

**THE PRISON EPISTLES:  
AN INDEPENDENT STUDY TEXT**

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This project was begun in answer to an invitation from Global University, Springfield, Missouri to author a textbook for Berean School of the Bible dealing with those epistles of the New Testament traditionally referred to as the Prison Epistles (Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians and Philippians). The textbook was to be designed as independent study text. In addition to its use to satisfy the study requirements for ministerial credentials within the Assemblies of God, it was also to be available for translating as a textbook for ministerial training in missiological settings. The text was to consist of thirteen chapters and 39 or 40 “lessons” (or sermonic units).

The textbook has been designed as a “preacher-friendly” commentary. To accomplish this each lesson identifies a transcultural truth. Sermonic points are stated as principles. The development of each point adheres to the following expository preaching pattern:

- Exposition – explanation of the biblical text in terms of the original situation and audience that the biblical writer addressed.
- Application – consideration of analogous situations the modern reader might experience to those within the biblical text.
- Illustration – the attempt to identify an apt illustration that elucidates the point within the biblical text.

The textbook was written to integrate Christian education features within it to assist the student. The textbook targets a series of learning goals or objectives for each lesson.

Additionally, inductive study questions addressing key issues of biblical content and application were developed.