Jonathan Srock / General

Living in the Last Days Life Group

Description: The New Testament gives plenty of conditions on how we live together as Christians. What are some of the ways the Bible calls us to operate with other Christians? How do we deal with sin in the Church? What are some other expectations on us?

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Teaching (45 minutes)

The New Testament letters are a specific kind of genre in the First Century world. An epistle is a letter, usually short, that has certain things in it like encouragement for the recipients, teaching and exhortation, prayers and thanksgiving, and warnings. Epistles can be written to a group or a person, and you see examples of both in the New Testament.

The book of Revelation is unlike any other book of the New Testament. It is specifically the genre of Prophetic Apocalyptic literature. We know it is a book of prophecy because it says it is (Revelation 1:3).

As prophecy, it functions much like Old Testament prophecy. There are points of prediction telling the future (<u>Revelation 1:1</u>). But the vast majority of Revelation is about being allied to Jesus no matter what happens in the world.

Apocalyptic literature is a special kind of prophecy. There are some prophetic books in the Old Testament that are also apocalyptic literature, like parts of Ezekiel and

The name of the book, Revelation, in the Greek language is the word for apocalypse. It uses certain images and symbolic language to point out "hidden" truths that are "revealed" in the imagery of the book.

1. Demonstrate Christian character

One reason we are still here in the world is to develop in Christian character. The Holy Spirit is leading us into conformity to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-30).

Christian character is a wide-ranging topic as you can see by the many headings under this section. The New Testament letters have much to say about developing into the image of Christ.

- a. Unconditional Christian love
 - i. Unconditional love (Romans 12:9-10)
 - ii. Owe no one anything except love (Romans 13:8-10)
 - iii. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)
 - iv. Put on love (Colossians 3:14)
 - v. Let your unconditional love go against the grain of societal norms (Philemon)
 - vi. Let brotherly love continue (<u>Hebrews 13:1</u>), Love one another earnestly from a pure heart (<u>1 Peter 1:22</u>)
 - vii. Love the brotherhood (1 Peter 2:17)
- b. Peace
 - i. Live in harmony and peace with others (<u>Romans 12:16</u>, <u>18</u>), pursue peace (<u>Romans 14:19</u>), Live in peace and agree with one another (<u>2</u> <u>Corinthians 13:11</u>)
 - ii. Do not be anxious about anything but pray about them (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - iii. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart (Colossians 3:15)
 - iv. Be at peace among yourselves (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:13</u>), Strive for peace and holiness (<u>Hebrews 12:14</u>)
- c. Humility
 - i. Do not be prideful, associate with the lowly (Romans 12:16)

- ii. Do not be wise in your sight (Romans 12:16)
- iii. Boast only in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:32), Boast only in Christ (Galatians 6:14), Do not boast or be false to the truth (James 3:14)
- iv. Share all good things with your teacher (Galatians 6:6)
- v. Do not act out of selfish ambition or conceit (Philippians 2:3)
- vi. Humbly consider others more highly than yourself (Philippians 2:3-4)
- vii. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)
- viii. Do everything without grumbling and complaining (Philippians 2:14)
- ix. Put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12)
- x. Avoid people who are lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- xi. Show you works with meekness (<u>James 3:13</u>)
- xii. Humble yourself before the Lord (James 4:10)
- xiii. Honor everyone (1 Peter 2:17)
- xiv. Honor Christ as holy in your heart (1 Peter 3:15)
- xv. Clothe yourself with humility (<u>1 Peter 5:5</u>), humble yourself (<u>1 Peter 5:6</u>)
- d. Vengeance
 - i. Do not avenge yourself (Romans 12:19)

- ii. Do not repay for evil, be honorable (<u>Romans 12:17</u>), do not be overcome by evil (<u>Romans 12:21</u>), Don't repay evil for evil (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:15</u>), Do not pay evil for evil or reviling for reviling (<u>1 Peter 3:8</u>)
- iii. Be angry and do not sin or let the sun go down on your anger (Ephesians 4:26)
- iv. Put away bitterness, rage, and anger (Ephesians 4:32)
- e. Giving and Service
 - i. Be a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-9)
 - ii. Serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13)
 - iii. Do not steal but work hard (Ephesians 4:28)
 - iv. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-9)

f. Doing good

- i. Do not grow weary in doing good (<u>Galatians 6:9-10</u>), Do not grow weary in doing good (<u>2 Thessalonians 3:13</u>), Seek to do good (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:15</u>), Do not neglect to do good (<u>Hebrews 13:16</u>)
- ii. Make the most of every opportunity (Ephesians 5:16)
- iii. Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17)
- iv. Admonish the idle (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:14</u>), Keep away from idle Christians (<u>2 Thessalonians 3:6</u>)
- v. Help the weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- vi. Provide for your family as an example of your faith (1 Timothy 5:8)
- vii. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness (<u>1 Timothy 6:11</u>)
- viii. Be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist and fulfill your ministry (<u>2 Timothy 4:5</u>)
- ix. Show hospitality to strangers (Hebrews 13:2)
- x. Remember those who are in prison (Hebrews 13:3)

g. Speech i. Speak the truth with your neighbor (Ephesians 4:25) ii. Do not speak with corrupting talk (Ephesians 4:29) iii. No filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking (Ephesians 5:14) iv. Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) v. Let the word of Christ dwell in you (Colossians 3:16) vi. Season your speech with Grace (Colossians 4:6) vii. Avoid irreverent babble (gossip) and contradictions of "knowledge" (1 <u>Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:16)</u> viii. Be quick to hear (James 1:19) ix. Do not desire to become a teacher (James 3:1) x. Do not speak evil against one another (<u>James 4:11</u>) xi. Do not grumble against one another (<u>James 5:9</u>) xii. Do not swear (an oath) (James 5:12) h. Prayer i. Continue steadfastly in prayer (Colossians 4:2) ii. Pray without ceasing (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:17</u>) i. Forgiveness i. Be kind to one another and forgiving (Ephesians 4:33) ii. Forgive one another (Colossians 3:13) j. Thanksgiving i. Be thankful (Colossians 3:15) ii. Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18) k. Spiritual warfare

- i. Be strong in the Lord and put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)
- ii. Stand firm in the Lord (Philippians 4:1), Stand firm (2 Thessalonians 2:15), Stand firm in God's grace (1 Peter 5:12)
- iii. Be strengthened in the grace in Christ (2 Timothy 2:1)
- iv. Resist the devil (1 Peter 5:9)

l. Suffering and Trials

- i. Share in the suffering of Christ (<u>2 Timothy 1:8</u>; <u>2:3</u>), Rejoice in sharing Christ's sufferings (<u>1 Peter 4:13</u>), Do not be ashamed to suffer for Christ and glorify God (<u>1 Peter 4:16</u>)
- ii. Count trials as joy (<u>James 1:2</u>)
- iii. Let steadfastness have its full effect (<u>James 1:4</u>)
- iv. Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5)
- v. Do not be surprised at fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12)
- vi. Do not suffer as an evildoer (1 Peter 4:15)
- vii. Entrust your soul in suffering to God (<u>1 Peter 4:19</u>)
- viii. Do not fear what you are about to suffer (Revelation 2:10)

2. Deal with sin

We are still susceptible to sin even though we are dead to it. The New Testament letters have a lot to say about sin and rolling over it.

They give us the proper perspective about sin and how we must react to temptation. It should be in the inception in our lives, not the rule.

We spend so much time fighting the spiritual battles against the flesh and send in our lives when we should be focusing on living victoriously for Christ and making a mark for Him on this world.

a. Dead to sin (<u>Romans 12:12-14</u>; <u>Ephesians 2:1-3</u>) slaves to righteousness (<u>Romans 12:15</u>-23)

- b. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and avoid sinful acts (Romans 13:11-14)
- c. Flee sexual immorality (<u>1 Corinthians 6:18</u>), Do not let sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness be named among you (<u>Ephesians 5:3</u>), Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness (<u>2 Timothy 2:22</u>)
- d. Stand firm against slavery to sin (Galatians 5:1)
- e. Put off the old self, be renewed, put on Christ, and be renewed in your mind (<u>Ephesians 4:22-24</u>), Put to death the earthly thing in you (<u>Colossians 3: 5-8</u>), Put away all filthiness and wickedness (<u>James 1:20</u>)
- f. Give no opportunity to the devil (Ephesians 4:27)
- g. Hold fast to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- h. Abstain from every form of evil (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:22</u>), Depart from iniquity (<u>2 Timothy 2:19</u>), Do not imitate evil (<u>3 John 11</u>)
- i. Rebuke Christians who persist in sin (1 Timothy 5:20)
- j. Do not be hasty in laying on of hands or take part in the sins of others ($\underline{1}$ <u>Timothy 5:22</u>)
- k. Keep yourself pure (<u>1 Timothy 5:22</u>)
- l. Throw off every hindrance and the sin that so easily entangles (<u>Hebrews</u> <u>12:1-2</u>)
- m. Do not be weary about discipline (Hebrews 12:4)
- n. Do not say temptation comes from God (James 1:13)
- o. Repent and do the words you did at first (<u>Revelation 2:5</u>), Repent (<u>Revelation 2:16</u>), Be zealous and repent (<u>Revelation 3:19</u>)
- p. Wake up and strengthen what remains (Revelation 3:2)

3. Godliness/Holiness

Another major focus of the New Testament letters is developing and godliness and holiness. These words are virtually synonyms.

Once again, the Holy Spirit is named "Holy" for the reason that He designed the program to make us holy and godly.

You will find below categories of character once again, but specifically the character that drives our actions and behavior.

- a. Living sacrifices to God (Romans 12:1-2) Serve the Lord with zeal and fervency (Romans 12:11)
- b. Walk in a manner worthy of the One who called you (<u>Ephesians 4:1</u>), Live as a citizen in a manner worthy of the gospel (<u>Philippians 1:27</u>), Walk (live) in Christ (<u>Colossians 2:6-7</u>)
- c. Imitate God (<u>Ephesians 5:1</u>), Imitate the godly character traits of saints (<u>Philippians 3:17</u>) and practice it (<u>Philippians 4:9</u>), Imitate the faith of your leaders (<u>Hebrews 13:7</u>)
- d. Press on toward the goal of knowing Christ (Philippians 3:14)
- e. Train yourself for godliness (<u>1 Timothy 4:7</u>)
- f. Set a godly example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (<u>1 Timothy</u> <u>4:12</u>)
- g. Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to extrication, and to teaching (<u>1 Timothy 4:13</u>)
- h. Do not neglect the gift you have (1 Timothy 4:14)
- i. Practice and immerse yourself in godly living (<u>1 Timothy 4:15</u>)
- j. Keep close watch on yourself and godly teaching (<u>1 Timothy 4:16</u>), Present yourself to God as one approved, rightly dividing the Word of truth (<u>2 Timothy 2:15</u>)
- k. Be a doer of the Word (James 1:21)
- l. Show no partiality and hold fast to the faith (<u>James 2:1</u>)
- m. Submit yourself to God and resist the devil (<u>James 4:7</u>), Draw near to God, cleanse your hands and purify your heart (<u>James 4:8</u>)
- n. Be holy in all your conduct (<u>1 Peter 1:15</u>)

- o. Conduct yourself with fear (reverence) (<u>1 Peter 1:17</u>), Fear God (reverence) (<u>1 Peter 2:17</u>)
- p. Supplement your faith with virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness godliness, brotherly affection,, and love (<u>2 Peter 1:5-7</u>)
- q. Confirm your calling and election (2 Peter 1:10)
- r. Be diligent to be found by Jesus without spot or wrinkle (2 Peter 3:14), Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:11)
- s. Abide in Jesus (1 John 2:27, 28), Keep yourself in the love of God (Jude 21)
- t. Hold fast to what you have until Jesus comes (<u>Revelation 2:25</u>), Hold fast to what you have (<u>Revelation 3:11</u>)

4. Live in the Spirit

It is said that many Christians do not know the relationship or power of the Holy Spirit and their daily lives. He lives in us, and we can develop a great relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit is responsible for a vibrant and active relationship with Jesus as we live for Him in a wicked world. We need to develop that relationship with the Spirit and allow Him to minister through us and lead us until our time on this earth is finished.

- a. Life through the Spirit (Romans 8:9-11)
- b. Use the gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)
- c. Walk by the Spirit (<u>Galatians 5:16</u>), keep in step with the Spirit (<u>Galatians 5:25</u>)
- d. Exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24)
- e. Sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:8)
- f. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
- g. Don't get drunk but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20)
- h. Do not quench the Spirit (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:19</u>)

- i. Do not despise prophecies (1 Thessalonians 5:20)
- j. Hear what the Spirit says to the churches (<u>Revelation 2:7</u>, <u>11</u>, <u>17</u>, <u>29</u>; <u>3:6</u>, <u>13</u>, <u>22</u>)

5. Dealing with outsiders

Another reason we're still here of the world is to be lights and witnesses of Jesus to the world. You will also see this topic addressed below.

You will be surprised to find out how the New Testament letters talk about our relationship with unbelievers. There are some commands you would expect, but much of what the New Testament teaches us about outsiders is how to show them love and interact with them in ways that highlight Jesus.

- a. Take care of your enemy (Romans 12:20)
- b. Bless your persecutors (<u>Romans 12:14</u>), Do not fear those who persecute you (<u>1 Peter 3:14</u>)
- c. Submit to earthly authorities (<u>Romans 13:1-7</u>), Be subject to human institutions (<u>1 Peter 2:13-16</u>), Honor the Emperor (or whatever leader of your country) (<u>1 Peter 2:17</u>)
- d. Do not be yoked with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- e. Don't let unbelievers deceive you with empty talk and don't be partners with them (Ephesians 5:6), expose fruitless the darkness (Ephesians 5:11)
- f. Don't let anyone disqualify you by these things (Colossians 2:10)

6. Think like a Christian

Is my contention that the Christian mind is the most underdeveloped part of our being a new creature in Christ. The New Testament letters have much to say about the development of the Christian mind and mindset.

You may be surprised to find out how much we are commanded in the New Testament to develop a Christian mindset. The way we think leads to the way we feel and act.

These are just the commands about a Christian mindset. It does not merely cover the amount of "mental words" you will find in the Bible, and especially the New Testament.

- a. Renewing of your mind and (Romans 12:2)
- b. Try to discern what pleases the Lord (Ephesians 5:10)
- c. Walk in wisdom (<u>Ephesians 5:15</u>), do not be foolish and understand the Lord's will (<u>Ephesians 5:17</u>)
- d. Have the same mind, the same love, being of one mind (<u>Philippians 2:2</u>), Have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind (<u>1 Peter 3:7</u>)
- e. Be reasonable (Philippians 4:5)
- f. Think on good and godly things (Philippians 4:8), Seek and set your mind on things that are above (Colossians 3:1-2)
- g. Think over the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:7)
- h. Arm yourself with the thinking of Christ (1 Peter 4:1)
- i. Be self-controlled and sober minded (<u>1 Peter 4:7</u>), Be sober-minded and watchful (<u>1 Peter 5:8</u>)
- j. Do not overlook God's timing (<u>2 Peter 3:8</u>), Count God's patience as salvation (<u>2 Peter 3:15</u>)
- k. Do not be surprised that the world hates you (1 John 3:13)

7. Stand against false teachers and false teaching

The New Testament letters are full of commands about how to deal with false teachers, teaching, and false prophets. Perhaps surprising to us, the apostles dealt with false teachers more than they should have.

You will find false teachers and false teaching in the Church. That is exactly where the devil would like to the real Christianity and Christians.

One thing you'll notice is that the apostles were not timid or dancing around the bush when it came to false teachers. They dealt with them decisively and with finality.

We must realize that false teachers are rarely misguided and wanting to be corrected. It is more likely that they are attempting to create points of disunity and dissolution. We must stand firm against them and not allow them anywhere.

- a. Purge the evil person from among you (1 Corinthians 5:13)
- b. Do not become captive to empty philosophies (Colossians 2:8)
- c. Test everything (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:21</u>), Don't believe every spirit but test the spirits (<u>1 John 4:1</u>)
- d. Hold fast the (Christian) traditions you were taught (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- e. Warn any Christian who is not obeying Scripture (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)
- f. Have nothing to do with myths (<u>1 Timothy 4:7</u>), Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies <u>2 Timothy 2:23</u>), Avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and morals about the law (<u>Titus 3:9</u>)
- g. Command and teach the pure doctrine of Scripture (1 Timothy: 4 11)
- h. Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12)
- i. Guard the deposit entrusted to you of good teaching and godly living (1 Timothy 6:20), Guard the good deposit entrusted to you (2 Timothy 1:14)
- j. Follow the pattern of sound doctrine and teaching (2 Timothy 1:13), Remind one another of Christian doctrine and Scripture (2 Timothy 2:14), Continue in what you have learned and believed (2 Timothy 3:14), Declare sound Christian doctrine, exhort one another, and rebuke when necessary (Titus 2:15), Teach what accords with sound doctrine (Titus 2:1), Remember what you received and heard (Revelation 3:2), Keep what you have received and heard and repent (Revelation 3:3)
- k. Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching (2 Timothy 4:2), Long for the pure spiritual milk of biblical teaching (1 Peter 2:2), Let what you heard

from the beginning abide in you (<u>1 John 2:24</u>), Remember what the apostles said about people who scoff at the teaching of the coming of our Lord (<u>Jude 17</u>)

l. Warn a person causing division once or twice and then have nothing to do with him (<u>Titus 3:10</u>), Do not receive or greet false teachers (<u>2 John 10</u>)

m. Take heart lest there be an unbelieving heart in you (<u>Hebrews 3:12</u>), Take care you're not carried away by error (<u>2 Peter 3:17</u>), Let no one deceive you (<u>1 John 3:7</u>), Watch yourself to not lose what you have gained (<u>2 John 8</u>), Keep yourself from idols (<u>1 John 5:21</u>)

- n. Do not love the world or the things in the world (<u>1 John 2:15</u>), Hate the works and teachings of false teachers (<u>Revelation 2:7</u>)
- o. Save others by snatching them out of the fire (<u>Jude 23</u>), Have mercy on those who doubt (<u>Jude 22</u>), Show mercy with fear (<u>Jude 23</u>)

8. Christianity in home life

Some of the letters of the New Testament specifically address a Christian home and what it should be like. Paul and Peter especially address what home life should be like.

It should not be like the world around us. As such, it addresses husbands and wives, children and fathers, and at the time of the New Testament writings, masters and slaves.

You will find a remarkable similarity between letters on these issues and the people they address. When you see how the Greek and Roman households were run, you will see a marked difference in Christian homes.

Jesus is Lord in the Christian home, and as such, He shows us how to interact on family levels differently than the world.

You may not like what the Bible has to say about wives, husbands, children, and fathers, or the slave/master relationship, but the Bible challenges us in each of these roles to put Jesus first. It is out of respect for Him that we obey these commands and teachings about Christian home life.

- a. Husbands love your wives, wives submit to and respect your husbands, 5:22-32), Wives submit to husbands, husbands love wives (<u>Colossians 3:18-19</u>), Wives be subject to your own husbands (<u>1 Peter 3:1</u>), Husbands live with your lives in an understandable way (<u>1 Peter 3:7</u>)
- b. Children obey and honor parents (<u>Ephesians 6:1</u>), Children obey parents (Colossians 3:20)
- c. Fathers do not provoke children, bring children up in the ways of the Lord (Ephesians 6:2-4), Fathers do not provoke children (Colossians 3:21)

9. Living in Christian community

The Church was put into place by Jesus. It is not perfect, and I can be infiltrated by false teachers and prophets as you saw above. But it is also the best place to help you grow as a Christian.

Near and dear to the people of God is a place of fellowship and like mindedness they cannot get from the world. The Church is Jesus's people for you to interact with and grow together with.

I like to say that the Church should be a place of light, warmth, and grace. It's like coming out of the cold, dark world and into a warm place of friendship and mission together. "Together" is a keyword for us. We should be working together and with one another.

The Church has its faults and is by no means perfect, but you can find friendship and family here that you may not be able to find in the world. There are different perspectives and goals between God's people and the world.

- a. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (<u>Romans 12:15</u>), Rejoice (<u>2 Corinthians 13:11</u>), Rejoice in the Lord (<u>Philippians 3:1; 4:4</u>), Rejoice always (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:16</u>)
- b. **Encouragement** Build up your neighbor (<u>Romans 15:1</u>), Comfort one another (<u>2 Corinthians 13:11</u>), Encourage one another about the rapture (<u>1 Thessalonians 4:18</u>) and the Day of the Lord (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:11</u>), Encourage the fainthearted (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:14</u>), Encourage one another (<u>1 Timothy 5:1</u>), Exhort one another (<u>Hebrews 3:13</u>)

- c. Do not have lawsuits among Christians (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)
- d. Restore one another (<u>2 Corinthians 13:11</u>), Restore those caught in sin gently (<u>Galatians 6:1-2</u>), Bear one another's burdens (<u>Galatians 6:3</u>)
- e. **Unity** Be part of one unified body (<u>1 Corinthians 12:14-26</u>), Maintain unity in the body of Christ (<u>Ephesians 4:2-6</u>, <u>12-16</u>), Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (<u>Ephesians 5:21</u>), Bear with one another (<u>Colossians 3:13</u>)
- f. **Church Leaders** Respect church leaders who work among you and esteem them highly in love (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</u>), Remember your leaders (<u>Hebrews 13:7</u>), Obey your leaders and submit to them (<u>Hebrews 13:17</u>), Be subject to the elders (<u>1 Peter 5:5</u>)
- g. Be patient with one another (<u>1 Thessalonians 5:14</u>), Be patient and establish your heart for the coming of the Lord (<u>James 5:7</u>)
- h. Pray in suffering, in praise when cheerful,, have elders of the church pray for sicknesses (<u>James 5:13-14</u>)
- i. Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another (<u>James 5:16</u>)
- j. Set your hope on the grace of Christ (1 Peter 1:13)
- k. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy (Revelation 22:11)
- l. The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price (Revelation 22:17)

Discussion (30 minutes)

Application (10 minutes)