



TITLE: BNT-215_GENERAL_EPISTLES DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2010 – 8 JANUARY 2011

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TEXT:

Expositor's Bible Commentary. (Abridged), by Barker, K.L. (You need only to bring the NT volume to class.)

Nelson's NKJV Study Bible.

DESCRIPTION:

The books of James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude are sometimes called the "General" or "Catholic Epistles" since some of them are addressed to a broad readership rather than to specific congregations. This course covers these non-Pauline Epistles, with the exception of Hebrews. The author, date, purpose and message of James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, and Jude will be examined. In the study of I & II Peter and Jude emphasizing the believers' suffering and glory and their need to stand against false teaching and false teachers will be discussed.

GOALS:

I. James	II. I Peter	III. II Peter	IV. I John	V. II John	VI. III John	VIII. Jude
A. The Christ of James B. Keys of James C. Survey of James D. Outline of James E. Special Features F. James- Faith For Living G. Prominent Subjects H. Application I. Outline J. Synopsis K. Overall Theme L. Theme Chart for James M. Some Truths James Teaches N. Conclusion	A. Outline of Peter B. The Christ of I Peter C. Keys of I Peter D. Survey of I Peter E. I Peter- Trials, Holy Living, and The Lord's Coming F. The Man Peter G. The Character and Personality of Peter H. Background I. Prominent Subjects J. Synopsis K. Christ Shown in Peter L. Seven Precious Things M. The Lamb in Scripture N. Theme O. Outline P. Detailed Study Q. Conclusion	A. Outline of II Peter B. Background C. I and II Peter Compared D. Prominent Subjects E. The Christ of II Peter F. Keys to II Peter G. Survey of II Peter H. Special Features I. Synopsis J. Overall Theme K. Outline L. Conclusion	A. Outline of I John B. The Epistles of John C. Name D. Birth E. Family F. Education G. Death H. Character I. Author J. Addressees K. Occasion and Purpose L. Prominent Subjects M. Survey N. Special Features O. Synopsis P. The Christ of I John Q. Keys to I John R. Survey of I John S. Overall Theme of I John T. Conclusion	Truth, and the Christian A. Background B. Author C. Addressees D. Date and Place E. Written F. Canonicity G. Occasion and Purpose H. Date I. Truth J. The Commandment of Love K. Warnings Against Deceivers M. Outline N. Synopsis O. The Christ of II John P. Keys to II John Q. Survey of II John R. Special Features S. Overall Theme T. Conclusion	Spiritual Health and Prosperity A. Background B. Author C. Addressees D. Occasion E. Purpose F. Date G. Salutation H. Helping the Brethren I. A Rebuke J. A Good Testimony K. Conclusion L. Prominent Subjects M. Outline N. Synopsis O. The Christ of III John P. Keys to III John Q. Survey of III John R. Truth Jude Teaches S. Action Jude Invites T. Conclusion	A. Background B. Author C. Addressees D. Date E. Occasion and Purpose F. Canonicity G. References to Old Testament History H. Salutation I. Judgment on False Teachers J. Exhortations to Christians K. Benediction L. Prominent Subjects M. Synopsis N. Survey O. Special Features P. Overall Theme Q. Theme Chart for Jude R. Truth Jude Teaches S. Action Jude Invites T. Key to Joyful Worship

REQUIREMENTS:

A term paper consisting of 2-4 written pages addressing the following list for each General Epistle will be required on the date of the last class. A minimum of two outside sources must be cited other than the Study Guide and the Bible. The Reading Log should show a minimum of 250 pages outside reading. It is an absolute requirement of this course that the final revision you submit be, in the judgment of the instructor, a thorough and responsible piece of scholarship, representing college-level work both in form and in content. Use the E.B.C. text first to answer these questions, then other resources if needed. Complete sentences are absolutely necessary in your responses to the first ten items. The exceptions to this are the five lists.

- Who wrote the epistle?
- To whom was it written?
- Where did the author write it?
- When was it written?
- What was the occasion or reason for writing?
- What was the purpose for which it was written?
- What were the circumstances of the author when it was written?
- What were the circumstances of those to whom it was written?
- What glimpse or ideas does this epistle give regarding the life, character, and purpose of the author?
- What are the characteristics, themes, or ideas of the epistle?

Construct the following five lists from your reading in the Expositor's Bible Commentary (*not all items will be found in each epistle*).

This will be part of your Term Paper. We can discuss these in class if you do these lists before we discuss the next epistle!

- Initial Observations on things new to you,
- Words or Phrases to Study that are new to you,
- People, Places, and Things to Study,
- Historical and Cultural Issues to Study, and
- Theological and Doctrinal Issues to Study.

RESOURCES:

GOOD READING DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE TOPIC IN ADDITION TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IN THE STUDY GUIDE.
 (ALL BOOKS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.SOTL.ORG/PUBLIC/ICBT/ICBT.HTM, SEE: CHRISTIAN BOOKS OR AMAZON.COM)
A Bible Commentary for English Readers. Cassell and Company, 1905.
Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament (New Testament Edition Based on the New International Version). John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck, ed.
 Chariot Victor Books, n.l.; (1987)
 Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Letter of James.* Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1995.
 Marshal, I. Howard. *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel.* InterVarsity Press, 2004.
And many other commentaries dealing with the General Epistles.
 These are not required reading for the class. However, you should make an effort to do a great deal of outside reading.

COURSE SCHEDULE

BNT-215 – GENERAL EPISTLES

23 OCTOBER 2010 – 8 JANUARY 2011

<u>WEEK: 8:00a.m.</u> – 4:30 p.m.	<u>SECTIONS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Week – 1 23 October 2010	Intro to Course Study Guide pp. 8 – 38 Epistle of James	Preparation for the course. For this class, do not answer the Homework Essays as they will be included in your term paper. Read Ahead for Assignments!
Week – 2 6 November 2010	Study Guide pp. 38 – 88 I & II Peter	Readings due: James. James issues instructions more profusely than any of the other writers. In the short space of 108 verses, there are forty-six commands (imperative forms). Homework (James) due. Quiz (covers James)
Week – 3 20 November 2010	Study Guide pp. 38 – 88 I & II Peter	Readings due: 1 & 2 Peter. I Peter Introduction. Peter is calling the Suffering Church to submission. ✪ II Peter Introduction. Peter is calling the Misguided Church to those who would destroy it from within its walls. Homework (1 & 2 Peter) due Quizzes (covers 1 & 2 peter) Midterm exam (James – 2 Peter)
Week – 4 4 December 2010	Study Guide pp. 88 – 134 I, II, III John	I, II, III John Introduction I John calls the Persevering Church to walk in Light, Love, and Faith. II John and III John call the Vigilant Church to the values of Love, Truth, and Joy.
Week – 5 18 December 2010	Study Guide pp. 88 – 134 I, II, III John	Readings due: I, II, III John. Homework (1,2,3 John) due Quizzes (1,2,3 John)
Week – 6 8 January 2011	Study Guide pp. 134 – 147 Jude TERM PAPER DUE	Readings due: Jude. Homework (Jude) due. Jude calls the Contending Church to fight heresy. Who are the apostates? What do they do? What are they? What must we do? Term paper due Final Exam (comprehensive)

EVALUATION: Attendance, homework, quizzes, tests, exams, term paper, reading log, and class participation. All students must evaluate the course itself by reporting, in writing, any errors or discrepancies in the course material. This includes any printed matter that accompanies the study guide such as that mentioned in this paragraph. All written work must be a formal word-processed document. It is to be double-spaced, one inch margins on all sides, left justified, 12 point font, Arial or Times New Roman, 0.5 indented paragraphs and free of grammatical and spelling errors, have a cover sheet, and a works cited page. *****Each Spiritual essay, as applicable, should be one page, typed, one-inch margins, and double-spaced. If you do not have access to a typewriter or a computer, you will be hand-writing your paper, then each paper needs to be two pages. To complete this step of the homework you will hand in either one or two pages for each spiritual essay depending on handwritten or typed.

STUDY ASSISTANCE: As outlined in class and during "office hours."
 →Citing Biblical References primer— http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Biblical_References.htm
 →Grammar & Writing for Seminarians— <http://www.crossmarks.com/resources/grammarwrite.htm>
 →Guidelines and Tips for Written Exercises— <http://catholic-resources.org/Courses/WritingTips.htm>

These are helpful sources in writing your required term paper for the class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY: You are strongly encouraged to study together with other students, and you may always use any books and other resources to help you learn. However, all written work must be your own, unless you are directly citing from sources that you properly credit. Copying from any other person, any book, or anything on the internet (even if you change a few words), without properly referencing your sources, is considered plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the entire course.