God by the \_\_\_\_ He went through in His baptism, by the \_\_\_\_ He shed on the cross, and also by the \_\_\_\_ He gave not by measure. By these three God has \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is His Son given to us, that in Him we may receive His eternal life by believing into His \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of baptism \_\_\_\_\_ people of the old creation by burying them; the \_\_\_\_\_ shed on the cross redeems those whom God has chosen from among the old creation; and the Spirit, who is the truth, the reality in life, \_\_\_\_\_ those whom God has redeemed out of the old creation, by regenerating them with the divine life. (*See 1 John 5:6 note 1*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 35-36.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 3 1 John 5:14-21**

**I. Key Verse:**

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. Please explain “to ask to give life”.
2. What is a “sin unto death”?
3. Please explain the significance of “this is the true God”.

Answer:

1. See 1 John 5:16 note 3.
2. See 1 John 5:16 note 5.
3. See 1 John 5:20 note 8.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 1 John Message 37-40.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 4 2 John 1-13**

**I. Key Verse:**

2 John 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

*Truth* denoting the divine reality of the gospel, especially concerning the person of \_\_\_\_\_ as revealed in John's Gospel and first Epistle, that is, that Christ is both God and man, having both \_\_\_\_\_ and humanity, possessing both the divine nature and the human nature, to express God in \_\_\_\_\_ life. The second and third Epistles of John stress this truth. The second warns the faithful believers against \_\_\_\_\_ those who do not abide in this truth — in the teaching concerning Christ. The third encourages the believers to receive and help those who work for this \_\_\_\_\_. (*See 2 John 1 note 5*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 2 John Message 1-2.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 5 3 John 1-14**

**I. Key Verse:**

3 John 8 We therefore ought to support such ones that we may become fellow workers in the truth.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Truth Quiz:**

1. How does one's soul prosper?
2. What aspect of the truth is "steadfastness in the truth" especially referring to?
3. How may we also become fellow workers in the truth?

Answer:

1. See 3 John 2 note 5.
2. See 3 John 3 note 2.
3. See 3 John 8 note 2.

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of 3 John Message 1-2.*

**Note:**

**Week 5 Day 6 Jude 1-10**

**I. Key Verse:**

Jude 3 Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you and exhort you to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

**II. Your Favorite Verses:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

Not \_\_\_\_\_ faith as our believing but \_\_\_\_\_ faith as our belief, referring to the things we believe in, the contents of the \_\_\_\_\_ as our \_\_\_\_\_, in which we believe for our common \_\_\_\_\_. This faith, not any doctrine, has been \_\_\_\_\_ once for all to the saints. For this \_\_\_\_\_ we should earnestly contend. (*See Jude 3 note 3*)

**IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Jude Message 1-2.*

**Note:**

## Week 5 Day 7 Jude 11-25

### I. Key Verses:

- Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,  
Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

### II. Your Favorite Verses: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The truth of the \_\_\_\_\_ in our apprehension and the Holy Spirit enjoyed through our \_\_\_\_\_ are necessary for our \_\_\_\_\_ up. Both the faith and the Spirit are holy.

We should keep ourselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God by \_\_\_\_\_ up ourselves upon our holy faith and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Spirit; thus we await and look for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord that we may not only enjoy eternal life in \_\_\_\_\_ but also inherit it for \_\_\_\_\_. (See Jude 20 note 2, 21 note 1)

### IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of Jude Message 2-5.*

#### Note:

## PRACTICING THE DIVINE LOVE

Love is the essence of God's nature. When we have Him as our divine life, we have the nature of this life, which is love. We Christians, the children of God, have a life that aspires to live rightly with everyone and everything and also aspires to love others. We have such an aspiration because of the divine nature within us.

In 3:16 John says ... that Christ laid down His soul life, His psuche life, for us, not His divine life, His zoe life. For Christ to lay down His soul for us means that He laid down His human life on our behalf. Now we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers. This means that, if necessary, we should die for them. We have within us such a loving life that longs to die for others and is able to die for them. The divine life within us, the zoe, longs to love others and even die for them if necessary. We are able to do this because we have the divine life.

The livelihood of the world in verse 17 refers to material things, to the necessities of life. In verse 18, deed is versus word, and truth versus tongue. Tongue denotes the play of vain talk. Truth denotes the reality of love. Truth denotes sincerity, in contrast with tongue, as deed with word. Truth here denotes the genuineness, the sincerity, of God as a divine virtue becoming a human virtue as an issue of the divine reality. Therefore, the truth in this verse is the reality of God becoming our virtue.

John says that we should not love the brothers merely in word or in tongue, not merely telling the saints that we love them. This is not love in truth, love in reality. To love the saints in truth or reality means to love them in the divine reality that becomes our virtue, something that is honest, faithful, sincere, and real. We should love the brothers in this way. Of course, this kind of love in truth includes a love that supplies the needy ones with material things or money when necessary. We should not love the brothers with vain words; we should love them in truth and even with our livelihood. (Life-Study of 1 John, Msg. 27, 28)