



Through the Bible in 2007

a chronological study of the Bible for women

2 Timothy
2 Peter
Jude
1, 2 and 3 John
Rev. 1-4

Week 51

WE'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

These later letters seem to have a similar theme: Hold fast to what you already have and build on it. Don't listen to lies that contradict what you know and Who you know. We've already been given everything we need to live a life that will please God. All we need to do is take our relationship with Christ and let it flourish and grow in us. We are equipped to love others because of the experience we have with God's love. If anyone tells us different, then we are not to fall for it. We come from God and belong to God and therefore we have exactly what it takes to grow in His qualities. God's Spirit in us is stronger than anything that the world can throw our way.

What are some of those qualities listed in 2 Peter 1:5-9? _____

What does 1 John 4:7 say distinguishes those who experience a relationship with God? _____

What clinches our gift of eternal life according to 1 John 5:4-13? _____

What does Jude tell us to do in defense of our faith in verses 3-4? _____

We know that at least Paul and Peter expected to die soon. Their remaining words gain an importance and urgency. What they want to share with their brothers and sisters in Christ is the challenge to live in the abundance that we have already been given with a commitment to what matters most that cannot be shaken. They want us to know that we already have what it takes to live godly, loving, and obedient lives...right now. We don't have to wait on anything more to be in place. What remains is for us to apply the benefits to our lives. Our faith leads to a life of goodness, which leads us to know God better, which leads to self-control, and so on until we grow to have a genuine love for everyone. We have what it takes.

Daily Reading Plan:

__ 2 Timothy
__ 2 Peter
__ Jude
__ 1 John
__ 2 & 3 John
__ Rev. 1-4
__ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

Revelation 5-22

MEMORY VERSE:

**"For God did not give
us a spirit of timidity,
but of power, of love
and of
self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7**

2 TIMOTHY

It's so easy to lose our fervor. Day in, day out, ministry of any sort can be so unglamorous, and without his mentor perhaps Timothy was losing some of his zeal. From the admonishments that Paul gives Timothy in this second letter to him, that seems to at least be Paul's concern.

What encouragement does Paul give Timothy in these verses?

1:6,7 _____

1:8 _____

1:13,14 _____

2:11 _____

2:22 _____

2:23-25 _____

4:2 _____

Which of these do you most need to hear?

Why was it so important to Paul that Timothy carry on the ministry? _____

Who is counting on you to continue to grow God's kingdom? _____

NERO

Nero was a mess. He became emperor at age 16. When the capable advice of his mother interfered with his wishes, he had her killed. His first wife was falsely accused of adultery, divorced and executed. His next wife was kicked in the stomach in a fit of rage and died, along with the child she carried. The Roman Empire was weakened by Britain's revolt and then four years later a fire destroyed most of Rome. The unstable Nero found a handy scapegoat in the Christians who he subjected to all kinds of tortures. (Potter 66-68) Tradition holds that both Peter and Paul were killed in this time period: Peter crucified upside down, and Paul beheaded instead because of his Roman citizenship. (Lashway 1)

The first time that Paul was in prison in Rome, he lived in relative comfort under house arrest and was able to conduct a vibrant ministry and write many letters. This time conditions were more difficult.

What does he say this time (2 Tim. 4:6-8)? _____

Who was he surrounded by (2 Tim. 4:9-12,16)? _____

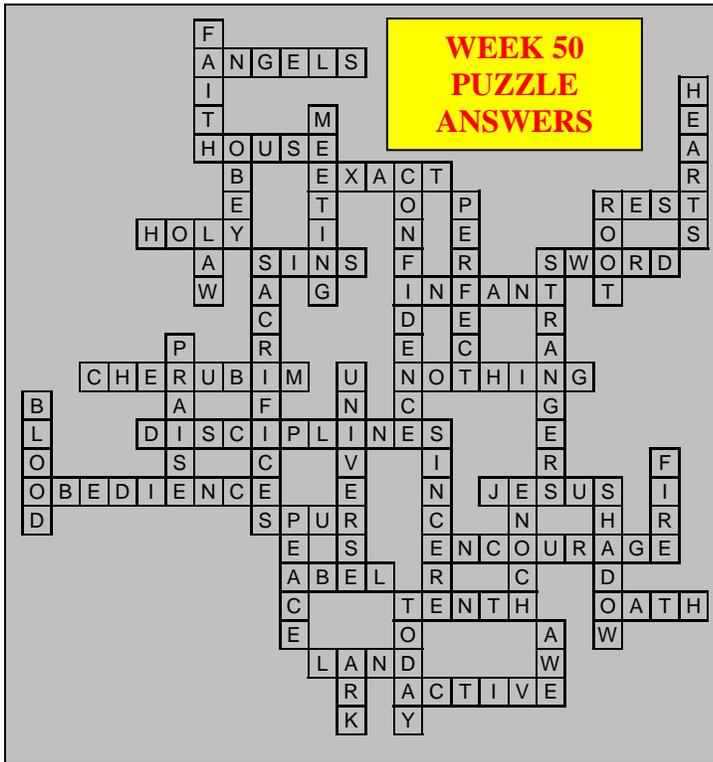
A GODLY HERITAGE 2 Tim. 1:5

Have you had people like Lois and Eunice in your life? Even more important, are **you** a Lois or Eunice in someone's life? Even if you have no children or grandchildren, what child or young adult do you have the opportunity to pass on your spiritual heritage to? If you don't have an opportunity, are you making one?

FALSE ADVERTISING 2 Peter

We don't talk much about false prophets today, but they are just as present and active as they have ever been. The tactic is still the same. Take the truth and twist it into a half truth that turns it into a counterfeit of the real thing. Take legitimate God given longings and provide a counterfeit and temporary fulfillment whose appeal can only be its immediacy. The world promises us so many things and the church is not immune to its lure because it sounds *almost* right. Sam Van Emen, in his book On Earth as it is in Advertising, coins an appropriate word for this: the "SimGospel", which he defines as "all messages that simulate the biblical narrative through advertising and popular media for the purpose of selling products and ideas." (Eman) The message of the false prophets that Peter warned against may not have been so different. They twisted God's message into something that had enough ring of truth, and enough false appeal, to make people buy into it.

What advice does Peter give us in 2 Peter 3:17, 18? _____



JUDE

Jude expects us to be familiar with the events of the Old Testament. What is he referring to in each of these?

“the way of Cain” _____

“Balaam’s error” _____

“Korah’s rebellion” _____

How do we build ourselves up in faith (v.20)?

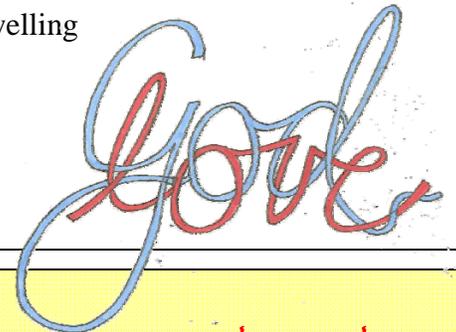
How do we keep ourselves in God’s love (v.21)? _____

WALKING IN THE TRUTH 1, 2, and 3 John

God’s word is true, but there is not room for it to include all truth. Jesus Himself said that He would have to send the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us in the truth. There is too much for our finite minds. Scripture is true, but which of us has the totally true interpretation and application of that truth? Can we have a respect for those who follow the truth even if their understanding is a bit different than ours? Where do we draw the line?

Truth is a big part of what John addresses in these short little letters, but the truth he seems most concerned with communicating is that God and love are inseparably intertwined. One is not present without the other. We cannot love God and hate our brother. The Spirit’s Presence with us makes us able to come together in love to be His dwelling place. Love among us is the evidence of God among us.

Why do you think that John says that perfect love drives out fear?



WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

NERO p. 2

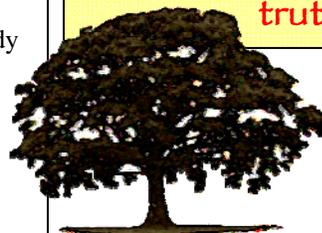
Potter, David. Emperors of Rome. London: Quercus, 2007.

Lashway, Calvin. "How did the Apostle Paul die?." BibleStudy.org 13 DEC 2007 <<http://www.biblestudy.org/question/sauldie.html>>.

FALSE ADVERTISING p. 2

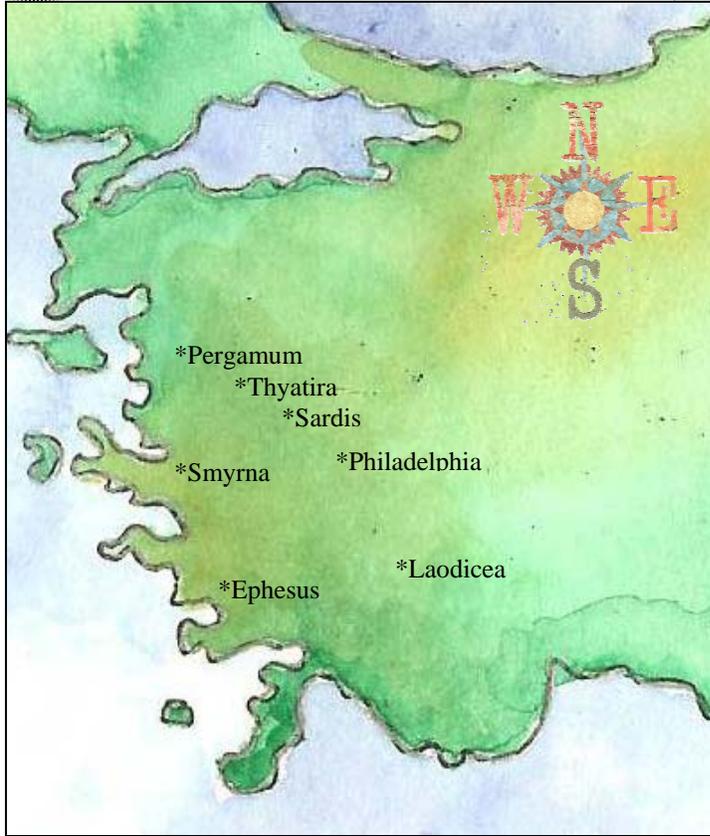
Eman, Sam Van. On Earth as it is in Advertising. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005.

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” 3 John 4



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SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION



Why do you think that John was given a revelation about only these specific churches? _____

EPHESUS Rev. 2:1-7

What was the church in Ephesus commended for? _____

What did John admonish them to remember? _____

SMYRNA Rev. 2:8-11

In what way was the church at Smyrna rich? _____

PERGAMUM Rev. 2:12-17

Who does John say lives in their city? _____

THYATIRA Rev. 2:18-29

Who is Jezebel? _____

SARDIS Rev. 3:1-6

Why does John tell them to wake up? _____

PHILADELPHIA Rev. 3:7-13

What reward does John say is in store for these people? _____

LAODICEA Rev. 3:14-22

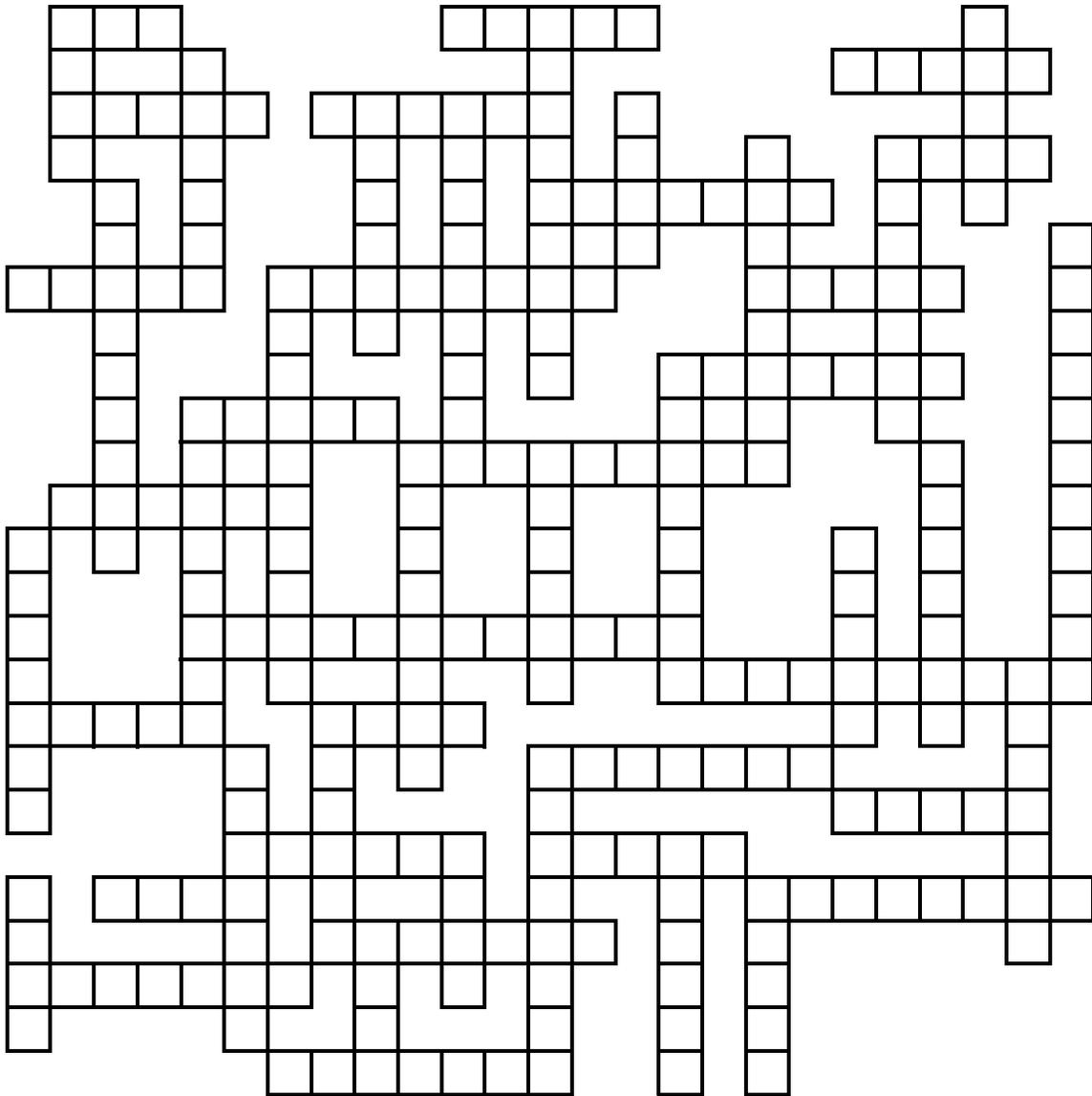
What did their deeds say about them? _____

Which church is yours most like? _____



PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 1 Genesis 1-11



Make your own crossword using these people and place names from:

2 Timothy
2 Peter
Jude
3 John

Alexander
Antioch
Aquila
Asia
Balaam
Bosor
Cain
Carpus
Claudia
Corinth
Crescans
Dalmatia
David
Demas

Demetrius
Diotrephes
Enoch
Ephesus
Erastus
Eubulus
Eunice
Gaius
Galatia
Gomorrhah
Hermogenes
Hymenaeus
Iconium
Jambres

Jannes
Jude
Korah
Linus
Lois
Lot
Luke
Lystra
Miletus
Moses
Noah
Onesiphorus
Paul
Peter

Philetus
Phygelus
Prisca
Pudens
Rome
Sodom
Tartarus
Thessalonica
Timothy
Titus
Troas
Trophimus
Tychicus