



### Jude 1b-2 (NIV)

“To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.”

Of the 21 Letters in the Bible, we think that Paul wrote 13 of them. Others were written by James, Peter, John, and Jude. All of these other writers were with Jesus when He was alive on earth, so people paid special attention to their messages. Church leaders memorized and copied these letters, and passed them around to each other. Each letter sends greetings, reminders, and prayers.

In his first letter, John gives his reasons for writing. This is what it says in John 1, Chapter 2, Verse 12: “I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you”

The apostles write letters so that the new Christians do not forget about the Good News of Jesus. They write letters so that the new Christians do not forget about practicing the way of the Holy Spirit. They write letters so that the new Christians do not forget to work together to grow their churches. They remind the new Christians how much God loves them, and what God expects from them. The letters bring prayers from the apostles to the church members, and from Christians to other Christians.

In his second letter, John sends this prayer:

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.”

The letters in the Bible were so special to the early Christians that they have been saved for almost two thousand years. When we read them today, we hear the same messages that the new Christians heard then:

- Remember the Good News of Jesus.
- Remember to show the Holy Spirit.
- Remember to work together to keep the Church strong.
- Remember that God Loves You.
- Remember to pray to God and for each other.

The last of the Epistles in that section of the Bible is called Jude. Jude was a brother to Jesus. In his letter, Jude sends this prayer to members of the Christian churches, and we still send it to each other:

“To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.”

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