

**November 6, 2022**

***Week 7 - Romans***

Hey guys, this week was a very good week, I studied the book of **Romans** which was a very nice change of pace because it is theology and 16 chapters, so even though it is super theologically packed I only had 10 charts to do vs 19 for acts. So it was very nice to have a lighter load than last week.

I got to enjoy a 2 day weekend so Saturday I went to the beach and got to enjoy fellowship outside of studying, then Sunday I got to sleep in a bit and then go to farmers markets and the gym, which was a very nice change of pace. I bought a baby pineapple from the market for 1 dollar, and it was my best purchase yet. Also my ear finally has unswelled so yesterday for the first time in a week I could fully hear out of it again which was something I realized I took for granted when I had it. One of the main things God has been teaching me is that time is so precious and that you have to take advantage of it so that you don't regret later on when time has taken this thing away.

Romans was so fascinating to me, it honestly hurt my head a little because Paul was so smart and trying to unpack exactly what he meant in every verse would be insane, So I didn't but I did look at big pictures and I like how Paul uses scripture when he talks to the Jews and doesn't use scripture when he is addressing the Gentile audience. The other thing I noticed was how Paul said their faith was great but none of the apostles or missionaries had been to Rome to strengthen the church but the faith of the church was strong and recognized around the world. One of the awesome things about Romans is that it is a book that Christians can base their Christianity off of and live just by the teachings in Romans which is so cool to me that our faith can be followed in this book.

This next week I am studying 1st and 2nd Thessalonians and Philippians so 3 books in a week but still the total chapter count is only 12 for the week so I am excited for this week hoping it might be another slightly lighter week, but I will keep you posted next week if it was a relaxing week or not, so until then too-da-loo.

Peace and grace be with you

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**November 13, 2022**

***Week 8 - 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, Philippians***

HeIIIIllo, this week was a very different pace than the last few. We did 3 books but it felt like a slower pace than big books which is odd. It was a very standard week outside of class, I was able to go to the gym and relax most evenings which was nice to do. I went to the beach last night to celebrate one of our student's birthdays and it was a very refreshing night, just enjoying company which has been quite hard here because all we do is study so face to face interactions that go longer than 5 minutes are so nice. Today we celebrated another birthday by going paintballing. It was a lot of fun but pretty painful. I took a gut shot from 3-5 meters and I might have a scar there now but it was still lots of fun playing paintball in the Australian bush.

**1st Thessalonians** is an interesting book for Paul, he doesn't follow his typical thanksgiving-rebuking-how to fix their problems-Final Greetings format, but instead encourages them, which is weird for Paul, but I did enjoy the change of pace and grace that he showed in this letter as he encouraged them as the received faith right away from Paul's teaching. The **second book** is a big contrast from the 1st because Paul has to teach the Thessalonians to use discernment on who they believe. A false letter was written in Paul's name and some believed it and were led astray, so Paul rebukes them and corrects how they should accept news and stuff

relating to faith. Both these books were very interesting to me because the people worshipped quite a few Greek gods and that shows how quick they were to believe new things, and worship the next thing.

**Philippians** was a different story altogether. During his time in Philippi he was in jail and not preaching publicly like the other cities. There was no Jewish synagogue; to have a Jewish synagogue there needed to be 10 Jewish people, showing that the people in Philippi were very Gentile or Roman. Philippi was a wealthy city and on a very fertile piece of land, it was also a retirement city for old Roman soldiers, this is interesting because Paul is writing to encourage the church in their faith and their support of Paul, Paul pushes for unity and strength in the body.

All three of these books were smaller but it had a light atmosphere and was loving and encouraging which was nice to see that side of Paul's preaching. The next book I go into is 1st Corinthians which is a book that, reading the outloud, is going to be very heavy and challenge a lot of what I grew up believing and was taught and likely make me question what is happening with the modern day western church and how some stuff is followed and some is disregarded. I am excited to unpack it a little bit and explore the meanings, Look for the update next week, until then  
Peace be with you

## Giving Opportunity

I had sent out an email last week (Nov 7, 2022) about a giving opportunity. The base I am staying at is in desperate need of new bathrooms, they are fully believing in God for it. It is an \$80,000 renovation for both bathrooms to be re-done, I have given \$20 and I am asking, if God prompts, to match my \$20. If you feel led to give, please send me an e transfer (hpawlak24@gmail.com) and I will then pull the money out in cash from the local bank and give it to our base leader for the cause. This morning (Nov 7, 2022) already the base raised \$30,000 dollars and I would like to help that cause not just for better bathrooms but also for the future of the YWAM base.  
Thank you. Thank you.

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**November 20, 2022**

## **Week 9 - 1st Corinthians**

Hello everyone

This week was quiet and fulfilling, it started off a stressful week because we were supposed to have a test and a bible study project on top of studying **1st Corinthians** but our school got sick forcing to put the brakes on and just study 1st Corinthians, so because of that I am now ahead of schedule for studying 2nd Corinthians which is also good because we have the test and bible study this week now.

It's a little strange we are celebrating American Thanksgiving in Australia, so we have Friday off which means we are going camping! As a school we will spend a few days and nights in tents 4x4 exploring on a small island called Fraser Island. I am looking forward to getting out and getting pictures and seeing the stars over the ocean.

Now with 1st Corinthians...It is a pretty gross and grimy port city, comparable to Vegas. Ships would come into harbour and go straight to prostitutes, gambling, gods and tons of sexual immorality. The city was reestablished by Claudius Caesar in 46 BC and he put whoever he wanted in that city, making it a huge mix of

cultures and beliefs. The 1st church there which Paul established wasn't much better. There were lots of problems, the reported ones are: immorality, dissension, spiritual pride and lawsuits, the written problems are: Questions about true spirituality, abuse of freedom, sex, gifts, and marriage. So when people say they wanna be like the 1st church, know the 1st church wasn't this great thing worshipping God it was filled with sin and fleshly desires because they are humans. Paul addresses these issues and tells how to solve it,

Now the biggest thing Paul pushes is Love. Love is the theme which can be used to solve all the issues in churches, if it isn't done out of love it is nothing 13:1-3 following that is my challenge for everyone for the next week read 13:4-7 but instead of the word love put your name in, so Hunter is patient and kind, Hunter does not envy or boast, Hunter is not arrogant or rude, Hunter does not insist on his own way, Hunter is not irritable or resentful, Hunter does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with truth, Hunter bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. A super convicting way to look at love and see if you love. I will be doing that this week and seeing how it changes my perspective on love and if I love or not.

I am going to have to find a new way to sign letters once I get out of Paul's writing style but until then, Grace and Peace be with you

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**November 27, 2022**

***Week 10 - 2 Corinthians***

Hello guys, It is currently a Sunday night as I write this and I am beyond tired. Our school got to go to Fraser Island which is the biggest sand island in the world. We were on it from Friday around 2 til Sunday night and it was so fun and unique. I slept in my hammock under the stars. It was gorgeous with shooting stars and the ocean being right beside us. There was even a little bit of bioluminescence so the sand glowed slightly when you walked on it. I got to see the sunrise both mornings which was at 4:30AM which is amazing but way too early. Look for an instagram video shortly which will put into video what it was like.

**2nd Corinthians** however was a much needed book. I really felt God in it with what he wants for me in the future, and how to go about defending myself. Similar to 1st Corinthians the historical background is the same, because they were written only a year apart, what happened in that year were super-apostles were trying to take down Paul's apostleship and ministry, and Paul is writing to defend himself from this. I really like how Paul took a stance where he wouldn't boast in the flesh unless he absolutely had to and would much rather boast in God then himself, and that hit me just with pride and envy and everything. Boasting in the flesh is on self righteousness and not God Glorification.

My next book is Colossians and Hebrews. I am excited for that but I got to get some sleep before the week starts tomorrow. Have a great end of the weekend and enjoy the last week before the Christmas season fully begins. Peace and grace be with you

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**December 4, 2022**

***Week 11 - Colossians and Hebrews***

Hello guys, This week was a more restful week, Recovering from the camping trip was harder than I thought but it was alright, I studied colossians and Hebrews this week, and prepped james for next week, This week I mostly just rested and went to the gym nothing to fancy happened this week so far, but today we are having a

party for one of our students who is getting married during winter break, which is why I am writing this letter a little sooner than I normally do.

**Colossians** is a letter written by Paul during his roman imprisonment it all deals with Colossian heresy, meaning they weren't looking at christ rightly, They needed to know that Christ is sufficient for salvation and spirituality. I liked studying this book because of the simplicity of Christ and how he is sufficient.

**Hebrews** on the other hand had a much bigger problem, Jewish christians were in tons of persecution and to get out of that they would pull the Jew card, because Jews weren't persecuted but christians were, so Christians were being persecuted and killed for their religion to avoid this they denied Christ as the messiah and decided there plans were better for faith and salvation, So the author who I believe to be Paul is pushing the Idea of Jesus is better, Jesus is better, Jesus is better. The reason I think it is Paul is because He is about to die in the persecution and probably realizes that, So he is using all of his knowledge to write a letter to God's chosen people telling them the importance of Faith, How Faith in Jesus washes over all other sin.

I really liked this week and we only have 2 more until 1st quarter is done and I am a third of the way done SBS which is slightly scary but also very exciting, Until next time

Peace and grace be with you

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**December 11, 2022**

***Week 12 - James, 1st & 2nd Timothy***

Hey everyone. It is the start of my last week of 1st quarter, where we have 3 books due in 3 days, 1st & 2nd Peter and Jude, so a big week to look forward to. We then only have John's writing left after Christmas break. **James** was a very good book. I enjoyed reading it and seeing God's peace flow through the book. I felt quite convicted of how much Jesus means to me and how much I would defend it. Because the history of the book was during Nero's persecution of Jewish Christians they would deny Jesus and pull the Jew Card by saying "I'm a Jew" and they wouldn't be persecuted. So this book taught me how important it is to stay true to Jesus and continue living in his gift of grace through faith to get to Heaven. This book made me feel convicted of sin and actually living like a man who wants to glorify God.

**1st and 2nd Timothy** were quite fun books to chart and study, The first letter is an encouraging letter to Timothy who is a young man who is a leader of the only church in Ephesus, And Ephesus like my Roman newsletter is a terrible city, with Greek god worshipping and prostitutes and mystery religions, The temple of Artemis was the biggest Temple, 120 years to build, 160m Long and 5 stories tall made out of Stone, Everybody would come into the temple to worship Artemis through sex, she is the god of fertility and sex, so to have a "blessed child" you went to the temple and slept with a prostitute who would bear your child married or not. So Timothy is thrown into this environment and has to find a way to change it. 2nd Timothy is a much heavier and sadder atmosphere where Paul is passing the torch to Timothy knowing his death is nearing in the midst of Nero's persecution. A very sad letter, also Paul's final letter.

For Christmas I have been invited by one of my friends to go back to Sydney with her, so 5 of us are going to spend Christmas there which is a huge blessing that I am looking forward to. In saying that my newsletters will shift from studies to more daily adventures so I'd love to hear feedback on if you are still interested in getting newsletters like that for the next few weeks. But until then

Grace be with you

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**December 18, 2022**  
***Christmas Break Week 13***

Hey Guys,

Sorry I'm late on this one, my discipline has left me since going on break, but I want to continue updating on what is happening in my life in Australia.

I am currently in Sydney with 3 others staying at Nelle's, one of the student's houses. The hospitality they have shown us has made us feel like we are a part of their family. While here we have seen the Opera House and Harbour Bridge and it's been a crazy thing to see and check off my bucket list. We went to some Christmas markets and saw a drone show. It was a little light and short, but I was fascinated at the programming that would have to be behind 1000 some drones all syncing together. I watched the new Avatar movie which was really good, the graphics in that movie are amazing, and the detail is awesome. I won't spoil it for those movie buffs who haven't seen it yet but it is definitely worth the watch. The city is beautiful, the weather here is perfect and it almost reminds me of Vancouver, just more tropical. The downtown is clean and pretty and Sydney has amazing talent, street performers and musicians; it is a very fun city.

I am sad to not spend Christmas in Canada again but I am wishing you all the best and want you to really cherish the time, enjoy spending it with family and really thanking God for the gift of Jesus. Now that this is the second Christmas I have been away from my family, I realize more what it means and miss being able to spend time with them whenever I want but seriously enjoy the time, it is such a gift, and I am excited to get to spend time with my friends and celebrating it with the family I have been given here in Australia.

I know we are doing a Christmas party on Boxing Day and I plan on baking with the family to spread some traditions. On Boxing Day they want to spend it on the beach which is bizarre to me, I am used to white Christmases so it barely feels like Christmas. I hope everybody is able to enjoy the break and take time to rest and reflect on the year. I will try to update again Sunday. Until then,

Grace be with you.

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**December 25, 2022**  
***Christmas Break Week 14***

Hey Guys, Merry Christmas, I hope it is restful and refilling. This week I went to the beach a few times, one was a hike into a secluded beach, the first picture is from that beach, it was gorgeous and such a nice little hike. The ground isn't that hard here so I was able to hike barefoot, and just enjoy the nature I was in. Christmas Eve we watched The Grinch and made reindeer gingerbread. On Christmas Day we went to church in the morning, then came home and started cooking. We had ham, sausages, shrimp, potatoes, salads, and two cakes. and ate and ate, so just one meal around 3, then we did presents and then went to the beach and swam, which is so weird it almost didn't feel like Christmas cause its in the summer here, and we ended the day by watching a movie and playing Monopoly Deal. Then today they have a Boxing Day party to relax and enjoy company so we get to do that and enjoy more fellowship.

I hope your Christmas holidays were amazing as well! I will try and update you in the New Year and then I will be back to my regular studies and emails. So thank you for following and supporting me.

Grace be with you