

Topic Eight

WORKSHOP ON LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

Those serving in the book service in the church should have a clear view and understanding of the burden, structure, and use of the Life-study messages. The basic content of the Life-study is a book by book and verse by verse study of the Bible. Below is a list of the books of the New Testament and the number of Life-study messages given for each book.

Section 1 Knowing the Content of the Life-study

Please review this listing and consider the content and the number of messages in each Life-study. Consider how this knowledge may be a help to your shepherding those who are considering reading the Life-study. For example, do you know how many Life-study messages cover the genealogy of Christ? Or, why is Ephesians 67 The Conclusion when there are 97 messages in the complete Life-study?

Life-study Messages by the Number in Each Book:

Matthew 72	Ephesians 97	Hebrews 69	
Mark 70	Philippians 62	James 14	
Luke 79	Colossians 65	1 Peter 34	
John 51	1 Thessalonians 24	2 Peter 13	
Acts 72	2 Thessalonians 7	1 John 40	
Romans 69	1 Timothy 12	2 John 2	
1 Corinthians 69	2 Timothy 8	3 John 2	
2 Corinthians 59	Titus 6	Jude 5	
Galatians 46	Philemon 2	Revelation 68	
Genesis 120	1&2 Kings 23	S of S 10	Obadiah 1
Exodus 185	1&2 Chron 13	Isaiah 54	Jonah 1
Leviticus 64	Ezra 5	Jeremiah 40	Micah 4
Numbers 53	Nehemiah 5	Lamentations 4	Nahum 1
Deuteronomy 30	Esther 2	Ezekiel 27	Habakkuk 3
Joshua 15	Job 38	Daniel 17	Zephaniah 1
Judges 10	Psalms 45	Hosea 9	Haggai 1
Ruth 8	Proverbs 8	Joel 7	Zechariah 15
1&2 Samuel 38	Ecclesiastes 2	Amos 3	Malachi 4

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Section 2 Correlation with the Recovery Version of the Bible

The Recovery Version of the New Testament cross references and footnotes, the outline of the New Testament, and the Life-study of the New Testament were developed, written, and spoken concurrently. Therefore the understanding of the New Testament, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, is opened up by the ministry through the study of the outline in coordination with the Life-study concerning the respective passage of the New Testament.

An example of this correlation is in 1 Peter. Notice how the outline points match many of the titles of the Life-study series.

The First Epistle of Peter - 34 Life-studies

Subject - The Christian Life under the Government of God

I. Introduction — to the sojourning believers under the operation of the Triune God — 1:1-2, **Life-study 1-2.**

II. The full salvation of the Triune God and its issues — 1:3-25, **Life-study 3-14.**

A. The Father's regeneration — unto a living hope, an inheritance kept in the heavens and ready to be revealed at the last time — vv. 3-9

B. The Spirit's application — through the prophets' prophesying and the apostles' preaching — vv. 10-12

C. Christ's redemption — unto a holy life by the holy nature and unto brotherly love through purification by the sanctifying truth, based on regeneration by the incorruptible seed through the living word of God — vv. 13-25

III. Growth in life and its results — 2:1-10, **Life-study 15-18.**

A. Growing by feeding on the milk of the word unto full salvation — vv. 1-3

B. Transformed unto the building up of a spiritual house for God's dwelling, a holy priesthood for God's service — vv. 4-8

C. To tell out the virtues of the calling One — vv. 9-10

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- IV. The Christian life and its sufferings — 2:11 — 4:19, *Life-study 19-29.*
- A. A life in an excellent manner toward all men in all concerns — 2:11 — 3:13
 - 1. As sojourners among the Gentiles — 2:11-12
 - 2. Toward human institutions — 2:13-17
 - 3. Servants toward masters — 2:18-20
 - 4. The model of Christ — 2:21-25
 - 5. In marriage life — 3:1-7
 - 6. In common life — 3:8-13
 - B. Suffering for righteousness by the will of God as Christ did — 3:14-22
 - C. Arming themselves with the mind of Christ for suffering — 4:1-6
 - D. As good stewards of the varied grace of God — 4:7-11
 - E. Rejoicing in sharing the sufferings of Christ — 4:12-19
- Insertion of two Life-studies on God's Governmental Judgment , Life-study 30-31.*
- V. The elders' shepherding and its reward — 5:1-4, *Life-study 32.*
- A. The shepherding patterns — vv. 1-3
 - B. The Chief Shepherd's reward — v. 4
- VI. The mighty hand of God and its goal — 5:5-11, *Life-study 33-34.*
- A. Humbled under God's mighty hand — vv. 5-9
 - B. Perfected and grounded by the God of all grace — vv. 10-11
- VII. Conclusion — 5:12-14
- A. The testimony of the true grace of God — v. 12
 - B. Greetings — vv. 13- 14

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Workshop Exercise 1

Review the outline of Colossians below. Fill in the blank with the correlating Life-study Message number for the point in the outline of Colossians. Look for a Life-study with exact or similar title.

Book of Colossians—65 Life-studies

Colossians Outline

- I. Introduction — 1:1-8, _____
 - A. The apostle's greeting — vv. 1-2
The apostle's thanksgiving — vv. 3-8, _____
- II. The preeminent and all-inclusive One, the centrality and universality of God — 1:9 — 3:11, _____
 - A. The portion of the saints — 1:9-14, _____
 - B. The image of God and the Firstborn both in creation and in resurrection — 1:15-23, 8-10
 - C. The mystery of God's economy — 1:24-29, _____
 - D. The mystery of God — 2:1-7, _____
 - E. The body of all the shadows — 2:8-23, _____
 - F. The life of the saints — 3:1-4, _____
 - G. The constituents of the new man — 3:5-11, _____
- III. A living in union with Christ — 3:12 — 4:6
 - A. The arbitrating peace of Christ — 3:12-15, _____
 - B. The indwelling word of Christ — 3:16-17, _____
 - C. The expression of Christ in ethical relationships — 3:18 — 4:1
 - D. Praying with perseverance and walking in wisdom — 4:2-6, _____
- IV. Conclusion — 4:7-18, _____
 - A. The apostle's fellowship — vv. 7-17
 - B. The apostle's greeting — v. 18

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Group Discussion Questions

1. Which points on the outline do not have a corresponding Life-study message titles and why?
2. Why is LS 31 titled the Conclusion and yet there are 65 Life-study on Colossians?
3. Discuss how the crucial points of each book in the Bible are represented in the Life-study and why the series is called the Life-study of the Bible.
4. Consider how the book service in a church can learn more concerning the Life-study and how this can benefit all the saints in the pursuit of being constituted in the truth through the ministry of the age.

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Section 3 Chronology of the Life-study of the Bible

There is also a great benefit in understanding the chronology of the Life-study messages. Although the publications are printed in the order of the Bible, the Life-studies were given in a particular order according to burden.

Life-study Message Chronology												
Life-study Trainings			Ministry Station Msgs.			Life-study Trainings			Ministry Station Msgs.			
Book	Season	Year	Book	Month	Year	Book	Season	Year	Book	Month	Year	
Matthew (Genealogy)	Spring	1974	Genesis	April	1974	Leviticus (1)	Summer	1988				
Romans	Winter		"			Leviticus (2)	Winter					
John	Spring	1975	"			Numbers (1)	Summer	1989				
Hebrews (1)	Summer		"			Numbers (2)	Winter					
Hebrews (2)	Winter		"			Deuteronomy	Summer	1990				
Revelation (1)	Summer	1976	"			Isaiah	Winter					
Revelation (2)	Winter		"			Daniel & Zechariah	Summer	1991				
Matthew (1)	Summer	1977	"			Jeremiah & Lamentations	Winter					
Matthew (2)	Winter		"						Psalms	February	1992	
			"	March	1978	Minor Prophets	Summer	1992	"			
Ephesians (1)	Summer	1978				Job	Winter		"			
Ephesians (2)	Winter								"	June	1993	
			Exodus	February	1979	Joshua, Judges, & Ruth	Summer	1993				
Colossians	Summer	1979	"			1 & 2 Samuel	Winter					
Galatians	Winter		"			1 & 2 Kings	Summer	1994				
Philippians	Summer	1980	"			1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther	Winter					
1&2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon	Winter		"			Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs	Summer	1995				
1 Corinthians (1)	Summer	1981	"									
1 Corinthians (2) & 2 Corinthians (1)	Winter		"									
2 Corinthians (2) & 1&2 Thessalonians	Summer	1982	"									
1&2 Peter & Jude	Winter		"									
			"	April	1983							
1,2,&3 John	Summer	1983										
James & Mark	Winter											
Luke	Summer	1984										
Acts	Winter											
Conclusion, Part 1	Summer	1985										
Conclusion, Part 2	Winter											
Conclusion, Part 3	Summer	1986										
Conclusion, Part 4	Winter											

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Group Discussion Questions

1. Review the chart and find a year that was important in your life such as your birth year, when you were born again, when you were married, when you came to the church, or other milestones.
2. How did the Life-study impact your life during these years?
3. How does the chronology relate to your personal revelation of the truth in the New Testament?
4. How can this knowledge of the chronology help the book service to shepherd others into the full knowledge of the truth?
5. Discuss the historical significance of the order as it relates to the need in the churches.

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Key to Worksheet 1

Colossians Outline

- I. Introduction — 1:1-8, *Life-study 1-2*
 - A. The apostle's greeting — vv. 1-2
 - B. The apostle's thanksgiving — vv. 3-8, *Life-study 3*
- II. The preeminent and all-inclusive One, the centrality and universality of God — 1:9 — 3:11, *Life-study 5*
 - A. The portion of the saints — 1:9-14, *Life-study 6*
 - B. The image of God and the Firstborn both in creation and in resurrection — 1:15-23, 8-10
 - C. The mystery of God's economy — 1:24-29, *Life-study 14*
 - D. The mystery of God — 2:1-7, *Life-study 18-20*
 - E. The body of all the shadows — 2:8-23, *Life-study 24*
 - F. The life of the saints — 3:1-4, *Life-study 27*
 - G. The constituents of the new man — 3:5-11, *Life-study 28*
- III. A living in union with Christ — 3:12 — 4:6
 - A. The arbitrating peace of Christ — 3:12-15, *Life-study 29*
 - B. The indwelling word of Christ — 3:16-17, *Life-study 29*
 - C. The expression of Christ in ethical relationships — 3:18 — 4:1
 - D. Praying with perseverance and walking in wisdom — 4:2-6, *Life-study 30*
- IV. Conclusion — 4:7-18, *Life-study 31*
 - A. The apostle's fellowship — vv. 7-17
 - B. The apostle's greeting — v. 18