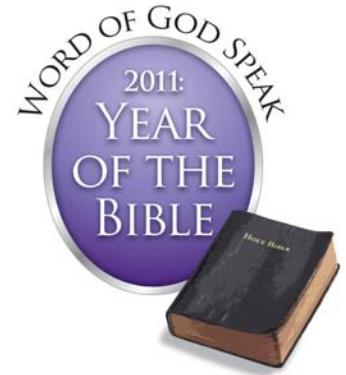


## Week 44: 2 Timothy 1-2; Titus; Philemon; Hebrews 1-9 Study Guide for the week of October 31 – November 6, 2011



### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with Hebrews 8:8-13. This is a quote of Jeremiah 31:31-34 that is also quoted again in Hebrews 10:15-17. God has put this truth into His written word at least three times. God must really want us to know this truth! Hebrews teaches that the new covenant that God promised to make with His people, through the prophet Jeremiah, is the covenant that God brought into reality through Jesus. Starting with what is taught in Hebrews 8:8-12 and then adding your own knowledge, describe how the new covenant is different from the old covenant? What does it mean to you that God forgives and forgets your sins? How is it possible for God to no longer remember our sins? How does this thrice-stated truth help you to understand what judgment day will be like for you and all believers in Christ? *Will there really be a record of your sins that would be reviewed?* Do you continue to be burdened with past sins? How can this thrice-stated truth help you to no longer be burdened by what you have experienced in the past? How can this help you to experience the present and future that God has for you? How can this truth help you in your current relationships?

**Discussion starters** *If you are leading a small group, you may not have time for all of these questions. Pick the ones that will work best for your group.*

1. Ice Breaker Question: Describe one of your favorite meals as a kid. Now describe one of your favorite meals as an adult. Have your tastes changed as you matured? *Use this as a bridge question to discuss question # 10.*
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Do these verses describe our present time? Explain.
4. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 List and discuss all that these verses teach about Scripture? *“God-breathed” means that the Bible is inspired (written) by God.*
5. Titus 1:1-3 What jumps out at you in this greeting?
6. Titus 2:1-8 What do you find instructive in these verses? Explain.
7. Titus 3:3-8a Here again is one of Paul’s brief descriptions of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What jumps out at you in this one? What do suppose is meant by “the washing of rebirth” in verse 5?
8. Philemon What is the personal appeal that Paul is making to Philemon? If you have a Bible with study notes, read what it says about Philemon. What do you make of this brief letter?
9. Hebrews 4:14-16 How do these verses change your view of Jesus? Has your view of Jesus been that he is impassive or involved with your life? What does it mean when someone sympathizes with you, or comes alongside you, to walk with you in your life? Have you ever considered Jesus as understanding your life because he’s “been there, done that”? Why or why not?
10. Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3 How can you tell if someone is maturing? What do you think it means to be spiritually mature? What is one aspect of spiritual maturity that you would like to grow into?
11. Hebrews 6:4-6 What is this passage teaching? What do you think of this?
12. Hebrews 6:16-20a What is this passage teaching that God did? How does this add to your view of God?
13. Hebrews 8:8-13 You are invited to use personal reflection / journaling exercise above to guide your discussion.

**Bible verse to memorize: Hebrews 8:12**

## **Caring Time**

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end your time together praying for each other. This week's suggested prayer experience involves taking a step of greater intimacy and vulnerability with each other. Break into pairs and find a place where you and the person you are paired with can talk privately. Agree with one another that what you share will be kept confidential. Have each person in the pair answer this question that comes out of Hebrews 8:12:

**What is a past experience (sin) that you are happy God has forgiven and forgotten, but that still burdens you?**

After the first person has shared, the other person should pray for the first person, reminding him/her that God has forgiven and forgotten this past experience and asking God to heal the burden.

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that being in a small group is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.