

Overview of the General Epistles

Morning Devotions

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

Morning Study

In our morning studies so far, we've explored a significant portion of the New Testament. All we have left in our New Testament studies is the book of **Romans** (which is the focus of the **Module 109** evening studies), the **four Gospel accounts**, the book of **Acts** and the book of **Revelation**. We will be looking at the remaining New Testament books later in the Biblical Studies Course.

In your next morning study, we will begin reading the Old Testament, starting with the book of **Genesis**. But before we do this, let's look again at the General Epistles that we have studied so far. Spend a moment to memorize their order:

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

See if you can answer for yourself the following questions:

- Which two books were probably written by the flesh-and-blood brothers of the Lord Jesus?
- Who are the four most likely authors of the book of **Hebrews**?
- What would you say makes the book of **Hebrews** different from the other General Epistles?
- What recurring theme do you find in the three letters written by John?
- In which letter does the writer say: "And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things"?
- In which letter does the writer say: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good"?
- In which letter does the writer say: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance"?
- In which letter does the writer say: "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints"?

Memory Verse

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Hebrews 13:5-6

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

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!