



September Bible Tidbits— The New Testament con't.

A selection of facts and information to help you discover more of the riches about Sacred Scripture. We continue our journey through the books of the Bible. Call Diane at 633-3672 if you have questions or want to know more.

Each month we'll offer you several new tidbits in print and on-line: In print on the reverse side of the OLV Activities Calendar; On-line on OLV's Home Page (ourladyofvictorytallmadge.parishesonline.com),—below the Question of the Week!

Hebrews: This letter is assumed to be directed to Jewish Christians. Although no author is mentioned, a reference to Timothy suggests it is connected to the circle of those around Paul. It was written to restore and strengthen a Christian community struggling with the demands of Christian life and a growing indifference to their calling as disciples of Christ. God declared the work of his Son to be the cause of salvation for all. Although Christians recognize this fundamental teaching, too many grow weary of it, and require other reflections to stimulate their faith.

The Catholic Letters: These letters are referred to as “catholic” because unlike Paul’s thirteen letters to a specific local church, these were apparently addressed more generally to the universal church.

James: Although referred to as a letter, James is more of an exhortation and is concerned almost exclusively with ethical conduct.

1 Peter: This letter begins with an address by Peter to Christian communities located in the provinces of Asia Minor. Appeal is made to Christ’s resurrection and the future hope it provides as these communities feel an alienation from their previous religious roots and the society around them.

2 Peter: This letter aims at warning against false teachers, especially those who teach that there will be no second coming of Jesus. The concept of God’s “promises” is particularly precious in the theology of 2 Peter.

1 John: This letter, most probably a work of the same Johannine community who produced the Gospel of John, was written to combat certain false ideas. The specific heresy described in this letter cannot be exactly identified, but it appears to have denied the humanity of Christ. This letter urges intense religious conviction in simple truths; i.e., the humanity and divinity of Christ.

2 John: Both these letters are concerned with “truth,” Christology, mutual love, the new commandment, the antichrist, and the integrity of witness to the earthly Jesus. There is also some reference to the nature of authority in the early Church.

Jude: This letter is addressed in the most general terms to “those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept safe for Jesus Christ,” hence apparently to all Christians. This little letter is an urgent note by an author who intended to write more fully about salvation but was forced by dangers from false teachers worming their way into the community to dash off a warning against them. This letter of Jude is justly famous for its majestic closing doxology.