Notes

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The Daily Bible Reader 2015

NOVEMBER 2015
GENERAL EPISTLES

General Epistles

Memory Verse: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."* *James 1:5*

Schedule

November 1-7
1 Peter 1-5

November 8-14
2 Peter 1- Jude 3

November 15-21
James 1-5

November 22-28
Proverbs 1-7

November 29, 30
Proverbs 8,9

We will be reading through the General Epistles. We've also added the first nine chapters of Proverbs at the end of the month. Our schedule is divided into weekly readings. By read- ing at least one chapter each day you should be able to finish the readings each week. May God bless you as you feast on his Word each day!

Unlike the letters of Paul, the general epistles, are named after the author who wrote them. These letters are found near the end of the New Testament. For the most part they are ad- dressed to the saints in general or to a group of churches. We will read all of these letters except the letters of John. We will save I,II,&III John for next month.

Peter's first letter is written to Christians facing persecution. To encourage them Peter reminds them of their heavenly inheritance and encourages them to live their lives in submission to God's will. The letter may be divided into three sections: 1) the salvation of believers (1:1-2:12), 2) the submission of believers (2:13-3:12), and 3) the suffering of the believer (3:13-5:14). Christ is presented as the believer's example of suffering (2:21), and hope in times of suffering. (4:1)

Peter's second letter is written to Christians facing internal opposition. His second letter focuses on false teachers and their "destructive heresies". (2:1) The letter may be divided into three parts: 1) the cultivation of Christian character (ch. 1), 2) the con- demnation of false teachers (ch.2), and 3) the confidence of Christ's return (ch. 3). As they cultivate Christian character, disciples must also grow in the knowledge of God's word. The trustworthy character of God's word is stressed in chapter 1. The immoral lives and character of false teachers is stressed in chapter two. The need to prepare for Christ's return is stressed in chapter 3. The book of Jude closely parallels the thoughts of chapter two of II Peter.

James integrates true faith with the everyday practical experience. James is called the Proverbs of the New Testament because of its terse style. Faith and wisdom are woven together in the thoughts of this book. Because of its many subjects, James is difficult outline. Here are three possible divisions: 1) the test of faith (ch. 1:1-18), 2) the characteristics of faith (ch. 1:19-5:6), 3) the triumph of faith (5:7-20).

The first nine chapters of Proverbs will hopefully supplement the readings in James. In these chapters we are introduced to the purpose of Proverbs and to the contrast between wisdom and folly.

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