## Ministries

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Greetings Family and Friends,



To our Friends and Family Supporters,

Just a short note to **thank you for standing with us** in ministry in so many different ways through the years. I remember Bob. He was paying our gasoline each week to get us to the prison to teach; to you Jaime for printing materials for us; to those who call or text to just say a funny or share a need; somebody close bought my fencing materials; you neighbor for checking in all through the winter to

make sure we had firewood; to you John for helping us get our Family trust on paper; and Paul, thanks for coming to fix a few house things and for telling me what is wrong with my truck; to my other neighbor who offered to do automotive work for us; to someone out there who bought us a new microwave oven; hey, Duane – thank you for dropping everything time after time to meet us for lunch (you have paid way too many times); Neve for helping me move my granddaughter out of her dorm room.

To each of you who share your finances with us – your faithfulness will be rewarded. **To each of you who pray for us – keep it up.** 

Down the road, we hope to re-enter the prisons. In the meantime, **pray that these Bible studies we are writing will land in the hands** of the right chaplain so that they can land in the right prison cells. We're also asking God to make the prison clearance application process smooth. We got approved at one prison last week. Now, we wait for the authorities to lift or lighten the COVID isolation rules.

**We hit the road** this week for Utah. One grandson is graduating from high school; the same grandson who I taught to pet bees and eat dirt while running. The other grandson has his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday; he has given me more blackeyes than anyone else on the planet. Our granddaughter & I love to drive places in the car; she can get us lost faster by using GPS on her phone.

Our other granddaughter lives in Japan & is too far to harass properly; but ha ha!!

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I get to drive her car while she's gone; but, boo hoo – I have to wash it & put gas in it.

While in Utah, we were contacted by staff at the Utah State Prison to make application as volunteers; hopefully, we can connect.

Finally, & certainly my favorite, we are going to a dental college to get our teeth examined and possibly get some repair work done. We cannot afford the work needed if done in California. Both of us always planned through our lives to grow old WITH our teeth. That is not working out for me and Liz is not far behind me. Pray for guidance and funds as we look into our dental needs.

### A final burden ...

Pray for the **guys we know who have paroled** and who are out living their lives and earning a living. They need good health (sometimes, it deteriorated in prison); they need to stay clear of the activities & addictions that brought them down before; they need to rebuild family relationships, whether with the wife or the kids; they need to be reminded that the failures of the past do not have to destroy the promise & productivity of the future; they need to allow good friends into their lives; they need to be connected to a local church (even more now since COVID has closed things up); they need to include God's Word in their daily lives; they need to hear "I love you" from anyone near them; they need to be protected by God from "giving up".

**Pray with us about this.** You don't need any names. God will fill in the blanks.

**Liz** is still healing from a car accident from many months ago; the corrective surgeries still leave her with lingering problems. Thankfully, she has excellent medical services from Scripps here in San Diego. Pray that they will find the issues and provide a solution & a healing.

We love you very much,

Bruce & Liz Leary

PS: Check out a few of our Bible studies on the following pages.

# The Struggles that Surround us - 1

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

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STRUGGLE Hateful People
There may be four types of hateful people:
1. Ones who criticize you
2. Ones who find fault out of jealousy
3. Ones who make you look bad in public
4. Ones who bring you down to prevent you from enjoying any success <b>How</b> do we keep from being a hateful person? (1 Peter 2:1-2)
It looks like a choice.
What is the opposite of being hateful? (Proverbs 14:30)
What kind of qualities does a hateful person have?
(Ephesians 4:31)
(Romans 1:29)
What could help a hateful person? (Galatians 5:25-26)
Yikes!! It looks like a Christian could be a hateful person. Paul was writing to believers
in the Region of Galatia. I think I have some of those bad qualities.
<b>What</b> about you? Are there struggles in your life in these areas? Comment.

What do hateful people sometimes do?
(Proverbs 26:24-26)
(Psalm 41:6)
(Psalm 12:2)
Talking about hateful people is hard for me. I sometimes say hurtful things to people; I sometimes want to be the center of attraction no matter who it hurts; I am bitter sometimes; I constantly complain about what I don't have & then I bad-mouth the people who have what I don't; I don't thank God for anything sometimes.
I'm embarrassed. I am choosing to be hateful because I have problems. It must be the other guy's fault.
What is the reason some people hate? (Psalm 38:19 & 69:4)
When hating doesn't always work, what does a hateful person resort to:
(Proverbs 11:9)
(Proverbs 16:28)
(Psalm 109:2)
(Proverbs 10:18)
What should we do with these types of people?
(Proverbs 24:1)
(Proverbs 23:17)
(Psalm 37:7)
Don't get too cocky here. Look in the mirror. You and I might need to examine which

one we are.

<b>What</b> qualities must we focus on in our own lives. Notice, the question is not about the other guy (that nasty guy).
(Proverbs 19:11)
(1 Peter 3:16)
(Ephesians 4:32)
(1 Peter 3:9)
(Romans 12:14)
Check out these phrases in the verses:
"Having good sense"; "Slow to anger"; "Overlook an offense"; "Be kind to one another"; "Having a good conscience"; "Do not repay evil for evil"; "Bless those who persecute you".
Pick a few and discuss how you struggle with these yourself.

## A Verse to Remember 2

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

VERSE	Romans 8:28
TEXT - NKJV	And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

ВООК	The Letter to the Romans			
<b>PURPOSE OF</b>	To understand & have righteousness in our lives; the balanced			
ВООК	kind of faith needed to be mature, fruitful, and pleasing to God			

CHAPTER	8			
THEME OF	We have access to God's righteousness in our lives which He put			
CHAPTER	there through Christ's sacrifice to accomplish sanctification.			

"Righteousness" is the "perfect holiness of God", "living a life that is right", "that which is the opposite of sin".

What does "Dead to sin" mean? (6:1-14)

What does "Slaves to sin" mean? (6:15-23)	
<b>How</b> did the Law point out sin? (7:7-12)	

Can the Law save us from sin? (7:13-25)

We move from "dead & slaves" to "free" when we become a Christian; then the process of victories & failures plus "ups & downs" begins & continues.

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Does "Free from sin" mean we are <b>perfect &amp; sinless?</b> (8:1-11)
Explain "being led by the Spirit". (8:12-17)
Notice in the next section (8:18-31) words being used: "sufferings", "groans & labors", "perseverance", "weaknesses". Our main verse of this study (8:28) is in this section.
"Righteousness" is the design God has for our lives; it is the only standard that is acceptable before God. Notice the <b>progression</b> for our lives:
Romans 1:18-3:20 = We did not have "Righteousness".
Romans 3:21-5:21 = We were given or deposited with "Righteousness".
Romans 6:1-8:39 = We were given access to "Righteousness".
Romans 12:1-15:13 = We are enabled to use "Righteousness".
What does God promise to those who love God while <b>growing</b> in their faith? (8:28)
What kind of people live to <b>pursue</b> & accomplish God's purpose? (8:28)
God's purpose is for His "Righteousness" to take over our lives. God does whatever He needs to do in our lives <b>to accomplish</b> His purpose.
What does "work together for good" mean? (8:28)

God loves us even when we think otherwise. His purpose for us is the best He has for us.

His plans for us are GOOD, BETTER THAN OURS; THE BEST THERE IS. AMEN!!

# **An Old Testament Glance**

## The Pentateuch - Genesis

Written	1430 BC	Period*	4004 -1805 BC	Author	Moses
		*Dates are comptimes ha	rd to know. They can yary depending on ech	olars & sources of information	

Genesis 1-11	Creation/Tower of Babel
Genesis 12-25	The Life of Abraham
Genesis 25-27	The Life of Isaac
Genesis 28-36	The Life of Jacob
Genesis 37-50	The Life of Joseph

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1.	Here's something incredible. How many days (regular 24-hour days) did it take
	God to create (from nothing) everything in creation?
2.	"Genesis" means "Beginnings". What began in the book? Pick from below.
	a The Internet f The church
	b Man g The Nation of Israel
	c Sin h Forgiveness & Salvation d Judgment i John the Baptist
	e Rebellion j Murder/Death
3.	There are well-known verses in Genesis. Write out a few.
٥.	Genesis 1:1
	Genesis I.I
	Genesis 1:27
	<del></del>
	<del></del>
	<del> </del>
4	There are many stories & events in Genesis. Why did God allow these things to
١.	happen. What do you think was the God's purpose for these events?
	a. Noah & the ark (Genesis 5)
	a. Noan & the ark (Genesis 5)
	<del></del>
	b. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
	b. The Tower of Buber (Genesis 11)

Abraham's Journey (Genesis 12)					
d. Isaac is almost sacrificed (Genesis 22)					
e. Joseph is kidnapped to Egypt (Genesis 37)					
Speaking of Joseph, he was an amazing guy. What were some his good qualities? (Genesis 37-50)?					

Well, that was just a quick trip through Genesis. Do some study on your own.

# **An Old Testament Glance**

## The Pentateuch – Exodus

Written	1400 BC	Period*	1525-1400 BC	Author	Moses	
		*Dates are sometimes ha	ord to know. They can vary depending on sch	nolars & sources of information.		
Exodus 1-3 Hebrew History & Moses' Background						
Exodus 4-14 Moses Leads the People to Freedom						
Exodus 15	Wandering in the Wilderness					
Exodus 20-			n to the People			
Exodus 32			en Calf Idol & Repentance			
Exodus 35	-40	Constructi	ng the Tabernacle			
1. Write	e out Exodus	s 20:3				
	2. That statement by God seems to summarize things. What do you think was going on in Israel at the time?					
the ii	3. The word "Exodus" means "out", "go out", "leave". You get the idea. Do you get the impression that Israel was leaving somewhere? Which country were they leaving & why were they leaving? (Exodus 4-14)					
4. Give a brief history of Moses' birth & upbringing (Genesis 1-3).						

Let's review the other big stories in Exodus.

#### **THE TEN PLAGUES IN EGYPT**

5. Can you list the 10 plagues in Egypt?	
(Ex 7:19-25)	 (Ex 9:8-12)
(Ex 8:1-7)	 (Ex 9:22-26)
(Ex 8:16-19)	(Ex 10:12-15)

 (Ex 8:20-24)	 (Ex 10:21-23)
 (Ex 9:1-7)	 (Ex 12:29-30)

#### **MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH** (Exodus 3:1-17)

6.	Why did this	catch Moses'	attention?	He probably	saw	many	bushes	burn	during
	his lifetime?		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						

7. What did God want to tell Moses?	

#### **THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA** (Exodus 14:21-31)

8.	Why was this	event necessary? V	Why did God do it?	


### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** (Exodus 20)

9. Can you list all 10?

	MAN TO GOD		MAN TO MAN
1		5	
2		6	
3		7	
4		8	
		9	
		10	