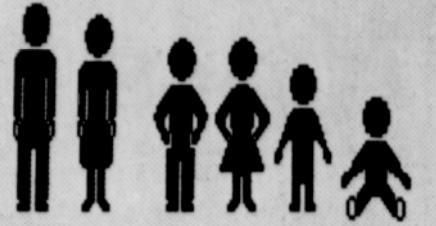




# RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

Scripture of the Week:  
Hebrews Chapter 11



SPRING COURSE OFFERINGS AT  
NORTH PORTLAND BIBLE COLLEGE  
April 2 — June 14, 1990



COURSE SUMMARY

Morning Classes

Monday 9:00 - 12:00	B 103a	Inductive Bible Study	M. Lindsey
Thursday 9:00 - 12:00	NT 121	Romans	G. Osborne

Evening Classes

Monday 6:30 - 9:30	B 103p	Inductive Bible Study	M. Lindsey
Monday 6:30 - 9:30	PM 110	Spiritual Life	R. Robles
Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30	WM 102	World Christian Outreach II	N. Barnett
Tuesday 6:30 - 9:30	TH 114	Defending the Faith	P. Hampe
Thursday 6:30 - 9:30	NT 103	N.T. Survey III	B. Nance
Thursday 6:30 - 9:30	OT 103	O.T. Survey III	A. Cushway

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You can register now, by phone (288-2919) or in person, for any class listed above. Registration fee is \$10.00 each term, and tuition for each class is \$25.00. These fees are normally due first night of classes.

Deadline for registration is March 27 (Tuesday). Students who register by this date will have textbooks available for purchase at NPBC when classes begin (Lord willing!)

If fewer than five students enroll for a class by the deadline, NPBC may have to cancel the course before the term begins. So register as soon as you can, to help our instructors confirm that the class will be offered. If the course is confirmed open, more students can register during the first week of classes.

\*\*TO ENSURE HAVING YOUR OWN TEXTBOOK IN TIME, REGISTER BY MARCH 27\*\*

## Homecoming Jubilee

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Choir invites you to join them in a "Celebration of Praise" on Saturday, April 21, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. The closing services will be held on Sunday, April 22, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. The place--3725 N. Gantenbein Ave.

All persons ever attending New Hope Missionary and any one who sang in the New Hope Choir are being invited to come back and participate with them in this glorious celebration. The theme: GIVE HIM THE GLORY [I Chron. 16:29]

For more information, call 281-0163.

## Womens' Day Celebration

On Sunday, March 11, 1990, the Women of Zion at the First AME Zion Church, held its annual Women's Day Celebration.

This year, their guest speaker was the very visible and very well-known Kathleen Saadat, from the governor's office. She spoke at the 11:00 a.m. service. The theme was: Women Choosing A More Excellent Way [I Corin. 12:31]. Ms. Saadat issued, the women in attendance, a challenge to be all that they aspired to "You know what you are capable of doing and handling. Never compromise your femininity."

A delicious luncheon was served in the lower auditorium at 1:00 p.m. While everyone was munching on the delicious tidbits, lovely fashions were sash-sharing past.

Gloria McMurtry, President--Women of Zion; Joyce Clarity, Publicity Chairperson; and Rev. Willie B. Smith, Pastor.

## Put On Your Gospel Fighting Clothes

(Continued from Last Week)

2. Every failure is final and fatal. "There is no way out," says Satan. Well, he is a liar. We are all somebody, in Christ Jesus. God loves to pick up failures. Everyone feeling like you're a failure know that Jesus will pick you up and make you victorious over any and all evil pressures, like drugs, prostitution, gang banging, homelessness, stealing, lying, cheating, alcoholism, homosexuality and more. Jesus will increase where we have decreased.

In your lowest hour, call on Jesus and He will give you strength. That strong right arm of Jesus will pick you up out of the muck and mire and make you to receive the VICTORY. Praise God! Hallelujah!

Are you in a mess? Jesus will pick you up and turn you around. He'll wash you in His blood and make you whole. Just turn your eyes on Jesus--the Son of the Most High God.

Do you have a sickness or a handicap? God wants you well. The devil wants you sick and blaming God for your infirmity. Look in the book of James, for it says "Call on God when you are tempted in divers places." Be happy! For when your way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him; He will not resent it. But, when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn

first this way, and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.

Happy is the person who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love Him. And remember, when someone wants to do wrong it is never God whom is tempting him, for God never wants us to do wrong and never tempts anyone else to do it. Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards to the death penalty from God. So, don't be misled! Get rid of all that is wrong in your life, both inside and outside, and humbly be glad for the wonderful message we have received, for it is able to save our souls as it takes hold of our hearts.

Remember, these words, that I give to you today, are a message to be obeyed, not just to be read and set aside. Don't fool yourselves. For if a person just listens and does not obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore nor can he remember what he looks like. But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does.

And now, as the letter to the Hebrews was ended [Hebrews 13:20-21], so to an end I too must come, "And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He who became the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting agreement between God and you, signed with His blood, produce in you through the power of Christ all that is pleasing to Him. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen."

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### Thinking About A Career In . . .

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PLEASE SEND APPLICATION TO:  
J. Peter Bentley, PhD, Professor of Bio-  
chemistry & Molecular Biology, Oregon  
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Must be U.S. citizen or have permanent  
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Phone 279-8414 for more details, or  
the Office of Multicultural Affairs 279-  
7574.

## Insight From The Word

by Michael Lindsey, Dean of North Portland Bible College

### Another Look at Simon Peter

The text of the Sunday School lesson  
for March 25 in the International Series is  
John 18:15-27. Other parallel Scriptures  
for this passage are Matthew 26:69-75 and  
Luke 22:55-65.

After the arrest of Jesus in the garden of  
Gethsemane, the disciples scattered and  
hid among the throngs of pilgrims gathered  
in Jerusalem for Passover. It appears that  
they had a common meeting place (John  
20:19, 26) where they could hide from the  
Jewish authorities. But that first night, two  
of the disciples followed the Lord and his  
captors from a distance. And one of them  
was Simon Peter.

Peter had first been disturbed by the  
Lord's teachings that night--that someone  
was going to betray him to the Jews, and  
that he was going someplace they could not  
follow (John 13:21, 36). Twice Peter told  
him he would willingly lay down his life for  
him. And twice the Lord had sadly replied  
that Peter would deny him three times  
before daybreak.

Did the Master mean that he, Peter, was  
the betrayer? Peter searched his heart for  
any signs of doubt, dissatisfaction, or  
weakness, and found none. In fact, he felt  
very strong and confident. But he couldn't  
help wondering why the Lord was urging  
them to pray so earnestly in the garden,  
when it was so late and another great day of  
ministry lay ahead.

Suddenly, the night came alive with  
sounds of a small army crossing the Kidron  
ravine. Peter roused himself just in time to  
see Roman soldiers and Temple officials  
coming right straight to them--and Judas in  
the lead. So he was the betrayer. Why  
hadn't he seen it before? It was so obvious  
now. Well, Peter was going to prove to the  
Lord that he had no part in Judas' conspir-  
acy. He pulled out his sword and tried to  
move in and defend Jesus, and he even drew  
blood! (Well, an ear anyway; it was dark  
and the torches kept moving around.) But  
then Jesus told him to stop, and even healed  
the wounded ear of the servant. Then the  
soldiers took Jesus away.

The rest of the disciples ran for cover,  
but Peter and John (we think) followed at a  
safe distance. Peter had felt like running,  
too, but he had promised to defend his  
Master. If only Peter had realized that Jesus  
didn't need a brave soldier--he needed a  
brave witness in the courtyard of the high  
priest.

First it was the girl who guarded the  
door. What had John told her, to get him  
inside? Whatever it was, she asked if Peter  
was one of Jesus' disciples, though she  
clearly expected that he wasn't. So he went  
along with her misconception. After all, his  
fight wasn't with her. At the right time, he  
would prove whose disciple he was. Right  
now, a little lie wouldn't matter.

Then it was the group around the fire.  
Peter had joined them to avoid suspicion,  
but also to keep warm. The events of the  
evening had kept many servants awake,  
discussing and disputing about Jesus of  
Nazareth. Important priests and Jewish  
leaders had been coming and going all  
night, and now they had Jesus in a large  
hall, with Caiaphas himself conducting the  
meeting. Some of the servants couldn't  
understand why the Sanhedrin couldn't wait  
'til morning--was this meeting even legal?  
They all laughed, even Peter; with Annas  
and Caiaphas running it, they could get  
away with anything.

Peter thought he had fit in really well,  
until another servant girl looked him over  
and declared him to be one of Jesus' men.  
This new twist in the conversation caught  
everyone's attention, as they finally real-  
ized that Peter was not a servant of any of  
the guests in the house, and was unknown to  
them all. Peter had to repeatedly deny he  
knew the Nazarene before they could ac-  
cept it and change the subject. Peter was  
very relieved, but he felt a tightness in the  
pit of his stomach that wouldn't go away.

During the next hour, Peter began to  
relax and talk to the other servants about  
various matters--but not about his knowl-  
edge of this Jesus. To be honest, Peter  
wasn't sure anymore why he was even in  
the courtyard; there didn't seem to be much  
he could do to help Jesus, and he was  
risking detection all the time. How did he  
get into this mess?

Then it hit again. One man, then sev-  
eral others, noticed that Peter had a strong  
north-country accent--like Jesus of Naza-  
reth, and very distinct from their Judean  
dialect. As they kept questioning the stranger  
about his home, occupation, and business  
there, one of the servants asked, "Didn't I  
see you with him in the garden?" Now  
Peter was really in trouble. If he took his  
stand for Jesus now, they would scorn him  
for his earlier lies. And they still would  
probably bring him, bound, to the priests  
for investigation. Now Peter couldn't be a  
good soldier or a good witness either.

This time he really had to put on an act,  
swearing and cursing like he'd heard old  
fishermen do. He figured that would con-  
vince them he wasn't the kind of man who  
would follow Jesus. Maybe he was right.  
They let him get away.

But there was one thing he didn't figure  
on. Just as Peter was swearing out a denial  
that he knew anything about Jesus, the Lord  
himself appeared in the courtyard, appar-  
ently on his way to stand trial somewhere  
else. Their eyes met for just an instant, and  
Peter heard a rooster crowing at the dawn.  
And he ran away, crying bitterly, from his  
accusers and his Lord.

How did Peter get into such a state?  
The same way we often do. At each step  
Peter did the reasonable, practical thing,  
took the safest path, and avoided conflicts.  
But he couldn't foresee where his compro-  
mises would lead him, and how one sin  
leads to another.

Even the best of believers fall into  
compromises. Thank God that he forgives  
and restores us, as he did Peter (John 21:15-  
19). But that's no reason not to strive to  
please the Master, who has never let us  
down. At times we all still need to recall the  
simple truth of Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own under-  
standing;

In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

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BIBLE STUDY:  
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6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - WEDNESDAY

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