



Syllabus

Course: Mastering the English Bible: The General Epistles

Student: _____ **Instructor/Proctor:** _____

Pictorial Bible PowerPoints for this course can be found on the Media List at <https://www.wayoflife.org/media/>

Course Description: - A highlights course on Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, and Jude. The General Epistles form a large part of the New Testament faith and contain instruction essential for every individual believer, every Christian home, and every church. As a part of "all Scripture," these epistles are necessary to make the believer 'perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works' (2 Ti. 3:16-17). Major themes include Christ's vicarious atonement, Christ's High Priesthood, the new covenant's superiority to the old, the divine inspiration of Scripture, the definition and priority of faith, the new birth, election, the proper place of works in justification, patience in trials, the danger of the world, the control of the tongue, divine healing through prayer, the life of holiness, the pilgrim walk, spiritual warfare, marriage, the church as a spiritual house, persecution, separation, pastoral authority and ministry, spiritual growth. Another major theme is Bible prophecy, particularly last days scoffers, the imminent return of Christ, the day of the Lord, and the new heaven and new earth.

Texts Required:

The King James Bible

Mastering the English Bible: The General Epistles by David W. Cloud

Additional Material (Suggested):

Pictorial Bible (PowerPoints/Keynotes) *see link above*

General Course Procedure:

Review Questions are "open Book"

Tests are to be taken "closed Book"

Reading assignments - As the student reads the material in the book, the corresponding review questions are to be answered. Key verses appearing on review questions should be memorized.

Additional Resources (presentations, maps, etc.) should be studied.

Review for test - The student should study the material until the Review Questions can be answered without having to look up the answer.

Tests - The student will take tests during the course. There is a final test to complete at the end of the course. The questions will be short answer and will be based on the review questions.

Evaluation:

The grade will be the average score of three tests.

100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; below 70 = D (failing)

The Necessity of a Supervisor (Proctor) - If the student is taking the course by himself and not as part of a class, it is imperative that he or she find someone to supervise the studies. The supervisor can be a relative, pastor, teacher, or friend. The individual must be capable, dependable, and committed to the task of supervising the student's progress through the course. This entails (1) making sure that the student completes the studies in a timely fashion, (2) checking the assignments, and (3) overseeing the testing.

Schedule: This course may be taken at a pace which is decided by the student. If the student has a Supervisor (proctor) all timeframes and requirements should be fully agreed upon before the student begins the course.

To encourage a steady progress to finish the course, it is suggested that at the end of each week the student should complete a self-report. This report should reflect the work that was accomplished. A determination should be made as to if the student is on schedule.

Course outline: A suggested course outline is provided on the last page of this syllabus.

Student Assignments (optional): The projects are carefully designed to help the student get the most benefit from the course. It is essential that the student do these projects. If you can't do all of these projects during the course on the the General Epistles, we would urge you to aim to do them later. Projects like this keep the student moving forward and making progress in his Bible study career. By pursuing projects like these, you won't sit down and not know what to do with your Bible study time after you finish your daily reading. You must read the Bible, and you must study the Bible. Both are necessary, as we explain in *The Effectual Bible Student* (a basic course) and *Understanding the Bible for Yourself* (a more advanced course).

- Study each epistle in the following manner: **First, read the epistle two times.** As you read, look for the main theme and the main divisions (the outline) and write them down. **Second, answer the following questions:** Who is the author of this epistle? What are some things you know about this man? Who is the recipient of the epistle? What was the situation, if it is possible to determine? **Third, study the Mastering the English Bible introduction to the epistle.** Underline the lessons in our introduction that you did not know before. Compare our outline of the epistle with your outline. **Fourth, make your own commentary on the first chapter of the epistle.** Outline the chapter by the main points or divisions or segments. Define all doctrinal words (such as "glory," "grace," "righteous," "godly," "sin," "wisdom," "justice," "hell," "mercy," "hope," "justify," "sanctify," "beseech," "profane," "vain," "immortal," "meek") and words that have changed meaning since 1611 ("quicken") and difficult words ("science falsely so called," "superfluity of naughtiness"). Explain every difficult statement in the chapter. Then write all of the lessons you can find from each major segment. **Fifth, study the textbook commentary on the epistle.** Make a list of major things you learned from this study that you did not know before.
- Find all passages in the General Epistles that are prophecies of future events, write them out, and list the main lessons from each passage.
- Complete the review questions.
- Take the tests and find the answer to each question that you missed.

Review Questions: The review questions are designed to draw the student's attention to the most important points of the lessons and to help him remember these after the course is finished. They are also designed to prepare the student for the tests. The student should first go through the review questions and try to answer them without the textbook. Afterward, he should go back and find the answers using the textbook. Finally, he should check his answers against the review question answer sheet.

Study Plan: You may study and complete the course at your own pace. The important thing is to set a daily schedule and stick to it. God requires first place ("But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," Mt. 6:33). And since He has magnified His Word above His very name (Ps. 138:2), it is evident that He intends that we should make the study of His Word the very highest priority. Tips: 1.) Make Bible study a high priority, 2.) Establish a time, 3.) Establish a place, 4.) Have your study tools at hand, 5.) Set a schedule and stick to it.

We offer a course plan simply as reference. It has 50 "sessions." If you complete a session a day it will take 50 days to complete the course. If you complete a session every two days it will take 100 days to complete the course. Make the plan your own. Perhaps you prefer to build in a "day off" or an extra study day to review before a test. Make a plan that works for you and **be faithful to it.**

This is a quite a detailed course so you may elect to define a "session" as three or four days. There are a lot of review questions so be sure to cover and be able to answer the review questions as you move from day to day. You need to be covering review questions daily. You cannot limit your time to a single review day just before the test.

To help you plan, the Course Plan shows the "total pages" of the book that each test covers. Also given are the total Review Questions for each section of test material and the number of answers on each test. Test questions may have multiple-part answers.

Suggested Course Plan begins next page.

General Epistles - 50 Session Course Plan (suggestion)

Session	start page	end page	total pages	Stop/Start Reading	Review Questions	No. of Test Answers
1	7	13	6	Introductory Material		
2	16	45	29	Hebrews Chap 1 and 2	53	
3				Review		
4				Hebrews Chap. 1 and 2 Test		32
5	45	64	20	Hebrews Chap. 3 to 6	49	
6				Review		
7				Hebrews Chap. 3 to 6 Test		21
8	65	80	16	Hebrews Chap. 7 to 9	43	
9				Review		
10				Hebrews 7 to 9 Test		26
11	80	114	35	Hebrews Chap 10 to 13	75	
12				Review		
13				Hebrews 10 to 13 Test		41
14	115	135		James 1	82	
15				Review		
16				James 1 Test		26
17	135	155		James Chap 2 to 5	64	
18				Review		
19				James 2 to 5 Test		31
20	156	186		1 Peter intro. & chap. 1	96	
21				Review		
22				Test 1 Peter Intro. Chap 1		28
23	186	205		1 Peter chap. 2	62	
24				Review		
25				Test 1 Peter 2		37
26	205	223		1 Peter chap. 3-5	46	
27				Review		
28				1 Peter 3-5 Test		40
29	224	245		2 Peter chap. 1-2	72	
30				Review		
31				2 Peter 1-2 Test		41
32	245	255		2 Peter chap. 3	31	
33				Review		

General Epistles - 50 Session Course Plan (suggestion)

Session	start page	end page	Stop/Start Reading	Review Questions	No. of Test Answers
34			2 Peter chap. 3 Test		19
35	256	270	1 John chapter 1	42	
36			Review		
37			1 John 1 Test		26
38	270	299	1 John chapter 2 to 5	74	
39			Review		
40			1 John 2-5 Test		36
41	300	315	2 John, 3 John	44	
42			Review		
43			2 John, 3 John Test		27
44	316	339	Jude	47	
45			Review		
46			Jude Test		16
47			Final Review		
48			Final Review		
49			Final Review		
50			Final Test		98