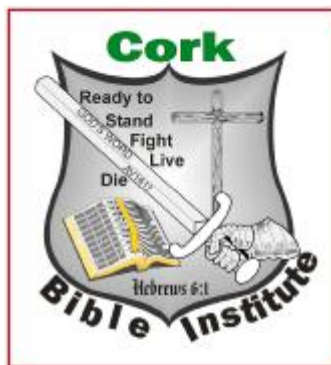


Overview of the New Testament

Student Edition

*A Basic Survey of the Background and Teaching of the
Entire New Testament*



Cork Bible Institute Course

By Craig A. Ledbetter, B.A., Th.G.
Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig

29 Westcourt Heights

Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland

Tel: (021) 4875142

www.biblebc.com

E-Mail: craigled@iol.ie

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS 3

INTRODUCTION..... 3

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT 4

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EACH AUTHOR 6

THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT 8

Map of Palestine at the Time of Jesus..... 13

Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books..... 14

 The Gospel of Matthew 14

 General Outline of Matthew 15

 The Gospel of Mark 16

 The Gospel of Luke..... 17

 The Gospel of John 18

 Harmony of the Gospels..... 19

 The Book of Acts 27

 Romans 30

 1 Corinthians..... 32

 2 Corinthians..... 33

 Galatians 34

 Ephesians 36

 Philippians 37

 Colossians 39

 1 Thessalonians 40

 2 Thessalonians..... 41

 1 Timothy 43

 2 Timothy 44

 Titus 45

 Philemon..... 47

 Hebrews..... 48

 James 51

 1 Peter..... 53

 2 Peter..... 54

 1 John 55

 2 John 57

 3 John 58

 Jude 59

 The Revelation..... 60

Overview of the New Testament Final Exam 63

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Attend 8 of the 11 weeks this course is run. Any more misses than that and your status will be reduced to that of Auditor and will have to retake the course, unless special arrangements are made.
- B. Read through the entire New Testament by the Final Exam just before Christmas – that means reading 4 chapters a day.
- C. Summarize the contents of one of the books of the New Testament – preferably, your favourite book. Turn in this report at the Final Exam.

INTRODUCTION

The New Testament consists of ___ books. The word "Testament" generally means a "_____, agreement, contract". "New" is used as in contrast to the "Old" Testament, or the way God related to men and women after the coming of Christ. Someone once said, we should simply title the Bible "_____." The "Old" Testament would be, "Volume One: The Plan Begins." And the "New" Testament would be called "Volume Two: The Plan Completed."

The Purpose of the New Testament: _____, as the fulfilment of Old Testament history, ceremony and prophecy.

The New Testament is divided into _____ sections: the Gospels (Matthew through John), history (the book of Acts), the Pauline Epistles (Romans through Hebrews), the General Epistles (James through Jude), and prophecy (the book of Revelation). The New Testament was written from approximately A.D. 50 to approximately A.D. 95. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek (common Greek, the everyday form of the Greek language in the first century A.D.)

- A. The Gospels give us _____ different, yet not conflicting, accounts of the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They demonstrate how Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and they lay the foundation for the teaching of the rest of the New Testament.
- B. The book of Acts records the deeds of Jesus' apostles, the men Jesus sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel of salvation. It also tells us of the beginning of the _____ and its rapid growth in the first century A.D.
- C. The Pauline Epistles, written by the Apostle Paul, are letters usually written to specific churches - giving official Christian doctrine and the practice that should follow that doctrine.
- D. The General Epistles compliment the Pauline Epistles with additional teaching and application, especially directed at the _____.
- E. The book of Revelation prophesies the events that will occur in the end times.

A survey of the New Testament is a powerful and rewarding study. The New Testament tells us of Jesus' death on the cross on our behalf - and what our response should be to His death. The New Testament focuses on giving solid Christian teaching along with the practical results that should follow that teaching.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Biography	History	Pauline Epistles	General Epistles	Prophecy
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans 1 Corinthians 11 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Phillipians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 11 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 11 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews	James 1 Peter 11 Peter I John II John III John Jude	Revelation

I. **The Gospels:** _____. The Gospels were written to tell us about Christ's ministry (His doings and teachings) with a special focus on His birth and death. (Note how much space is devoted to the last week of His life.) They are divided into two sections: the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke--which share much of the same material) and the fourth gospel, the Gospel of John. Why are there so many gospels? The O.T. law required two or three witnesses to establish a fact, and it is because each writer has a different audience in mind with different perspectives that require a unique emphasis.

- A. **Matthew**--Writes as a _____ to Jews. He presents Jesus as the Messiah who fulfilled the O.T. prophecies (note the numerous O.T. quotations). Matthew uses the phrase, "This was to fulfil ..." See Matt. 1:22. A key section for study is the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7, which contains kingdom principles not only for the future--but for living life here and now.
- B. **Mark**--Writes to the _____-minded _____. He presents Jesus Christ as the busy Servant of God who demonstrates supernatural power over nature, disease, demons, etc. This book is the shortest--yet most active of the Gospels. The key section for study is Jesus' warning against religionism in Mark 7 (very pertinent for people today).
- C. **Luke**--Writes to the _____, picturing Christ as full of compassion for absolutely everyone, especially the poor and sinful. This is the most complete gospel, written entirely in chronological order. Luke also wrote the Book of Acts as well.
- D. **John**--Gives a theological portrait of Christ. He does this by demonstrating through several key signs and speeches that Jesus is God (Deity) come in the flesh in order to save His people from sin. John states his purpose very clearly in John 20:3 to bring readers to saving faith in Jesus Christ. (No wonder so many have been saved through passages like John 1:12 and 3:16!) Almost half of the Book is about the last week of Jesus' life. A key phrase in John is "I am..."

Matthew	Presents Jesus as the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah	Written to the Jews
Mark	Presents Jesus as the Servant of God	Written to the Romans
Luke	Presents Jesus as the Son of Man	Written for the Greeks
John	Presents Jesus as the Son of God	Written to the whole world

II. The Acts

- A. Luke wrote this book as a sequel to his Gospel (Acts 1: 1-2). It is a book of missionary history as it follows the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome. Its major emphasis is the

continued acts of Jesus from heaven by the Holy Spirit through His Church. It provides important background for the principal writers of the epistles or letters to the churches.

- B. The key elements of the Gospel are repeated throughout the book of Acts in the preaching. It is important to remember that Acts is a transitional book--not a clear doctrinal presentation for believers.

III. **The Epistles (Letters):** Includes the letters of Paul, Peter, John, James, and Jude. Most of these letters were written to churches, but some were written to individuals. The epistles are where the great doctrines of the faith are explained in their greatest detail--both theologically and practically.

A. **Paul's Letters (_____)**

1. **Romans**--Written to the believers at Rome, setting forth the need for and the plan of salvation (Romans 1-11) and the practical implications of this salvation for godly living. Chapter 12 contains a discussion of gifts and ends with a powerful section on how to relate to people (especially unbelievers) who mistreat you. Chapter 13 is a key passage for the Christian's relationship to their _____. Chapters 14 and 15 contain some vital principles on how to handle non-essential differences with other believers (i.e. the issues of Christian liberty).
2. **1 Corinthians**--Deals with church problems such as church cliques and _____ (1-3), incest and the need for church discipline (5), believers taking believers to court (6), sexual sin (6), marriage and divorce (7), Christian liberty (8, 10), abuses of the _____ (11), spiritual gifts (12-14), and a right approach to giving (16). It is a great book to turn to for answers to common church problems.
3. **2 Corinthians**--A defence of Paul's apostleship and his motivation for ministry. Chapter one has some helpful information on comfort and affliction. Chapter two deals with how to re-assimilate a disciplined church member. Chapter four deals with how to overcome difficult circumstances that could otherwise lead to depression. Chapter five underscores the goal and motivation for the Christian life. Chapter six warns against being _____ with _____. Chapters eight and nine deal with Christian _____. And chapter twelve states that the reason for the sign gifts (tongues and healing) was to authenticate the Apostles and their message.
4. **Galatians**--Combats the problem of _____ and asserts Christian freedom through justification by faith alone. Chapter five speaks of the struggle in the Christian life, the _____ of the _____, and the _____ of the _____. Chapter six opens with the mandate for all Christians to counsel.
5. **Hebrews**-- It teaches the _____ of Christ to all that these Jewish believers left behind in Judaism. The danger of defecting is sounded throughout. Chapter five explains why believers fail to grow (5:11-14). Chapter ten gives a challenge for believers to minister to each other. Chapter eleven is the great chapter on faith. Chapter twelve explains God's purpose in discipline.

B. **Letters Written During Paul's Imprisonment (Ephesians-Colossians)**

1. **Ephesians**--Reveals the eternal plan and purpose of God in salvation (chapters 1-3) and how it forms the basis for the believer's walk with God and his fellow Christians (chapters 4-6). Chapter 4 explains the process God uses to _____ believers and then illustrates how it works in solving the problems of communication that tend to divide believers. Chapter five gives the basic pattern for dealing with life dominating sins (v. 18) and then goes on to deal with God's pattern for marriage. Chapter six covers parent-child responsibilities and the Christian work ethic as well as the _____ of God.
2. **Philippians**--Written to assure the believers of God's unending purpose through Paul's imprisonment. It contains important instructions throughout on how to handle rivalry and jealousy between believers (esp. chapter 2). Chapter four covers the kind of _____ that is vital for overcoming worry.
3. **Colossians**--Overlaps with much of the content of _____. Both deal with the Church as Christ's body, but Colossians stresses Christ's role as the _____. Contains some great

passages on the sufficiency of Christ! Further develops how Christians grow (only as we put off the habits of the flesh and put on God's new ways of thinking and handling life).

4. **1 Thessalonians**--is the great passage on the second coming of Christ and the _____ of believers.
5. **2 Thessalonians**--Corrects _____ regarding Christ's second coming.
6. **Philemon**--Paul's letter in behalf of a runaway, converted _____. It gives a good model of how to raise a "sticky" issue with another believer.

C. Paul's Letters Written to Church Leaders (Timothy and Titus)

1. **1 Timothy**--Important instructions on how to have a healthy _____. It covers issues like the role of women in the church, guidelines for spiritual leadership, the importance of the pastor's own walk with God, and vital instructions about attitudes toward money.
2. **2 Timothy**--Paul's _____ letter. It contains a great chapter on the _____ of Scripture--even in the most challenging of times.
3. **Titus**--Instructions to Titus on how to organize a new church in a pagan society. Has a great section on Christian ethics (practical living) in chapter two.

D. Letters From Other Writers

1. **James**--Covers God's _____ in trials--to make His people mature and complete. Shows that man's own desires are his greatest enemy, deals with partiality, the importance of controlling the tongue, and how that desires gone awry are at the root of interpersonal conflicts. This book puts a lot of emphasis on how you live, and what you do as a Christian, instead of just what you believe.
2. **1 Peter**--Teaches believers how they can _____ for Christ in a way that pleases God. It focuses on suffering especially in the context of failing relationships--with legal authorities and workplace authorities (2), and with spouses.
3. **2 Peter**--Warns against the infiltration of false _____--and how to identify them.
4. **1 John**--Key book on how to have a Biblically based _____ of salvation.
5. **2 John**--Letter of encouragement to a Christian woman; warns against aiding false teachers.
6. **3 John**--Short work on Christian _____.
7. **Jude**--Warns against false **teachers**--and how to rescue those who have been influenced by them.

IV. **The Revelation:** Deals primarily with the _____ and the final act in God's unfolding drama of redemption! The first three chapters contain direct words from Jesus to His church. His observations, commendations, and warnings are relevant to churches in every age! From chapter four on, the emphasis is on the future!

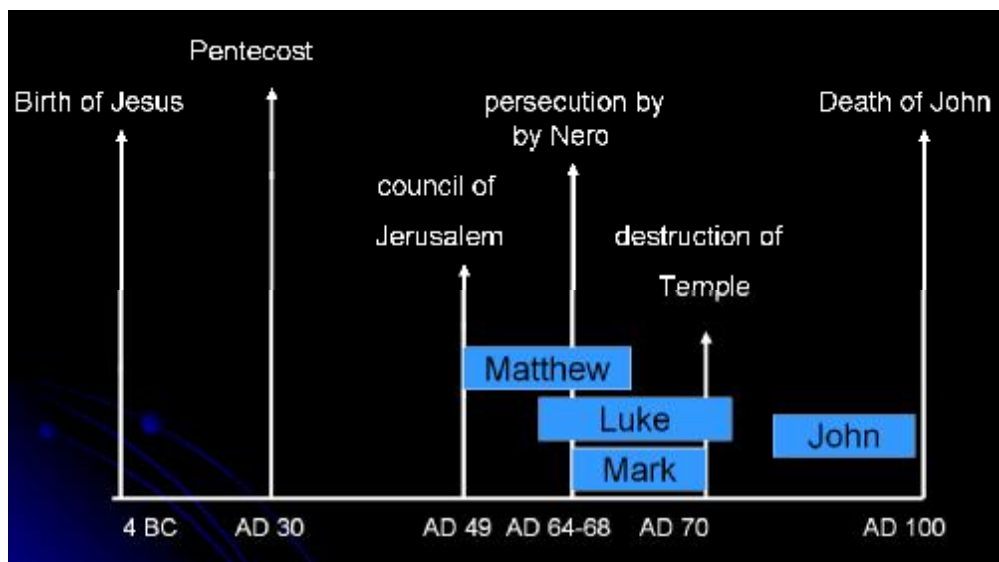
BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EACH AUTHOR

- A. **Matthew:** Mathew, also known as _____, was a publican or tax collector who was chosen by Jesus to be one of the twelve Apostles. As a tax collector Matthew would have been a literate person well suited to author one of the gospel records. Early church tradition credits Matthew with the authorship of the gospel bearing his name.
- B. **John Mark:** This disciple is given credit by the early church as the author of the Gospel bearing his name. Mark was the Latin surname given to this young man who's Jewish name was John. John Mark was cousin to Barnabas, a prominent figure in the early church. Mark travelled with his cousin Barnabas in ministry and later in years ministered to the Apostles Peter and Paul. Mark is not identified as one who walked with Jesus yet his association with the Apostles makes him more than qualified to produce a gospel record.
- C. **Luke:** This man is credited with authoring the third Gospel and the book of Acts. Luke is mentioned three times in the New Testament. (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11) and from these passages we learn that Luke was a _____ and a fellow worker of

Overview of the New Testament

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF EACH AUTHOR

- Paul who travelled with Paul during his missionary journeys. Luke was an educated man who's attention to historical detail is of great value to us today.
- D. **John, the Son of Zebedee:** One of the twelve apostles, John was a fisherman and brother to one of the other twelve apostles, James. The Apostle John is the author of the fourth gospel, _____ epistles, and the _____. John was a close personal associate of Jesus being referred to as the "...disciple whom Jesus _____". John's writings are of tremendous value to the Christian church and account for a significant portion of the New Testament.
- E. **Simon Peter:** Peter was one of the most prominent of the twelve Apostles. He was also a fisherman and brother to another of the twelve who's name was Andrew. Peter was also referred to at times as Simeon (Acts 15:14) along with Cephas and Simon (John 1:43). Peter was a part of Jesus _____ of disciples and remains an important person throughout the early church history. Peter is credited with authoring the two Epistles which bear his name and as being the likely source for Mark's Gospel.
- F. **Paul:** The Apostle Paul, although not one of the original twelve Apostles, was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle and to go out to bring the gospel to the non-Jewish people of his day. Paul was a Jew of respectable heritage and a ranking member of the strict Jewish sect of the Pharisees. Paul was also a Roman citizen by birth which he used to his advantage in times of persecution. His name before his conversion was Saul and he was well known because he fiercely persecuted the early Christians. After his miraculous conversion Paul went on to live one of the most fruitful lives of service for the kingdom of God.
- G. **James:** The author of the epistle of James this man was also a _____ of Jesus. (Galatians 1:19). James was not one of the twelve Apostles but was clearly a leader in the early church in Jerusalem. An important council in Jerusalem chaired by James was responsible for deciding that it was no longer a requirement to keep the ceremonial aspects of the law of Moses. Acts 12:17; 15:13,19; Gal 2:9. Along with being a member of Jesus household James also had the privilege of seeing Jesus after He rose from the dead. 1 Cor 15:5,7.
- H. **Jude:** The author of one epistle of only twenty five verses Jude was also a half-brother of James and of Jesus. Jude 1; Gal 1:19 His name in Greek would be Judas however this is not the traitor of Jesus but the defender of the faith who's epistle speaks out boldly against the apostasy of his day.



THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

In order to understand the background and history of the New Testament text you should have a basic acquaintance with the common languages of the geographic region of that time period. There are four languages which play an important role in the New Testament.

I. SEMITIC LANGUAGES

- A. _____ was the common language of Palestine and was the common vernacular spoken by Jesus and His disciples. The term "Aramaic" comes from the former name of Syria which was Aram. The Arameans were a people who can be traced throughout the Old Testament and who were located in the northwestern portions of Palestine. Aramaic has many similarities with Hebrew and is a close cousin to Hebrew in the Semitic family of languages.
- B. _____ has its origins in the old Phoenician alphabet from which both Semitic and non Semitic languages of the time were derived. Some have concluded that Hebrew was a dialect of the Caananites which Abraham acquired after migrating there. Except for a few small portions, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Christianity and the teachings of the New Testament find their roots in the Hebrew scriptures.

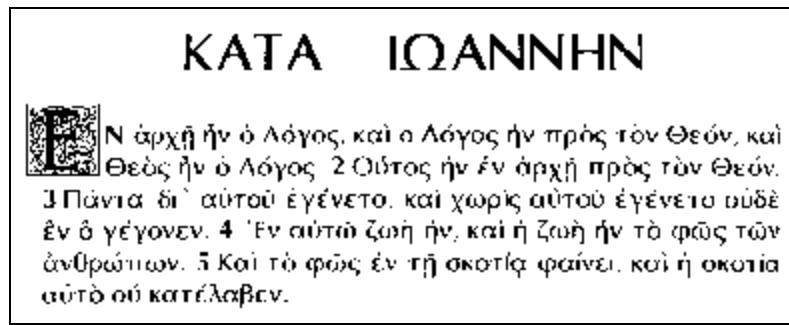
II. INDO-EUROPEAN

- A. _____ was the official language of the Roman empire at the time of Christ. This language was used by the educated of society - authors, lawyers and poets - and was more predominate in the western regions of the empire. Latin would have been used in the provinces of Judea for conducting the business of the state and for the courts of law. A good number of Latin words and proper names can be found throughout the New Testament.
- B. _____ was the common language of the market place in Rome during New Testament times. The New Testament was written in what is now called "koine" Greek. "Koine" or "common" refers to the fact that this was the language of everyday life in the Roman Empire in the days of the early Church.

III. The Greek Alphabet

Notice the symbol for the first letter is "alpha" and the name of the letter is "ahl-fah." We have the sound in our English word "father."

Capital	Lower	Like	Name	Pronounced as in:
A	a	A	Alpha (ahl-fah)	a <u>f</u> ather
B	b	B	Beta (bay-tah)	b <u>b</u> all
G	g		Gamma (gahm-ma)	g <u>g</u> one
D	d	D	Delta (dell-tah)	d <u>d</u> og
E	e	E	Epsilon (ep-sih-lawn)	e <u>m</u> et
Z	z	Z	Zeta (dzay-tah)	z <u>ad</u> ze
H	h	A	Eta (ay-tah)	a <u>th</u> ey
Q	q		Theta (thay-tah)	th <u>Th</u> rone, <u>th</u> in
I	i	I	Iota (ee-oh-tah)	i <u>fi</u> t, mach <u>in</u> e
K	k	K	Kappa (cop-ah)	k <u>ki</u> ng
L	l	L	Lambda (lahm-dah)	l <u>l</u> ong
M	m	M	mu (moo)	m <u>m</u> en
N	n	N	Nu (new)	n <u>n</u> ew
X	x		xi (ksee, or like "sigh")	ks <u>li</u> kes, <u>ask</u> s
O	o	O	omicron (au-mih-crawn)	o <u>l</u> og
P	p	P	Pi (pea, pie)	p <u>p</u> ea
R	r	R	Rho (hrow)	r <u>h</u> er
S	s	S	Sigma (sig-mah)	s <u>si</u> gn
T	t	T	Tau (rhyme with "how")	t <u>t</u> en
U	u	U	Upsilon (oop-sih-lawn)	u <u>n</u> ew (German 'u')
F	f		Phi (fee, or phi)	ph <u>ph</u> one
C	c	X	Chi (key, or chi)	x <u>Ba</u> ch (composer)
Y	y		Psi (psee, or psi)	ps <u>li</u> ps
W	w	O	Omega (oh-may-gah)	o <u>o</u> nly



IV. THE METHODS AND MATERIALS OF WRITING

A. In these days of high speed printing and computer graphics it is hard to visualize a period of time when all written communication was done by hand. However in the days of Jesus and the early church such was the case. The two most common materials used for writing in this period of time were papyrus and vellum or parchment.

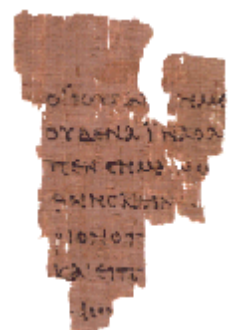
1. _____ originated in Egypt at least 2500 years before the time of Christ and was by far the most _____ writing material in use when the New Testament was written. Manufactured from the papyrus plant this paper like material was first used in scrolls and then in later times in codice or book form. Thin strips were cut from the stem of the Papyrus plant and laid side by side in an overlapping fashion. A second similar layer was laid crossways over the first. The layers were pressed and glued together to form sheets. Numerous sheets would then be joined together to form scrolls. Pens made from dried reeds cut to a point and slit in the end were first used as writing instruments. Later in time quills became more popular as writing instruments.
2. _____ are the names used to describe the animal skins that were prepared to receive written words with reed or quill pen. The oldest known leather scrolls of this type in existence today date back to 1500bc. The animal skins were prepared by soaking them in limewater and scraping them clean of all hair Afterwards they were dried and then rubbed smooth with a pumice stone. This process made for an extremely durable writing surface which was a great asset in the preservation of the early Greek manuscripts. Technically, Vellum refers to the higher quality sheets that were derived from the skins of calves. Parchment was derived from other animals like bulls and goats which resulted in a product of a lesser quality.

B. THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

1. Now it is time to begin to look at the facts regarding the transmission of the text of the New Testament. This information will continue to support the claim that the New Testament we presently have in our hands today is an accurate and trustworthy representation of the original text. The evidence to be examined is threefold: 1) The Greek manuscripts of the New Testament now available 2) the copies of the early versions of the New Testament now available 3) the citations made by the early Church Fathers of the New Testament documents that were available to them. On this page we will explore the first part of this evidence: the Greek manuscripts we now have in our possession.

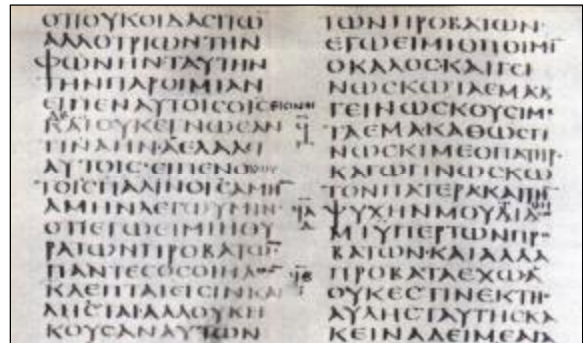
2. THE GREEK MANUSCRIPTS

- a. _____: This term describes the original documents that were penned by the author. No original autograph is known to exist today. It is believed that the originals were most likely prepared on papyrus scrolls which in time would have perished without having taken extraordinary measures to preserve them.
- b. **Biblical** _____: Over the last 125 years a collection of biblical papyrus manuscripts has been gathered and documented by archeologists and biblical scholars. This collection ranges from



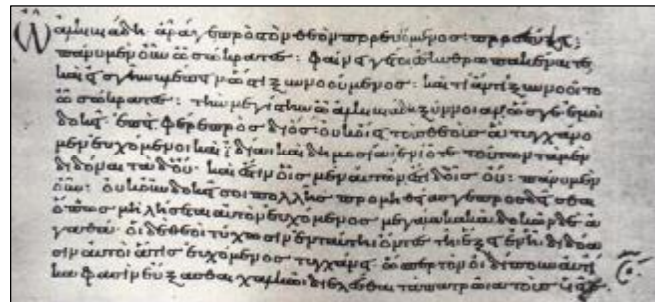
a small fragment containing a few verses to large portions of the New Testament. One of the more notable examples is the "John Rylands Fragment" also known as P52 which contains a small portion of the gospel of John dating to approximately 125AD. This collection of Greek manuscript portions consisting of over seventy five items is the first important piece of information available for the reconstruction of the New Testament text.

- c. **The _____ Manuscripts:** These Greek manuscripts containing large portions of the New Testament form the backbone of the information needed to accurately reconstruct the New Testament text. This collection of manuscripts deriving it's name from the large box like letters that are found within each document dates from the fourth to the ninth centuries.



- 1) The three most famous are *codex _____*, *_____ and _____*. Vaticanus, presently housed in the Vatican library (!!!), dates at 350 AD and is a high quality codex of vellum containing most of the New Testament, except for part of the book of Hebrews and the remaining books after that. Codex Sinaiticus also dated at 350 AD contains the entire New Testament as we have it today except for 24 verses. Codex Alexandrinus dates from 450 AD and contains most of the New Testament except for approximately 34 chapters as compared to our English translation. Both Sinaiticus and Alexandrinus are housed at the national library of the British museum. They are all three some of the most **CORRUPT** revisions of the Greek New testament text!

- d. **The _____ Manuscripts:** These manuscripts date from between the ninth to the fifteenth centuries and number over 2500. They also gain their name based on the style of lettering which is a small cursive type of letter. While these manuscripts are not as valuable as the Uncials they are by themselves an extremely important and valuable witness to the text of the original New Testament documents.



- 3. **The _____:** These important witnesses to the original text of the New Testament were created for local church instructional purposes and worship. These documents which number well over 2,000 are dated from the fourth to the twelfth century. There is a wide range of material both in quality and quantity represented in the lectionaries. From these manuscripts alone the text of the New testament can be reproduced many times over except for the book of Revelation and some portions in the book of Acts.
- 4. The information supplied to us by the Greek manuscripts provides an overwhelming wealth of data from which scholars can easily reproduce an accurate and trustworthy reconstruction of the New Testament text. No other document comes to us from antiquity with the quantity or quality of manuscript evidence as does the New Testament. Building on this rock solid foundation let's now consider the testimony of the early versions of the New Testament.

C. THE EARLY VERSIONS

- 1. One of the first commands that Jesus gave to His disciples was to go into all the world to preach the gospel to every nation teaching them to observe all that had been commanded. (Matthew 28:19) This of course would make it necessary for the gospels and the

teachings of the Apostles to be translated into the language of the people who were being visited. Therefore quite naturally there appeared a number of early translation of the New Testament into various other languages. The existing copies of these early translations or version is of great value in continuing to verify the accuracy and trustworthiness of the New Testament documents.

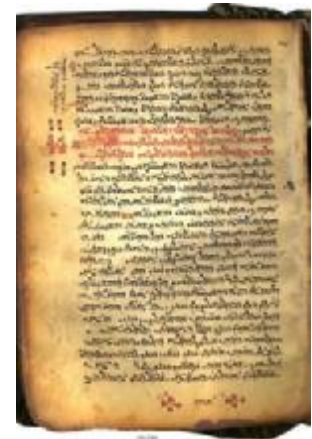
2. THE LATIN VERSIONS

- a. The Latin translations are the most important of the early versions. Latin as it has been stated before was the official language of the Roman Empire. As time went on Latin become the predominant language of the west. Because of this the Latin versions soon became the only version to be used by the Church in these regions. There are two Latin versions to be examined.
- b. _____: The first Latin translations are believed to have been made prior to 200AD. This version survives today in some thirty ancient manuscripts. This "Old Latin" translation was not of a high quality and was characterized by many variations in the text. Early church leaders of that time recognized the need to correct and revise this translation to make it accurate and trustworthy. The result is what is known today as the Latin Vulgate.
- c. **The Latin _____**: In 382 Pope Damasus commissioned Jerome an outstanding Bible scholar of his day to begin a revised Latin version which would correct and standardize the numerous Old Latin translations. Jerome was well suited for this task having been trained in the original biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew. When completed this new Latin version became the Bible that was used in the western world for the next 1000 years. It is estimated that there are presently some eight thousand copies of the Latin Vulgate still in existence today.



3. THE SYRIAC VERSIONS

- a. Another important early translation was the Syriac version. Syrian which was the chief language spoken in the land of Syria and Mesopotamia was almost identical to Aramaic which was the language spoken by Jesus and his disciples. The first translation known as the "Old Syriac" version dates somewhere towards the end of the second century and is survived by two known manuscripts. In contrast the second Syriac version know as the "Peshitta" or "simple" most likely dates to the early fifth century and is represented by some 350 manuscripts.



4. OTHER ANCIENT VERSIONS

- a. In addition to these two early versions the Christian scriptures were translated into other languages. Some examples of these other versions are as follows: The *Coptic version of Egypt*, The *Ethiopic of Ethiopia*, The *Gothic of the Germanic tribes*, The *Armenian version* of the eastern church, the *Georgian of Georgia north of Armenia*, the *Nestorian versions* of central and east Asia, and the *Arabic* and *Slavonic* versions. There are also several other less important versions which are not here mentioned.

D. THE CHURCH FATHERS

1. The Church Fathers lived during the early centuries of the church. In the course of instructing the Christians of their day and defending the faith against the heretics of their time period they left a tremendous amount of written material which contains thousands upon thousands of citations of the New Testament scriptures. In their book "A General

Introduction To The Bible" Geisler and Nix estimate that there are over 36,000 references or citations by the Fathers of the New Testament. Harold Greenlee in his book "Introduction To New Testament Textual Criticism" states. "These quotations are so extensive that the New Testament could be virtually reconstructed from them without the use of New Testament Manuscripts." (p.54) The following brief survey of the Fathers will provide an introduction to the evidence available in the writings of the fathers.

2. **THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS** (c.70 - c.150)
 - a. These early fathers, who lived between 70-150 AD, were Greek speaking men and with the possible exception of the books of Philemon and III John quoted from every book of the New Testament.
3. **THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS** (c.150 - c.300)
 - a. The Ante-Nicene Fathers wrote in Greek, Syriac and Latin. After surveying the works of these men Geisler and Nix point out that prior to the council of Nicea in 325 ad there were some 32,000 quotes and allusions made from the New Testament alone.
4. **THE NICENE AND POST NICENE FATHERS** (c.300 - c.430)
 - a. These men lived through some of the last persecutions of the church by the Roman Empire. Their testimony concerning which books of the Bible were considered authentic is very valuable. At a time in history when people were losing their lives over the possession and use of "scripture" we can be sure that they were wholly convinced when they gave their acceptance and approval to various documents they believed to be scripture.
5. Overall, the value of the witness of the church fathers is twofold:
 - a. One, their testimony confirms that the existing canon of scripture (the list of books considered inspired) in our English Bibles is authoritative and true.
 - b. Two, their quotations of the New Testament are so numerous and comprehensive that if we were to lose every single manuscript of the New Testament we would be able to reconstruct the New Testament text based on the written record left to us by the Fathers.

Map of Palestine at the Time of Jesus



Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books

The Gospel of Matthew

Jesus as the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah

Written to the Jews

Author: This gospel is known as the Gospel of Matthew because it was written by the apostle of the same name. Matthew was a Tax collector – A _____ – public official working for the Roman government (Mt 9:9; 10:3). This was a shameful career for a Jew because it allowed for extortion, bribery, treachery, and other abuses. The style of the book is exactly what would be expected of a man who was once a tax collector. Matthew has a keen interest in _____ (see 18:23-24; 25:14-15). The book is very orderly and concise, but not a chronological account, but very precise. Tax collectors were expected to be able to write in a form of shorthand, which essentially meant that Matthew could record a person's words as they spoke, word for word. This ability means that the words of Matthew are not only inspired by the Holy Spirit, but should represent an actual transcript of some of Christ's sermons. For example, the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in chapters 5-7, is most certainly a perfect recording of that great message.

Matthew was Jew of the _____ area (as were ALL the apostles).

Also known as _____ (Mark 2:14,15; Lk 5:27-29), the son of Alphaeus, and brother of James the less (Mk 3:18; Lk 5:27-29; 6:12-16; Acts 1:13; Mk 15:40).

He became a disciple of Jesus by invitation, and was a great connection between Jesus and the unsavoury people – the kind of people that no one else cared about (Luke 5:29)

He later became an Apostle of Jesus (Mt 10:1-3)

Matthew was not prominent at all among the apostles, yet used by God to write this first Gospel.

Prominent ones would include Peter, James, John, and Judas Iscariot.

Date of Writing: As an apostle, Matthew wrote this book in the early period of the church, probably around _____ AD. This was a time when most Christians were Jewish converts, so Matthew's focus on Jewish perspective in this gospel is understandable.

Purpose of Writing: Matthew intends to prove to the Jews that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. More than any other gospel, Matthew quotes the Old Testament to show how Jesus fulfilled the words of the Jewish prophets. Matthew describes in detail the lineage of Jesus from David, and uses many forms of speech that Jews would have been comfortable with. Matthew's love and concern for his people is apparent through his meticulous approach to telling the gospel story.

Brief Summary:

Matthew Chapter 1 and 2 discusses the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ.

From there, the book discusses the ministry of Jesus.

The descriptions of Christ's teachings are arranged around "discourses", such as the Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5 through 7.

Chapter 10 involves the mission and purpose of the disciples

Chapter 13 is a collection of parables

Chapter 18 discusses the church

Chapter 23 begins a discourse about hypocrisy and the future

Chapters 21 through 27 discuss the arrest, torture, and execution of Jesus.

The final chapter (28) describes the resurrection and the Great Commission.

Practical Application: The Gospel of Matthew is an excellent introduction to the core teachings of Christianity. Just remember that it is presented for the Jewish mindset. The logical outline style makes it easy to locate discussion of various topics. Matthew is especially useful for understanding how the life of Christ was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Interestingly, Matthew is the 40th book of the Bible. In scripture, 40 is the number of testing. The flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights. The freed Israelites wandered 40 years in the desert under Moses. Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days in the wilderness. The book of Matthew is written for the

Jewish people, God’s own chosen nation. Will they recognize the fulfilment of prophecy and believe in Christ? This Gospel, written for the people who should have recognized the Son of God first, becomes a test of their faith.

Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Pre-Incarnation				1:1-3
Jesus’ Birth and Childhood	1, 2		1, 2	
John the Baptist	3:1-12	1:1-8	3:1-20	1:6-42
Jesus’ Baptism	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-22	
The Temptation	4:1-11	1:12,13	4:1-13	
First Miracle				2:1-11
Early Ministry (8 months)				2:13 to 4:3
Visit to Samaria				4:4-42
Main Ministry in Galilee (2 years)	4:12 to 19:1	1:14 to 10:1	4:14 to 9:51	4:43-54 and 6:1 – 7:1
Visit to Jerusalem				5:1-47
Later Ministry (about 4 months)	19, 20	10	9:51 to 19:28	7:2 to 11:57
The Last Week (crucifixion)	21 to 27	11 to 15	19:29 to 24:1	12 to 19
Post-Resurrection Ministry	28	16	24	20, 21

General Outline of Matthew

- A. **Introducing the Messiah – the King of the Jews** (1:1 – 3:17)
- B. **Testing the Character of the Messiah** (4:1-11)
- C. **Main Ministry - Teaching About The Kingdom** (4:12 – 19:1)
- D. **The Miracles of the Messiah** (8:1 – 10:34)
- E. **The Ministry of the Disciples** (10:35 – 11:30)
- F. **More Teaching and Miracles** (12:1 – 20:34)
- G. **Final Entry into Jerusalem** (21:1 – 25:46)
- H. **The Crucifixion** (26:1 – 27:66)
- I. **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ** (28:1 – 20)

The Gospel of Mark

Jesus as the Servant of God
Written to the Romans

Author: Although the Gospel of Mark does not name its author, it is the unanimous testimony of early church fathers that Mark was the author. He was an associate of the Apostle Peter, and evidently his spiritual son in the faith (1 Peter 5:13). From Peter he received first-hand information of the events and teachings of the Lord, and preserved the information in written form. It is generally agreed that Mark is the _____ Mark of the New Testament (Acts 12:12). His mother was a wealthy and prominent Christian in the Jerusalem church, and probably a portion of the church met in her home. Mark joined Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but not on the second because of a strong _____ between the two men (Acts 15:37-38). However, near the end of Paul's life he called for Mark to be with him (2 Timothy 4:11).

Date of Writing: The Gospel of Mark was likely one of the first books written in the New Testament, probably in ____ A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Mark wrote to Christians who previously had heard and believed the Gospel (Romans 1:8). He desired that they have a biographical story of Jesus Christ as _____ of the Lord and Saviour of the world in order to strengthen their faith in the face of severe persecution, and also teach them what it meant to be His disciples.

Brief Summary: This Gospel is unique among the Gospels because it emphasizes Jesus' _____ more than His _____. (One of his oft-repeated words is "_____".) It is simply written, moving quickly from one episode in His life to another. It does not begin with a genealogy as in Matthew, because Gentiles would not be interested in His lineage. After the introduction of Jesus at His baptism, Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and called the first four of His 12 disciples. What follows is the record of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Mark's account is not just a collection of stories, but written with the purpose of revealing that Jesus is the Messiah, not only for the Jews, but for the Gentiles as well. In a dynamic way, the disciples, led by Peter, acknowledged their amazing faith in Him (Mark 8:29-30). However, they failed to understand fully His Messiahship until after His resurrection.

As we follow Jesus' journeys through Galilee, surrounding areas, and then to Judea, we realize what a rapid pace He kept. He touched the lives of many people, but left an indelible mark on His disciples. At the _____ (Mark 9:1-9), He gave three of them a preview of His future return in power and glory, and again it was revealed to them who He was.

However, in the days leading to His final trip to Jerusalem, we see them amazed, fearful and doubting. At Jesus' arrest, He stood alone after they fled. In the following hours of the mock trials, Jesus boldly proclaimed that He is the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One, and that He would be triumphant at His return (Mark 14:61-62). The climatic events surrounding the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection were not fully witnessed by most of His disciples. But several faithful women bravely witnessed His passion. After the Sabbath, early in the morning of the first day of the week, they went to the tomb with burial spices. When they saw the stone had been rolled away, they entered the tomb. It was not the body of Jesus they saw, but an angel robed in white! The joyful message they received was, "He is risen!" Women were the first evangelists, as they spread the good news of His resurrection. This same message has been broadcast throughout the following centuries and we are its recipients today.

Practical Application: We are privileged to have this written record of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to teach us its meaning. Those who have placed our faith in Him must be people of action and obey His last command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every _____" (Mark 16:15). The disciples obeyed (as recorded in the Book of the Acts), and so must we. At His return we will bow before Him in worship and praise and victory.

The Gospel of Luke

Jesus as the Son of Man
Written for the Greeks

Author: The Gospel of Luke does not specifically identify its author. From Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3, it is clear that the same author wrote both Luke and Acts. The tradition from the earliest days of the church has been that Luke, a companion of the Apostle Paul, wrote both Luke and Acts (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11). Paul mentioned Luke by name three times in his letters. In Colossians 4:14 Paul spoke of him as “Luke, the beloved physician.” In Philemon 24 Paul stated Luke was his fellow worker. In 2 Timothy 4:11 Paul wrote that only Luke was with him during his second Roman imprisonment.

Luke was a Gentile, probably a Greek. This appears to have been the case, because Paul distinguished him from his Jewish co-workers who were “from the circumcision” (cf. Colossians 4:10-14). Luke had taken up residence in Antioch, Syria. Acts 11:28 in the Greek manuscript known as the Codex Bezae has an insertion that makes Luke present at the meeting of the church in Antioch when the prophet Agabus foretold there would be a great famine. Paul and Barnabas were there as well. While there is some question that this version of Acts 11:28 was original, it indicates that by the fourth century the opinion was held that Luke lived in Antioch and by the late A.D. 30's had become a Christian and member of the church in Antioch. Acts 6:5 also gives some incidental evidence to Luke's having lived in Antioch and to his being a member of the church there. When Luke named in Acts 6:5 who were the first deacons chosen by the church in Jerusalem, he stated that Nicolas was formerly a convert to Judaism and from Antioch. Luke apparently knew this from his personal knowledge of the members of the church in Antioch, where he had also been a member.

Date of Writing: The Gospel of Luke was likely written between 58 and 65 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Luke's is the longest and most thorough of the four Gospels. Luke, a Gentile physician, writes both this Gospel and the book of Acts to aid a new Christian named Theophilus. The name "Theophilus" means "_____." It is unclear whether Theophilus refers to a specific person of that name, or to believers in Christ in general. As a missionary companion of the Apostle Paul, Luke is able to present a detailed historical account of Jesus' life. Luke presents Jesus' humanity more than any of the other Gospels.

Brief Summary: Called the most beautiful book ever written, Luke begins by telling us about Jesus' parents; the birth of His cousin, John the Baptist; Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born in a manger; and the genealogy of Christ through Mary. Jesus' public ministry reveals His perfect compassion and forgiveness through the stories of the prodigal son, the rich man and Lazarus, and the good Samaritan. While many believe in this unprejudiced love that surpasses all human limits, many others challenge and oppose the claims of Jesus. Christ's followers are encouraged to count the cost of discipleship, while His enemies seek His death on the Cross. Finally, Jesus is betrayed, tried, sentenced and crucified. But the grave cannot hold Him! His Resurrection assures the continuation of His ministry of seeking and saving the lost.

Practical Application: Jesus understands our weaknesses and temptations and our trials. Luke, with the skill of a surgeon, probed for the truth so he could tell this exact truth to his friend, Theophilus. Did Luke have any idea that millions of us would benefit from his study? Probably not! He was only sharing Jesus' understanding and love with a friend. Can you imagine what would happen if we all did the same?

The Gospel of John

Jesus as the Son of God
Written to the whole world

Author: John 21:20-24 describes the author as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved,*" and for both historical as well as internal reasons this is understood to be John the Apostle, one of the sons of _____ (Luke 5:10).

Date of Writing: Discovery of certain papyrus fragments dated around A.D. 135 require the book to have been written, copied, and circulated well before then. ____ A.D. is a more accepted time for its writing.

Purpose of Writing: John 20:31 cites the purpose as follows: "*...these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*" John was not only seeking to strengthen the faith of second-generation believers as well as bring about faith in others, but also sought to correct a false teaching that was spreading. John emphasized Jesus Christ as "_____" fully God and fully man, contrary to that false doctrine which saw the "Christ-spirit" as coming upon the human, Jesus, at His baptism and leaving him at the crucifixion. That heresy is now believed by the _____, and the Jehovah's Witnesses!

Brief Summary: The Gospel of John selects only seven miracles as signs to demonstrate the deity of Christ and to illustrate His ministry. Some of these signs and stories are found only in John. His Gospel is the most _____ of the four Gospels and often gives the reason behind events mentioned in the other Gospels. He shares much about the approaching ministry of the Holy Spirit after His ascension. There are certain words or phrases that John frequently uses that show the repeating themes of his Gospel: believe, witness, Comforter, life - death, light - darkness, I am... (as in Jesus is the "I Am"), and love.

John's Gospel introduces Christ, not from His birth, but from "the beginning" as "the Word" (Greek word is *Logos*), Who as Deity is involved in every aspect of creation (1:1-3) and Who later becomes flesh (1:14) in order that He might take away our sins as the spotless, sacrificial Lamb (John 1:29). John selects spiritual conversations that show that Jesus is the Messiah (4:26) and to explain how one is saved by His vicarious death on the cross (3:14-16). He repeatedly angers the Jewish leaders by correcting them (2:13-16); healing on the Sabbath, and claiming characteristics belonging to God (5:18; 8:56-59; 9:6,16; 10:33). Jesus prepares His disciples for His coming death and for their ministry after His resurrection and ascension (John 14-17). He then willingly dies on the cross in our place (10:15-18), paying our sin debt in full (19:30) so that whosoever trusts in Him as their Saviour from sin will be saved (John 3:14-16). He then rises from the dead, convincing even the most doubting of His disciples that He is God and Master (20:24-29).

Practical Application: John's Gospel continues to fulfil its purpose of containing much useful information for evangelism (John 3:3, 3:7, and 3:16 are likely the best known verses, even if not properly understood by many) and is often used in evangelistic Bible studies. In the recorded encounters between Jesus and Nicodemus and the woman at the well (chapters 3-4), we can learn much from His modelling of personal evangelism. His comforting words to His disciples before His death (14:1-6,16, 16:33) are still of great comfort in the times death claims our loved ones in Christ. And, John's teachings concerning the _____ of Christ (1:1-3,14; 5:22-23; 8:58; 14:8-9; 20:28, etc.) are very helpful in countering the false teachings of some of the cults who see Jesus as being less than fully God.

Harmony of the Gospels

© 1999 Ken Palmer	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Pre-existence of Christ				1:1-18
Genealogy of Jesus	1:1-17		3:23-38	
Gabriel announces John's birth			1:1-25	
Gabriel visits Mary			1:26-38	
Mary visits Elizabeth			1:39-56	
Birth of John the Baptist			1:57-80	
Angel appears to Joseph in a dream	1:18-25			
Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem	1:25		2:1-7	
Shepherds visit Jesus at the manger			2:8-20	
Circumcision of Jesus			2:21	
Jesus presented in the Temple			2:22-38	
Wise men present gifts in house	2:1-12			
Joseph's family escapes to Egypt	2:13-15			
Herod's wrath on Bethlehem's children	2:16-18			
Herod dies in Spring of 4 B.C.	2:19			
Joseph's family settles in Nazareth			2:39	
Childhood of Jesus			2:40-52	
Ministry of John the Baptist	3:1-12	1:1-8	3:1-20	
John baptizes Jesus	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-23	
Temptation of Jesus	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
John's testimony about Christ				1:19-28
John recounts Christ's baptism				1:29-34
The 1st disciples				1:35-51
The 1st miracle - Water to wine				2:1-12
The 1st temple cleansing				2:13-25
Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night				3:1-21
Disciples baptize many in Judea				3:22-24
Disciples ask John about Jesus				3:25-36
Herod imprisons John the Baptist	4:12	1:14	(3:19-20)	
Jesus withdraws from Judea				4:1-3
Samaritan woman at Jacob's well				4:4-26
Disciples question Jesus				4:27-38
Samaritans come to Jesus				4:39-42
Jesus continues toward Galilee			4:14-15	4:43
1st rejection in Nazareth			4:16-30	
Arrival in Cana of Galilee				4:43-45
The 2nd miracle - Official's son healed				4:46-54
Jesus settles in Capernaum	4:13-17	1:14-15	4:31-32	
Fishermen called to be disciples	4:18-22	1:16-20		
Demoniac in Capernaum Synagogue		1:21-28	4:33-37	
Peter's mother-in-law healed	8:14-17	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Many healed at sunset		1:32-34	4:40-41	
Disciples seek Jesus		1:35-38	4:42-43	
Jesus preaches in Synagogues	4:23-25	1:39	4:44	
Jesus preaches from Simon's boat			5:1-3	
Miraculous catch of fish			5:4-11	
Jesus heals a leper	8:2-4	10:40-45	5:12-16	

Overview of the New Testament**Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books**

Jesus cures a paralytic	9:2-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Matthew (Levi) called to be a disciple	9:9	2:13-14	5:27-28	
Parables at Levi's reception	9:10-17	2:15-22	5:29-39	
Jesus in Jerusalem 2nd Passover				5:1
Man healed at pools of Bethesda				5:2-15
Sabbath healing challenged				5:16-47
Disciples pick grain on the Sabbath	12:1-8	2:23-28	6:1-5	
Man's hand healed on Sabbath	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jesus withdraws to the sea	12:14-21	3:7		
Many follow Jesus to be healed	4:23-25	3:7-12		
Jesus prays on a mountain			6:12	
Jesus selects 12 disciples		3:13-19	6:13-16	
Jesus descends & heals multitude			6:17-19	
Jesus ascends to preach	5:1			
Sermon on the Mount	5:1-8:1		6:20-49	
Jesus heals a Centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Widow of Nain's son is raised			7:11-17	
2 of John's disciples question Jesus	11:2-6		7:18-23	
Jesus commends John the Baptist	11:7-19		7:24-35	
Jesus rebukes 3 cities	11:20-30			
Jesus eats with Simon the Pharisee			7:36-50	
Generous women			8:1-3	
Jesus heals demon-possessed man	12:22-23	3:20-22		
Pharisees rebuked	12:24-37	3:22-30		
The sign of Jonah	12:38-45			
Family seeks Jesus	12:46-50	3:31-35	8:19-21	
Parables by the Sea	13:1-35	4:1-34	8:4-18	
Parables explained in private	13:36-53			
Disciples ordered to cross sea	8:18	4:35	8:22	
Jesus calms a stormy sea	8:23-27	4:36-41	8:23-25	
Legion cast out of violent man	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Jesus sails to Capernaum	9:1	5:21	8:40	
Jairus asks Jesus to heal his daughter	9:18-19	5:22-23	8:41-42	
Ill woman is healed touching Jesus	9:20-22	5:24-34	8:42-48	
Daughter's death reported to Jairus		5:35-36	8:49-50	
Jesus raises Jairus' daughter to life	9:23-26	5:37-43	8:51-56	
Jesus heals two blind men	9:27-31			
Jesus heals a mute demoniac	9:32-34			
2nd rejection in Nazareth	13:54-58	6:1-6		
12 sent out to preach	9:35-11:1	6:7-13	9:1-6	
Death of John the Baptist	14:1-12			
Herod fears John has risen		6:14-29	9:7-9	
The 12 return and they withdraw	14:13	6:30-32	9:10	6:1
Jesus teaches and heals multitude	14:14	6:33-34	9:11	6:2
Jesus feeds 5,000	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:3-14
Jesus prays alone	14:22-23	6:45-47		6:15
Jesus walks on water	14:24-27	6:48-52		6:16-21
Peter walks on water, then sinks	14:28-33			
Healings in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
Bread of Life discourse				6:22-7:1
Jesus rebukes traditions of men	15:1-11	7:1-16		

Overview of the New Testament**Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books**

Parable explained in private	15:12-20	7:17-23		
Gentile woman's faith	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Jesus heals a deaf man		7:31-37		
Many healed on a mountain	15:29-31			
Jesus feeds 4,000	15:32-39	8:1-10		
Pharisees seek a sign	16:1-4	8:11-13		
Leaven of the Pharisees	16:5-12	8:13-21		
Blind man cured in Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Peter's great confession	16:13-20	8:27-30		
Jesus rebukes Peter	16:21-28	8:31-9:1	9:18-27	
The Transfiguration	17:1-8	9:2-8	9:28-36	
Elijah discussed while descending	17:9-13	9:9-13		
Demon is cast out of boy	17:14-18	9:14-27	9:37-43	
Disciples ask about the miracle	17:19-21	9:28-29		
Jesus discusses his death	17:22-23	9:30-32	9:44-45	
Jesus pays tax with a miracle	17:24-27			
Disciples argue about greatness	18:1-6	9:33-37	9:46-48	
John's zeal without understanding		9:38-42	9:49-50	
Warnings about stumbling blocks	18:7-11	9:43-50		
Parable of the lost sheep	18:12-14			
Instructions on church discipline	18:15-20			
Peter's question about forgiveness	18:21-35			
Feast of Booths is at hand				7:2
Brothers advise Jesus to go to Judea				7:3-8
Jesus stays in Galilee				7:9
Jesus determines to go to Jerusalem			9:51	7:10
Messengers sent to Samaria			9:52-53	
James and John rebuked for attitudes			9:54-56	
Unfit followers	8:19-22		9:57-62	
People afraid to speak openly of Jesus				7:11-13
Jesus in the temple mid-feast				7:14-15
Jesus says some seek to kill him				7:16-19
Defense for healing on the Sabbath				7:20-24
Jesus cries out in the temple				7:25-30
Multitudes amazed at signs				7:31
Pharisees seek to sieze Jesus				7:32-36
Last day of the feast of Booths				7:37
Rivers of living water				7:37-39
Division among the people				7:40-44
Pharisees question officers				7:45-47
Judgment of Nicodemus				7:48-53
Jesus goes to Mount of Olives				8:1
Morning teachings at temple				8:2
Adulterous woman brought to Jesus				8:3-11
Light of the World				8:12-20
Jesus was sent by the Father				8:21-30
Temple debate about Father Abraham				8:31-59
Jesus leaves the temple				8:59
Jesus cures a man born blind				9:1-7
Neighbors question cured man				9:8-12
Pharisees question man and his parents				9:13-34

Overview of the New Testament**Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books**

Jesus finds the man			9:35-39
Pharisees ask if they are blind			9:40-10:6
Jesus the good shepherd			10:7-18
Division among the Jews			10:19-21
Seventy sent out		10:1-16	
Seventy return		10:17-20	
Jesus rejoices		10:21-22	
Jesus privately blesses the 12		10:23-24	
Lawyer tests Jesus		10:25-28	
Parable of the Good Samaritan		10:29-37	
Martha prepares while Mary listens		10:38-42	
Jesus teaches disciples how to pray		11:1-13	
Blasphemy and teachings on demons		11:14-26	
A woman blesses Mary		11:27-28	
Sign of Jonah		11:29-32	
The lamp of the body		11:33-36	
Jesus has lunch with a Pharisee		11:37	
Jesus disregards tradition of elders		11:38	
Woes to Pharisees		11:39-44	
Woes to Lawyers		11:45-52	
Jesus leaves, and they plot		11:53-54	
Jesus teaches a great crowd		12:1-12	
Jesus warns against greed		12:13-15	
Parables about being ready		12:16-40	
Peter's question		12:41	
More parables		12:42-59	
Fate of Galileans reported to Jesus		13:1-5	
Parable of the fig tree		13:6-9	
Woman healed on the Sabbath		13:10-13	
Synagogue official opposes Jesus		13:14-17	
Parables of the mustard seed and leaven		13:18-21	
Feast of Dedication in temple			10:22-23
Jews confront Christ			10:24-39
Jesus goes to Aenon near Salim			10:40-42
Jesus travels toward Jerusalem		13:22	
How many will be saved?		13:23-30	
Pharisees warn Jesus about Herod		13:31-35	
In a Pharisee's home on the Sabbath		14:1	
Man with dropsy healed		14:2-6	
Parable of the guests		14:7-11	
Parable to the feast host		14:12-14	
Parable of the dinner		14:15-24	
Crowds travel with Jesus		14:25	
The cost of discipleship		14:25-35	
Jesus eats with sinners		15:1-2	
Lost sheep, coin and son parables		15:3-32	
Parable of the unrighteous steward		16:1-13	
Teaching on divorce		16:14-18	
Rich man and Lazarus		16:19-31	
Jesus instructs disciples		17:1-10	
Lazarus of Bethany reported sick			11:1-6

Overview of the New Testament

Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books

Jesus delays for 2 days				11:6
Jesus prepares 12 to go to Judea				11:7-16
Arrives near Bethany 2 days later				11:17-18
Martha meets Jesus				11:19-29
Mary comes to Jesus				11:30-37
Jesus comes to the tomb				11:38
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead				11:39-44
Unbelievers report to Pharisees				11:45-46
Conspiracy to kill Jesus				11:47-53
Jesus goes to Ephraim				11:54
Jesus cures 10 lepers			17:11-14	
Samaritan returns to thank Jesus			17:15-19	
Pharisees ask about the Kingdom			17:20-21	
Jesus warns disciples of the future			17:22-37	
Parable of the unjust judge			18:1-8	
Parable of the Pharisee and publican			18:9-14	
Jesus goes to Judea	19:1	10:1		
Multitudes follow Jesus	19:2			
Pharisees ask about divorce	19:3-9	10:2-9		
Disciples ask about divorce	19:10-12	10:10-12		
Jesus blesses little children	19:13-15	10:13-16	18:15-17	
The rich young ruler	19:16-26	10:17-27	18:18-27	
Disciples' reward	19:27-30	10:28-31	18:28-30	
First shall be last discourse	20:1-16			
Death predicted on road to Jerusalem	20:17-19	10:32-34	18:31-34	
Request for James and John	20:20-24	10:35-41		
Disciples' relationship explained	20:25-28	10:42-45		
Blind men healed near Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Zaccheus is converted near Jericho			19:1-10	
Jesus nears Jerusalem			19:11	
Blind men healed			19:12-27	
Journey toward Jerusalem for Passover				11:54
Jesus discussed by Jews and Priests				11:55-57
Jesus in Bethany				12:1
Mary anoints Jesus in Simon's home				12:2-8
Mary's deed recounted	26:6-13	14:3-9		
Crowds come to see Jesus and Lazarus				12:9
Chief priests conspire to kill Lazarus				12:10-11
Jesus ascends toward Jerusalem	21:1	11:1	19:28	
Two disciples get a colt	21:1-7	11:1-7	19:29-35	
Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	21:8-11	11:7-10	19:35-38	12:12-18
Pharisees react			19:39-40	12:19
Jesus weeps for Jerusalem			19:41-44	
Jesus enters, then goes to Bethany		11:11		
Jesus curses a fig tree		11:12-14		
The 2nd temple cleansing	21:12-13	11:15-17	19:45-46	
Jesus heals many in the temple	21:14			
Jewish leaders seek to destroy Jesus	21:15-16	11:18	19:47-48	
Jesus leaves Jerusalem	21:17	11:19		
The withered fig tree (next morning)	21:18-22	11:20-26		
Authority challenged in the temple	21:23-27	11:27-33	20:1-8	

Overview of the New Testament

Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books

Parable of the two sons	21:28-32			
Parable of the vine growers	21:33-46	12:1-12	20:9-18	
Parable of the wedding feast	22:1-14			
Jews question Jesus on taxes	22:15-22	12:13-17	20:19-26	
Sadducees question the resurrection	22:23-33	12:18-27	20:27-40	
Scribes and Pharisees test Jesus	22:34-40	12:28-34		
Jesus questions them about baptism	22:41-46	12:35-37	20:41-44	
Warnings about Scribes and Pharisees	23:1-39	12:38-40	20:45-47	
The widow's coin		12:41-44	21:1-4	
Disciples admire the temple	24:1-2	13:1-2	21:5-6	
Four fishermen question Jesus	24:3	13:3-4	21:7	
Jesus warns disciples of persecution	24:4-14	13:5-13	21:8-19	
Jesus predicts the fall of Jerusalem	24:15-28	13:14-23	21:20-24	
Jesus teaches about the 2nd Coming	24:29-31	13:24-27	21:25-28	
Parable of the fig tree	24:32-33	13:28-29	21:29-31	
Warnings to be alert	24:34-51	13:30-37	21:32-36	
Parable of the 10 virgins	25:1-13			
Parable of the talents	25:14-30			
Warnings about the Judgment	25:31-46			
Jesus predicts the day of crucifixion	26:1-2			
People come early to hear Jesus			21:37-38	
Greeks seek Jesus				12:20-22
Final public appeal to unbelievers				12:23-50
Jews plot to kill Jesus	26:3-5	14:1-2	22:1-2	
Judas bargains to betray Jesus	26:14-16	14:10-11	22:3-6	
Peter & John prepare for Passover	26:17-19	14:12-16	22:7-13	
The fellowship in the upper room	26:20	14:17	22:14	
Jesus washes the disciples' feet				13:1-20
The Lord's Supper	26:26-29	14:22-25	22:14-20	1 Cor 11:23-29
Jesus predicts the betrayal	26:21-25	14:18-21	22:21-23	13:21-26
Judas leaves, and it is night				13:27-30
A new commandment				13:31-35
Dispute about the greatest disciple			22:24-30	
Jesus predicts they will all deny him	26:31-32	14:27-28		
Jesus tells Simon he prayed for him			22:31-32	
Jesus predicts Peter's denials	26:33-35	14:29-31	22:33-34	13:36-38
Jesus warns the disciples to be prepared			25:35-38	
Jesus comforts the disciples				14:1-4
Jesus responds to Thomas				14:5-7
Jesus responds to Philip				14:8-21
Jesus responds to Judas not Iscariot				14:22-31
They sing a hymn and leave	26:30	14:26		14:31
The farewell discourse				15:1-16:33
Jesus prays for his disciples				17:1-26
The fellowship enters Gethsemane	26:36	14:32	22:39-40	18:1
Jesus prays in the Garden	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:40-46	
Mob comes to arrest Jesus	26:47	14:43		18:2-3
Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss	26:48-50	14:44-45	22:47-48	
Jesus answers the mob with authority				18:4-9
Peter severs the ear of Malchus	26:50-54	14:46-47	22:49-50	18:10-11
Jesus heals the high priest's servant			22:51	

Overview of the New Testament**Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books**

Jesus is arrested. The disciples flee.	26:55-56	14:48-52	22:52-54	18:12
Jesus taken to high priest's house	26:57	14:53	22:54	18:13-14
Peter follows at a distance	26:58	14:54	22:54	18:15-16
Peter's 1st denial - doorkeeping girl	26:69-70	14:66-68	22:55-57	18:17-18
Annas questions Jesus				18:19-24
Peter's 2nd denial - by the fire	26:71-72	14:69-70	22:58	18:25
Peter's 3rd denial - relative of Malchus	26:73-75	14:70-72	22:59-62	18:26-27
Guards beat Jesus	22:63-65			
False witnesses testify	26:59-61	14:55-59		
Caiaphas condemns Jesus	26:62-66	14:60-64	22:66-71	
The Sanhedrin beats Jesus	26:67-68	14:65		
Jesus lead to the Praetorium				18:28
Remorse of Judas	27:1-10		Acts 1:16-20	
Pilate questions Jesus	27:1-14		23:1-7	18:29-38
Herod questions Jesus			23:8-10	
Herod's soldiers mock Jesus		15:1-5	23:11-12	
Pilate releases Barabbas	27:15-26	15:6-15	23:13-25	18:38-40
Pilate's soldiers crown and mock Jesus	27:27-30	15:16-20		19:1-3
Pilate tries to release Jesus				19:4-7
Pilate questions Jesus again				19:8-11
Pilate attempts to free Jesus again				19:12
Pilate sentences Jesus				19:13-15
Pilate delivers Jesus to be crucified				19:16
Jesus carries the cross				19:17
Simon of Cyrene bears the cross	27:31-32	15:20-21	23:26	
Jesus speaks to weeping women			23:27-32	
Jesus is brought to Golgotha	27:33	15:22	23:32-33	19:17
Soldiers offer Jesus sour wine mix	27:34	15:23		
Jesus is crucified at the 3rd hour		15:25		
2 Robbers are crucified with Jesus	27:38	15:27-28	23:33	19:18
Accusation written by Pilate	27:37	15:26	23:38	19:19-22
"Forgive them..."			23:34	
Soldiers divide the Lord's clothes	27:35-36	15:24	23:34	19:23-24
"Behold your mother."				19:25-27
Multitude mocks Jesus	27:39-43	15:29-32	23:35-37	
Robbers mock Jesus	27:44	15:32	29:39	
One robber rebukes the other			23:40-41	
"...you will be with me in Paradise"			23:43	
Darkness from 6th to 9th hour	27:45	15:33	23:44-45	
"Eloi Eloi, Lamma Sabachthani"	27:46	15:34		
"I thirst."				19:28
Sour wine is offered on a reed	27:47-49	15:35-36		19:29-30
"It is finished."				19:30
Jesus bows his head, and dies.	27:50	15:37	23:46	19:30
Temple veil torn from top to bottom	27:51	15:38	23:45	
Earthquake	27:51			
Centurion glorifies God	27:54	15:39	23:47	
Multitude leaves grieving			23:48	
Women watch from a distance	27:55-56	15:40-41	23:49	
Request that legs be broken				19:31-32
Soldier pierces Jesus' side				19:33-34

Overview of the New Testament**Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books**

Fulfillment of Prophecy				19:35-37
Joseph requests body from Pilate	27:57-58	15:42-43	23:50-52	19:38
Centurion reports that Jesus is dead		15:44-45		
Joseph takes the body		15:45		19:38
Nicodemus and Joseph prepare the body				19:39-40
Body placed in new garden tomb	27:59-60	15:46	23:53	19:41-42
Two Marys watch the burial	27:61	15:47	23:54-55	
Roman soldiers guard the tomb	27:62-66			
Women prepare spices then rest			23:56	
An angel rolls the stone away	28:2-4			
Women come at dawn with spices	28:1	16:1-4	24:1-3	20:1
Angels appear to women	28:5-7	16:5-7	24:4-8	
Women run to tell disciples	28:8	16:8	24:9-11	20:2
Peter and John inspect the empty tomb			24:12	20:3-9
Peter and John go home			24:12	20:10
Mary Magdalene stands weeping by tomb				20:11
Mary sees two angels				20:12-13
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene		16:9		20:14-17
Jesus appears to the other women	28:9-10			
Women report to the disciples		16:10-11		20:18
Guards report to the priests	28:11-15			
Jesus meets 2 on the road to Emmaus		16:12-13	24:13-32	
Jesus appears to Simon Peter	I Cor 15:5		24:34	
2 report to disciples in Jerusalem			24:33-35	
Jesus appears to disciples less Thomas			24:36-43	20:19-24
Disciples report to Thomas				20:25
Jesus appears to disciples and Thomas		16:14		20:26-29
Jesus appears to seven by the sea				21:1-14
Jesus questions Peter 3 times				21:15-23
Jesus appears to 500 brethren	I Cor 15:6			
Jesus appears to James	I Cor 15:7			
Jesus commissions the apostles	28:16-20	16:15-18	24:44-49	
Jesus is received into Heaven		16:19-20	24:50-53	
John's first testimony				20:30-31
John's second testimony				21:24-25
40 day appearances summarized			Acts 1:4-11	

The Book of Acts

Author: The Book of Acts does not specifically identify its author. From Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3, it is clear that the same author wrote both Luke and Acts. The tradition from the earliest days of the church has been that _____, a companion of the Apostle Paul, wrote both Luke and Acts (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11).

Date of Writing: The Book of Acts was likely written between _____ A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Acts was written to provide a _____ of the early church. Acts emphasizes the importance of the day of Pentecost and being empowered to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. Acts sheds light on the ministry gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers, guides, teaches, and serves as our Counsellor. When reading the Book of Acts many of the readers will be enlightened and encouraged by the many miracles that were being performed during this time by the _____ Peter, John, and Paul, but NOT by the _____. The Book of Acts emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's Word and the transformation that occurs as a result of knowing the risen Christ. There are also many references to those that rejected the truth that the disciples preached about in Jesus Christ. Power, greed, and many other vices of the devil are exposed in the book of Acts. Acts 1:8 serves as a good summary of the Book of Acts. Acts records the apostles being Christ's witnesses starting in Jerusalem, then going into Judea, Samaria, and to the rest of the surrounding world.

1. Describes An _____ *Account* - Not primarily *doctrinal* in nature, but a record of the lives of real people who lived out what they believed, under real circumstances.
2. Describes An _____ *Account* - Actual names and places of verifiable facts. Not like Joseph Smith's "Book of Mormon" with is non-historical!!! This Book in type will match the character of the Book of Joshua, which too is an historical account of God's people possessing their inheritance.
3. Describes An _____ *Account* - The book is written in the Present Tense. In other words, these acts are on-going in the lives of Christians today! Christianity did not end at the close of the 28th chapter! Christianity continues to spread, and build upon the foundation laid here in this Book (Eph 2:19-22)

Brief Summary: The book of Acts has a total of twenty-eight chapters and it's primary purpose was to give the history of the Christian church and thereby to equip the church to reach people for Christ. Many faithful servants carried out the work of God in the earth. Although many faithful servants were used to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, was the most influential. Before he was converted, Paul took great pleasure in persecuting and killing Christians. After his conversion he went to the ultimate extreme of loving God and preaching his word with power, fervency and the Spirit of the true and living God. In this book the main emphasis was in Acts 1:8, when the disciples were told by Jesus to wait until they had been empowered by the Holy Spirit from on high to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts chapters 1-7 record the apostles being Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea. Acts chapter 8 records the apostles being Christ's witnesses in Samaria. Acts chapters 9-28 record the apostles being Christ's witnesses "to the ends of the earth."

Practical Application: God can do amazing things through ordinary people. God essentially took a group of fisherman and turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). God took a Christian-hating murderer and changed him into the greatest Christian evangelist, the author of almost half the books of the New Testament. God used persecution to cause the quickest expansion of a "new faith" in the history of the world. God can and will do the same through us if we fully submit ourselves to Him.

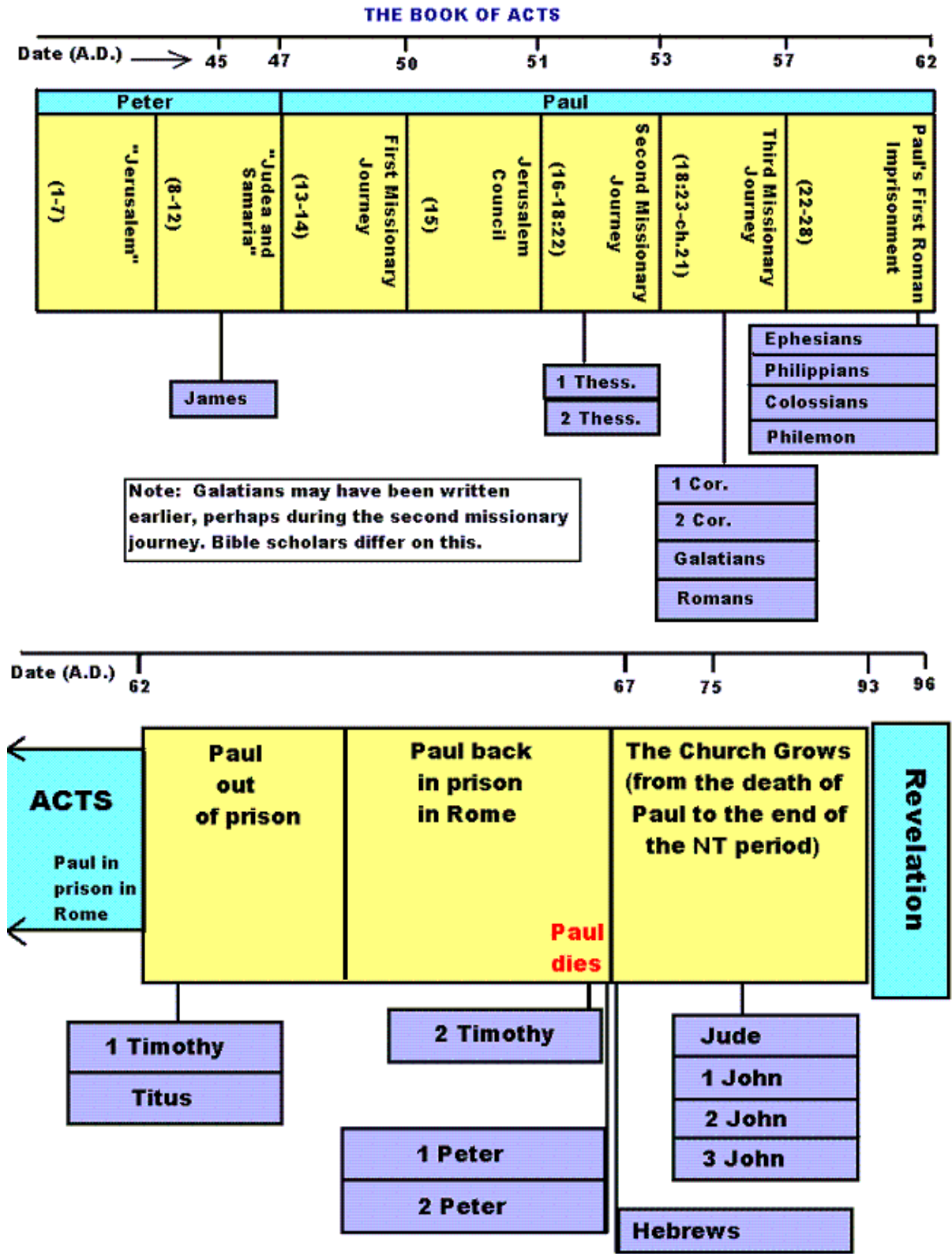
Some Things to know about when studying this Book

- A. This Book is An *Action* Book - Christianity is not just a “faith” but the living of that faith, out in the open, not in a closet!
- B. A _____ Book
 - 1. Just like Salvation involves a transition from darkness into His marvellous light (2 Pet 2:9), so the Book of Acts records the transition of world history from dark religion, to the marvellous light of Bible Christianity.
 - 2. There are three "transitional" Books in the New Testament:
 - a. *Matthew*- Transition from the Old Testament to the New
 - b. *Acts* - Transition from an emphasis being placed upon the Jews, to the _____
 - c. *Hebrews*- Transition from the _____, to the " _____ "
 - 3. Every major *heresy* comes from people referring to obscure passages in one of these three Books, and building subsequent doctrines on them.

Chapter by Chapter Outline

Chapter 1	The Church Commissioned in Galilee
Chapter 2	The Church Empowered at Pentecost
Chapter 3	Christianity Meets The Need
Chapter 4	How To Stand-Up For Christ
Chapter 5	Staying True!
Chapter 6	Delegating The Work – the Deacons
Chapter 7	Learning the Lessons of History – Stephen’s Stoning
Chapter 8	The Church Expanding into Samaria
Chapter 9	The Conversion of Saul
Chapter 10	Cornelius Meets Christ – the first Gentile
Chapter 11	The First “Christians” in Antioch
Chapter 12	The Church Learns to Pray – peter’s Imprisonment
Chapter 13	God's Call to Service – Saul and Barnabas start planting Churches
Chapter 14	Suffering While Serving – the cost of preaching
Chapter 15	Settling New Testament Salvation – the Jerusalem Council
Chapter 16	The Second Missionary Journey
Chapter 17	Searching the Scriptures in Berea
Chapter 18	Spiritual Overdrive
Chapter 19	The Securing of Ephesus
Chapter 20	Saying Farewell – Paul heads to Rome
Chapter 21	Saving the Best for Last
Chapter 22	Spreading the Gospel by Testimony
Chapter 23	Spreading the Gospel by Testimony
Chapter 24	Savouring Every Moment
Chapter 25	To the Uttermost
Chapter 26	King Agrippa is Almost Persuaded!
Chapter 27	How to Handle the Storms of Life
Chapter 28	Paul's Final Journey

When the Books of the New Testament Were Written



From notes from pastor of the Middletown Bible Church, Middletown, CT, USA

Romans

This is one of the greatest books in the New Testament!

Author: Romans 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Romans as the Apostle Paul. Romans 16:22 indicates that Paul used a man name _____ to transcribe his words.

Date of Writing: The Book of Romans was likely written between 56-58 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Paul was excited about being able to at last minister in this church, everyone was well aware of that fact (Romans 1:8-15). It was written from Corinth just prior to Paul's trip to Jerusalem to deliver the monies that had been given for the poor there. He had intended to go to Rome and then on to _____ (Romans 15:24). His plans were interrupted when he was arrested in Jerusalem. He would eventually get to Rome as a prisoner. Phoebe who was a member of the church at Cenchrea near Corinth (Romans 16:1) carried the letter to Rome.

Brief Summary: The Book of Romans can be divided into four sections:

1. Righteousness _____, 1:18 - 3:20 by absolutely everybody
2. Righteousness Provided, 3:21 - 8:39 only through Jesus Christ
3. Righteousness Vindicated, 9:1 - 11:36 through Israel
4. Righteousness Practiced, 12:1 - 15:13 by the Christian

The main theme of this letter is of course, _____. Guided by the Holy Spirit Paul first condemns all men of their sinfulness. He expresses his desire to Preach the truth of God's Word to those in Rome. Rome was the centre of the pagan universe! It was his hope to have assurance that the Christians there were staying on the right path. He strongly points out that he is not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is what every one needs to direct them to Salvation and to a Godly life. Our Gospel is kind of embarrassing when compared to the various religions of this world – but only until it is fully preached, and fully appreciated!

Paul points out over and over again that God did not demand that men have their lives straightened out before coming to Christ. Because, it is a fact that while we were still sinners He, Christ died on a cross for our sins. When we turn our lives over to Jesus Christ, we are no longer controlled by our sin nature (____), but we are controlled by the Spirit. If we make an outward confession that Jesus is our Lord, and believe that He is raised from the dead, we are from that moment saved - born again. We need to live our lives offered to God as a living sacrifice to Him. Because, that should be our highest desire to worship Him so. We cannot please Him by living according to this world and its pleasures. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus at all times.

Never seek to take revenge on anyone because it is God's place to repay, and we need to leave it Him. We need to feed the hungry and quench their thirst. Nothing is ever accomplished if we are overcome by evil, but more evil, so, we need to overcome evil with good.

Key Scriptures:

Romans 1:14-17
Romans 1:27
Romans 2:4
Romans 2:12-16
Romans 3:10-19
Romans 3:23
Romans 4:17-22
Romans 5:1
Romans 5:8
Romans 5:12
Romans 6
Romans 7:14-20
Romans 8:1
Romans 8:14-18

Romans 8:28-31
Romans 8:35-39
Romans 9:30-33
Romans 10:1-4
Romans 10:9,10,11,13
Romans 11:26
Romans 11:29
Romans 12:1,2
Romans 13:1
Romans 14:14-21
Romans 15:1
Romans 15:4
Romans 16:17,18

Practical Application: It is very difficult to summarize the Book of Romans. It is so full of truth! The Book of Romans tells us about God, who He is and what He has done. It tells us of Jesus Christ, what His death accomplished. It tells us about ourselves, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ. Perhaps the best application of Romans would be to apply Romans 1:16 and not be ashamed of the Gospel. Instead, let us all be faithful in proclaiming it!

General Outline of Romans:

Dealing with sin

Chapter one - The Righteousness and Wrath Of God

Chapter two - The Sin of Self-Righteousness

Salvation

Chapter three - There Is No Difference

Chapter four - Becoming Strong in Faith

Chapter five - The Benefits of Salvation

Sanctification

Chapter six - What To Do With Sin

Chapter seven - Problems With the Old Man

Security in Christ

Chapter eight - Safe, Secure, and Shielded

The Special Place of the Jews

Chapter nine - The Position Of Israel

Chapter ten - The Need of Israel

Chapter eleven - The Future of Israel

Christian service

Chapter twelve - Spiritual Gifts

Chapter thirteen - Life Principles

Chapter fourteen - Christian Maturity

Chapter fifteen - Practical Living

Chapter sixteen - Christian Salutations

1 Corinthians

This is the book for fixing worldly churches!

The city of Corinth had a population of about 250,000—huge by first century standards. Corinth overlooked the narrow isthmus that connected the Greek mainland with Peloponnesus and received ships in its two harbours. At one time Corinth was home to at least 12 pagan temples.

The Corinthians were intrigued by Greek philosophy and captivated by the disciplined training and athletic events held on the isthmus. Paul established the church in Corinth during his second missionary journey. He wrote this letter from Ephesus around 55 A.D. to a church that desperately needed help and correction.



Author: 1 Corinthians 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of 1 Corinthians as the Apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Corinthians was written in approximately 55 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The Apostle Paul started the church in _____. A few years after leaving the church, the Apostle Paul heard some disturbing reports about the Corinthian church. The church was full of _____, the church was excusing _____, _____ were being used improperly, and there was rampant misunderstanding of key Christian _____. The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians in an attempt to restore the Corinthian church to its foundation – Jesus Christ.

Brief Summary: The Corinthian church was plagued by _____. So he really hammers that in the first three chapters.

Paul organized the Book of 1 Corinthian by answering questions the Corinthian believers had asked him and by responding to improper conduct and beliefs the Corinthian believers had accepted.

1. The believers in Corinth were dividing into groups loyal to certain spiritual leaders (1 Cor 1:12; 3:1-6).
2. Paul exhorted the Corinthian believers to be united because of devotion to Christ (1 Cor 3:21-23).
3. The Corinthian believers were essentially approving of an immoral relationship (1 Cor 5:1-2).
4. Paul commanded them to expel the wicked man from the church (1 Cor 5:13).
5. The Corinthian believers were taking each other to _____ (1 Cor 6:1-2).
6. Paul taught the Corinthians that it would be better to be taken advantage of than to damage your Christian testimony (1 Cor 6:3-8).
7. Paul gave the Corinthian church instructions on marriage and celibacy (1 Cor 7),
8. Food sacrificed to idols (1 Cor chapters 8 and 10),
9. Christian freedom (1 Cor 9),
10. The hair of men and women (1 Cor 11:1-16),
11. The Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:17-34),
12. Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12-14),
13. And the Resurrection (1 Cor 15).

Practical Application: Many of the problems and questions the Corinthian church was dealing with are still present in the church today. Churches today still struggle with MANY divisions (racial, personalities, abilities, etc), with immorality, and with the abuse of spiritual gifts and even perceived spiritual gifts. The Book of 1 Corinthians very well could have been written to many churches today. Despite all the rebukes and corrections, 1 Corinthians brings our focus back to where it should be. Genuine Christian love is the answer to many problems (1 Corinthians chapter 13). A proper understanding of the resurrection of Christ, and thereby a proper understand of our own resurrection – is the cure for what divides and defeats us (1 Corinthians chapter 15).

2 Corinthians

Author: 2 Corinthians chapter 1, verse 1 identifies the author of the Book of 2 Corinthians as the Apostle Paul, possibly along with Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Corinthians was very likely written between 55-57 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul builds on many of the same themes covered in his early letter. These include:

1. Reconciling the man who had been involved in immorality with his step mother (1 Corinthians 5:1-6; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11)
2. Paul's plans for a future visit to Corinth (2 Corinthians 1:15--2:4)
3. The sacrificial giving of the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8:1-6)
4. New _____ in the church created by _____ and _____ leaders who attacked Paul's authority (2 Corinthians 10:10-12).

Positively, Paul found the Corinthians had well received his "severe" letter. The Apostle encourages them for this in an expression of Paul's genuine love (2 Corinthians 7:3-16). Paul also sought to vindicate his apostleship, as some in the church had likely questioned his authority (2 Corinthians 13:3). This is always the case – when someone speaks with authority, people attack the speaker, instead of testing the message, and then obeying it!

Brief Summary: The church in Corinth began in around 50 A.D., when Paul visited there on his second missionary journey. It was then that he stayed one and a half years, the first time he was allowed to stay in one place as long as he wished. A record of this visit and the establishment of the church is found in Acts 18:1-18.

This second letter of Paul to the Corinthian church was occasioned by the report brought back by Titus, who informed Paul of their reception of the first letter, and how they received the rebuke that letter contained (2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:5-9).

Titus' report was encouraging, but evidently it also brought troubling news that some at Corinth were questioning Paul's authority as an apostle. This doubt may have been planted by "Judaizing teachers" who seemed to follow Paul and attempted to undermine his teaching concerning the Law. They appear to have questioned his reliability (2 Corinthians 1:15-17), his speaking ability (2 Corinthians 10:10; 11:6), and his unwillingness to accept support from the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:7-9; 12:13). There were also some people who had not repented of their licentious behaviour (2 Corinthians 12:20-21).

He hopes that by writing in advance of his visit he can get all of the necessary rebuke out of the way (2 Corinthians 1:23-2:3; 13:10). He also uses the opportunity to encourage them to have the collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem ready when he comes (2 Corinthians 9:1-5; cf. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Practical Application: This letter is the most biographical and least doctrinal of Paul's epistles. **It tells us more about Paul as a person and as a minister than any of the others.** That being said, there are a few things we can take from this letter and applies to our lives today. The first thing is stewardship. Not only of money, but of your time as well. The Macedonians not only gave generously, but "*first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God*" (2 Corinthians 8:5). In the same way, we should dedicate, not only all we have to the Lord, but all that we are. He really doesn't NEED our money. He is omnipotent! He WANTS our heart, one that longs to serve and please and love. Stewardship; Giving to God; It is more than just money. Yes, God does want us to tithe of our income, and He promises to bless us when we give to Him. There is more though. God wants 100%. He wants us to give Him our all. Everything we are. We should spend our lives, living to serve our Father. We should not only give to God from our paycheck, but our very lives should be a reflection of Him. We should give ourselves first to the Lord, then give to the church.

Galatians

This book corrects the wrong idea that righteousness is obtained by good works.

The province of Galatia in central Turkey was the centre of Celtic life for over 650 years. The mercenary tribes moved on West, and later settled in what is now the UK and Ireland.

Author: Galatians 1:1 clearly identifies the Apostle Paul as the writer of the Epistle to the Galatians.

Date of Writing: The Book of Galatians was written somewhere between 48 and 55 A.D.



Purpose of Writing: The churches in Galatia were formed partly of converted Jews, and partly of Gentile converts, as was generally the case. Paul asserts his apostolic authority and the doctrines he taught, that he might confirm the Galatian churches in the faith of Christ, especially with respect to the important point of _____ by faith alone. Thus the subject is mainly the same as that which is discussed in the epistle to the Romans, that is, justification by faith alone. In this epistle, however, attention is particularly directed to the point, that men are justified by faith _____.

The Book of Galatians was a protest against corruption of the gospel of Christ. The essential truth of justification by faith rather than by the works of the law had been obscured by the Judaizers' insistence that believers in Christ must keep the law if they expected to be perfect before God. When Paul learned that this teaching had begun to penetrate the Galatian churches and that it had alienated them from their heritage of liberty, he wrote the impassioned rebuke presented in this epistle.

Brief Summary: The result of justification by grace through faith is _____ freedom. Paul appealed to the Galatians to stand fast in their freedom, and not get "entangled again with a yoke of bondage (that is, the keeping of the Mosaic law)" (Galatians 5:1). Christian freedom is not an excuse to gratify one's lower nature (_____); rather, it is an opportunity to love one another (Galatians 5:13; 6:7-10). Such freedom does not insulate one from life's struggles. Indeed, it may intensify the battle between the Spirit and the flesh. Nevertheless, the flesh (the lower nature) has been, and must continuously be crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20); and, as a consequence, the Spirit will bear its fruit in us such as love, joy, and peace in the life of the believer (Galatians 5:22-23).

The letter to the Galatians was written in a spirit of "inspired agitation." For Paul, the issue was not whether a person was circumcised, but whether he had become "a new _____" (Galatians 6:15). If Paul had not been successful in his argument for justification by faith alone, Christianity would have remained a sect _____, rather than becoming the universal way of salvation.

The books of James and Galatians illustrate two aspects of Christianity that from the very beginning have seemed to be in conflict, though in reality they are supplementary.

1. James demands that faith prove its existence by its fruits (_____). Nevertheless James, no less than Paul, emphasizes the need of the transformation of the individual by the grace of God (James 1:18).
2. Galatians stresses _____ that produces good works (Galatians 3:13-14).

Like the two sides of a coin, these two aspects of Christian truth must always accompany each other.

Practical Application: As with all books of the Bible, the words speak of a life style that all believers should continually strive to increase. I do not say achieve because even if anyone was to memorize every word, do everything it says, without Christ in our hearts guiding every foot step we still will never be complete (done), and won't be till Christ returns. The Bible helps non-believers and believers change their life, live their life on a continual basis making it greater than just a guide.

Overview of the New Testament

Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books

The Bible helps change lives, but it goes further building life styles and a vibrant relationship with God. Once a life is changed, once a life is living in the word, now we consider doing something out of love for anyone (commonly referred to as our good works). You cannot help after your life getting changed wanting to tell someone, do something, or help someone (works) out of love of God that is in you. Some have believed that the work they do for God is all they need to get into heaven when Christ returns. Without Christ in their hearts, and the love of God driving their work, all their living, and their “good” life style won’t matter to God at all. That is the message of Galatians, and that is how we should mould the truths of Galatians into our life, and make it a lifestyle by faith, not just of works.

Ephesians

This book explains the believers' spiritual relationship with God. It has been called, a "_____”

Author: Ephesians 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Ephesians as the Apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of Ephesians is a later book compared to many of the other New Testament books, and was very likely written between 60-63 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Paul intended all those that long for Christ-like maturity to receive this book. Enclosed within the Book of Ephesians is the discipline needed to develop into mature sons of God. Furthermore, a study in Ephesians will help to fortify and to establish the believer so he can fulfil the purpose and calling that God has given. The aim of this epistle is to confirm and to equip a maturing church. It presents a balanced view of the body of Christ and its importance in God's economy in the world.

Brief Summary: _____ occupies the greatest portion of the Book of Ephesians. Half of the teaching in this epistle relates to our standing, and the remainder of it affects our spiritual condition. All too often those who teach from this book bypass all the foundational instruction and go directly to the closing chapter for all the good words of encouragement and victory. It is chapter 6 that emphasizes the warfare and the victorious struggle of the saints. However, to benefit fully from the contents of this epistle, one must begin at the beginning of Paul's instruction in this letter.

First, the follower of Christ must fully understand _____ God declares him to be. Next, our present spiritual walk must become exercised and strengthened on a constant basis. This must continue until we no longer totter or stagger back and forth with every wind of teaching and subtlety of men (religions of the world).

Paul's writing breaks down into three main segments. (1) Chapters one through three introduce principles with respect to God's accomplishment for the believer. (2) Chapters four and five put forth principles regarding our present existence. (3) Chapter six presents principles concerning our daily struggle.

Chapter by Chapter Outline

- 1. What We Possess in Christ**
- 2. From the Grave to Living by God's Grace**
- 3. The Christian's Place in God's Plan**
- 4. The Christian's Walk**
- 5. Holy Living**
- 6. The Conflict of the Christian**

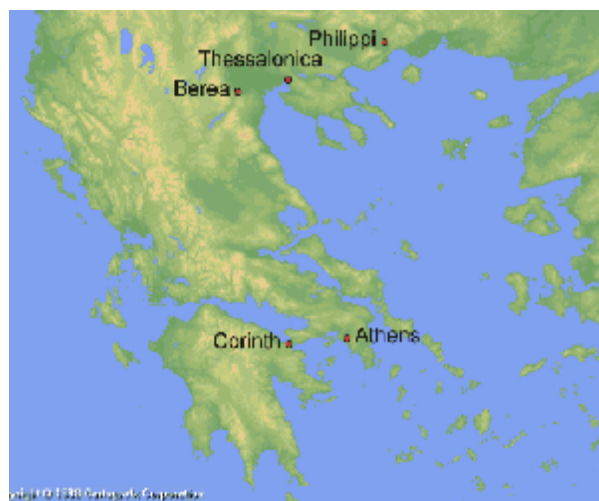
Practical Application: Perhaps more than any other book of the Bible, the Book of Ephesians emphasizes the connection between _____ and right living. Far too many people ignore "theology" and instead want to only discuss things that are "practical." In Ephesians, Paul argues that theology IS practical. In order to live out God's will for us in our lives practically - we must first understand who we are in Christ doctrinally!

Philippians

This is the Book on Christian Joy!

Author: Philippians 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Philippians as the Apostle Paul, likely along with the help of Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of Philippians was written in approximately 63 A.D. towards the very end of Paul's life. It was a ruined hill town, in northern central Macedonia, Greece that was rebuilt in c. 357 BC by King Philip II to control nearby gold mines. In 42 BC it was the scene of the decisive Roman battle in which Mark Antony and Octavian (later Augustus) defeated Brutus and Cassius, the leading assassins of Julius Caesar. Many Christian ruins, especially of the 5th – 6th century AD, are spread over the site.



Purpose of Writing: The Epistle to the Philippians, one of Paul's prison epistles, was written in Rome. It was at Philippi, which the apostle visited on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12), that _____ and the _____ and his family were converted to Christ. Now, some few years later, the church was well established, as may be inferred from its address which includes "bishops (elders and pastors) and deacons" (Philippians 1:1).

Key Verses:

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

"What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7).

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

Paul was _____ prisoner, yet the Epistle fairly shouts with triumph, with the words "joy" and "rejoice" appearing frequently (Philippians 1:4, 18, 25, 26; 2:2, 28; Philippians 3:1, 4:1, 4, 10). Right Christian experience is the outworking, whatever our circumstances may be, of the life, nature, and mind of Christ living in us (Philippians 1:6, 11; 2:5, 13). Philippians reaches its pinnacle at 2:5-11 with the glorious and profound declaration regarding the humiliation and exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brief Summary: The occasion of the Epistle was to acknowledge a gift of money from the church at Philippi, brought to the apostle by Epaphroditus, one of its members (Philippians 4:10-18). This is a tender letter to a group of Christians who were especially close to the heart of Paul (2 Corinthians 8:1-6), and comparatively little is said about doctrinal error.

Philippians is about Christ in our life, Christ in our mind, Christ as our goal, Christ as our strength, and Christ as our joy through suffering. It was written during Paul's awful imprisonment in Rome, about thirty years after the Ascension and about ten years after he first preached at Philippi.

Philippians may be divided as follows:

Introduction, 1:1-7

I. Christ the Christian's Life: Rejoicing in Spite of Suffering, 1:8-30

II. Christ the Christian's Pattern: Rejoicing in Lowly Service, 2:1-30

III. Christ, the Object of the Christian's Faith, Desire, and Expectation, 3:1-21

IV. Christ, the Christian's Strength: Rejoicing through Anxiety, 4:1-9

Conclusion, 4:20-23

Practical Application: This is Paul's _____ letter. And the happiness is infectious. Before we've read a dozen lines, we begin to feel the joy ourselves – the dance of words and the exclamations of delight have a way of getting inside us.

But happiness is not a word we can understand by looking it up in the dictionary. In fact, none of the qualities of the Christian life can be learned out of a book. Something more like apprenticeship is required, being around someone who out of years of devoted discipline shows us, by his or her entire behaviour, what it is. Moments of verbal instruction will certainly occur, but mostly an apprentice acquires skill by daily and intimate association with a “master,” picking up subtle but absolutely essential things, such as timing, and rhythm and touch.

When we read what Paul wrote to the Christian believers in the city of Philippi, we find ourselves in the company of just such a master. Paul doesn't tell us that we can be happy, or how to be happy. He simply and unmistakably is happy. None of his circumstances contribute to his joy: He wrote from a jail cell, his work was under attack by competitors, and after twenty years or so of hard traveling in the service of Jesus, he was tired and would have welcomed some relief.

But circumstances are incidental compared to the life of Jesus, the Messiah, that Paul experiences from the inside. For it is a life that not only happened at a certain point in history, but continues to happen, spilling out into the lives of those who receive Him, and then continues to spill out all over the place. Christ is, among much else, the revelation that God cannot be contained or hoarded. It is this “spilling out” quality of Christ's life that accounts for the happiness of Christians, for joy is life in excess, the overflow of what cannot be contained within any one person.

Colossians

Author: The Apostle Paul was the writer of the Book of Colossians (Colossians 1:13).

Date of Writing: The Book of Colossians was likely written from prison between 58-62 A.D. Colossae was located in modern day Turkey twelve miles from Laodicea and about a hundred miles east of Ephesus. It was on the main east-west trade route and had a diverse population of Greeks, Jews and Phrygians. The mixture of backgrounds made the city an interesting cultural centre where all sorts of new

ideas and doctrines from the East were discussed and considered. Because of these ungodly influences, the Colossian church was faced with the creeping influence of false teaching. Paul's letter stresses the true gospel: Jesus is absolutely central.



Purpose of Writing: The Book of Colossians is a _____ course, addressing every area of Christian life. Paul progresses from the individual's personal life to the home and family; from work, to the way we should treat others. The entire theme of this book is _____, Jesus Christ, in meeting our needs in every area. Paul set out to warn the church members about a certain dangerous philosophy that was making inroads in that church. The particular doctrine that Paul apparently had in mind was a form of Gnosticism, a mixture of both philosophical and religious ideas. Believing that _____ is evil and only _____ is good, the Gnostics held that the physical world was not created by a supreme being because a perfect deity would not have direct contact with an evil world. The world came into existence through the action of a series of intermediary beings whose worship was a necessary means toward human salvation. Paul writes that in Jesus there dwells all the fullness of the Godhead; there is no need for the worship of these intermediary powers. Furthermore, he rejects the asceticism (the doctrine that a person can attain a high spiritual and moral state by practicing self-denial, self-mortification, and the like) and the extreme sensual indulgence associated with the Gnostic conceptions of salvation. These concepts are still present in Catholicism, and various cults!

Brief Summary: Colossians was written explicitly to defeat _____ that had arisen in Colossae, which endangered the existence of the church. While we do not know exactly what was told Paul, this epistle is his response. We can surmise based on Paul's response that he was dealing with a defective view of Christ. (His real and true humanity and further not accepting His full deity.) Paul appears also to dispute the "Jewish" emphasis on circumcision and traditions (Colossians 2:8-11; 3:11). The heresy addressed appears to be either a Jewish-Gnosticism or a mix between Jewish asceticism and Greek (Stoic?) philosophy. He does a remarkable job in pointing us to the sufficiency of Christ.

Practical Application: Although Paul addresses many areas, the basic application for us today is the total and complete _____ of Christ for our lives, our sanctification and our salvation.

1. We must know and understand the Gospel so as not to be lead astray by subtle forms of _____ and _____.
2. We must be on guard for any deviation that would diminish Christ's centrality as Lord and Saviour.
3. Any "religion" that tries to equate themselves with God by using books that supposedly stand on equal authority of the Bible, or combine human efforts in reaching for God's favour or freedom from sin _____.
4. Other religions cannot be combined, mixed in or added to Christianity. Christ gives us absolute standards of moral conduct.
5. Christianity is a family, a way of life, a relationship not a religion.
6. Good deeds, astrology, occultism and horoscopes do not show us God's ways, but only Christ does.
7. His will is revealed in His word, His love letter to you and I, so we must get to know it!

1 Thessalonians

Author: 1 Thessalonians 1:1 indicates that the Book of 1 Thessalonians was written by the Apostle Paul, probably along with Silas and Timothy.

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Thessalonians was written in approximately 50 A.D. Paul (with Silas and Timothy) came to Thessalonica from Philippi on his second missionary journey, stopping in Amphipolis and Apollonia before arriving here (Acts 17). He preached first in the city's synagogue, the chief synagogue of the region, for at least three weeks. His ministry was strong, and he established a Jewish-Gentile church here, although it was more heavily Gentile (1 Thes. 1:9). When Paul faced great persecution at the hands of the mob, he fled to Berea, but the Thessalonian people who followed him eventually forced him to leave there also (Acts 17:13-14).

Purpose of Writing: In the church of Thessalonica there were some misunderstandings about the _____ . Paul desired to clear them up in his letter. He also writes it as an instruction of _____ .

Brief Summary: The first three chapters are about Paul longing to visit the church in Thessalonica but not being able to because _____ stopped them (1 Thessalonians 2:18). And how Paul cared for them and was encouraged to hear how they have been. Paul then prays for them (1 Thessalonians 3:11-13). In chapter 4, Paul is instructing them on how to live in Christ Jesus, a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12). Paul goes on to instruct them of a misconception they had. He tells them that the people who have died in Christ Jesus will also go to heaven when He comes back (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11). Then the book ends with final instructions of living the Christian life.

Practical Application: This book can be applied to many life situations. It gives us the confidence as Christians that dead or alive when Christ comes back we will all be together (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). It assures us as Christians we won't receive God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9). It instructs us how to walk the Christian life daily (1 Thessalonians 4-5).

2 Thessalonians

Author: 2 Thessalonians 1:1 tells us that the Book of 2 Thessalonians was written by the Apostle Paul along with _____ and _____.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Thessalonians was likely written in 51-52 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The church in Thessalonica still had some misconceptions of the _____ of the Lord. They thought it had come already so they stopped with their work. They were being persecuted badly. Paul wrote to clear up misconceptions and to _____ them.

Brief Summary: Paul greets them and encourages them by what he hears they are doing in the Lord. He prays for them (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12). In chapter 2, Paul explains what will happen in the Day of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). Paul then encourages them to stand firm. Paul instructs them to keep away from _____ men who don't live by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

Paul taught that the end of the age would come in the very near future, at which time the Messiah would descend on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. When the first Christians accepted the idea that the Man who had died on the cross was the real Messiah, they were convinced that He must return to earth to complete the work that he had begun. The manner of his second coming was understood only in accordance with the apocalyptic view (_____). This belief was common among the early Christians, but it wasn't completely correct. The Christians knew that no one knew the exact time when this second coming would take place, but they felt sure that it would occur during their lifetime – note the “_____” of 1Thes 4:15.

After Paul left Thessalonica, some of the people who belonged to the church died. Because Jesus had not returned, serious doubts arose in the minds of those Thessalonians who were still living, for they had been led to believe that Jesus the Messiah would return before any of them died. As they saw it, Paul was mistaken on this point, which then caused them to wonder whether he might also be mistaken on other points as well. Obviously, an explanation of some kind was in order, and this situation, more than any other single factor, prompted the writing of Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians.

In his statement regarding Jesus' second coming, Paul said that the return of Jesus to this earth will take place in the near future. Concerning those who died or who might die before Jesus returns, he states that they will be raised from the dead and will share equally with those who are still living at that time. The letter closes with a reminder that the Day of the Lord will come as a _____ in the night. No one knows just when it will come, but all are admonished to live in such a way that they will be ready for it at any moment.

Paul's Second Epistle to the Thessalonians is in one sense a follow-up to the first letter. However, some members of the Christian community were so overly zealous about Paul's teaching that the end of the age was near at hand that they stopped making any plans for the future. Indeed, some of them stopped doing any work at all, believing that in this way they were demonstrating their faith in the nearness of the great event. Those who did not work were a burden to those who did work, and this situation constituted a new problem. Paul addresses this concern in his second letter.

After commending the Thessalonians for their loyalty and assuring them that God will deal justly with their persecutors, Paul proceeds to the main point of the letter. Although the coming Day of the Lord is near, it is not so close as some people think. Concerning a report that had circulated among the people stating that the day had _____ come, Paul tells the Thessalonians not to be deceived on this matter, for the Day of the Lord will not arrive until after certain events have taken place, and these events have not occurred yet. The specific events to which Paul refers concern the coming of the _____, someone in whom the power of Satan has become incarnate and who will establish himself in the literal _____ at Jerusalem, working with signs and wonders to deceive people. Concerning the coming of this Antichrist, Paul says that the Antichrist's activities are already in

operation and would be carried out more fully except that he is now being restrained. In due time, the Antichrist will be revealed, and “then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” (2Thes 2:8). The letter closes with an admonition to the Thessalonians to continue their regular lines of work and not to wait in idleness for the return of Jesus.

Practical Application: The Book of 2 Thessalonians is filled with information that explains the end times. It also gives us instruction to not be idle and work for what we have. There are also some great prayers in 2 Thessalonians that can be an example for us on how to pray for other believers today.

1 Timothy

Author: The Book of 1 Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 1:1).

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Timothy was written between 62-66 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him in his responsibility for overseeing the work of the _____ church and possibly the other churches in the province of Asia (1 Timothy 1:3). This letter lays the foundation for ordaining _____ (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and provides guidance for ordaining people into offices of the church (1 Timothy 3:8-13). In essence, 1 Timothy is a _____ for church organization and administration.

Key Verses:

1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 2:12, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

1 Timothy 3:1-7, "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. "

1 Timothy 4:9-10, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Brief Summary: This is the first letter Paul wrote to Timothy, a young pastor who had been a huge help of Paul in his work. Timothy was a _____. His mother was a _____ and his father was Greek. Paul was more than just a mentor and leader to Timothy, he was like a father to him and Timothy was like a _____ to Paul (1 Timothy 1:2). Paul begins the letter by urging Timothy to be on the guard for false teachers and false doctrine. However, much of the letter deals with _____. Paul instructs Timothy in how to worship (1 Timothy 2) and in developing mature leaders for the Church (1 Timothy 3). Most of the letter deals with pastoral conduct and that of their families as well. All throughout the letter, Paul encourages Timothy to stand firm, to persevere, and to remain true to his calling.

Practical Application: Jesus Christ is presented by Paul as the only _____ between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), and is the only Saviour to all who believe in Him. He is only Lord of the Church, and Timothy serves Him by pastoring Christ's local Church at Ephesus. Thus, we find the main application of Paul's first letter to his "son in the faith." Paul instructs Timothy on matters of Church doctrine, Church leadership, and Church administration. We can use those same instructions in governing our local assembly today. Likewise, the work and ministry of a pastor, the qualifications for an elder, and the qualifications of a deacon are just as important and pertinent today as they were in Timothy's day. Paul's first letter to Timothy amounts to an instruction book on _____, administrating and pastoring the local church. The instructions laid out in this letter apply to any leader or prospective leader of Christ's church are laid out in a clear, concise manner and are equally relevant today, tomorrow or any day, as they were in Paul's day.

For those not called into a "leadership" role in their church, the book is still for you. Every follower must contend for the faith. Every follower must stand firm and persevere. Finally, every follower of Christ must remain true to our Saviour and that which we have been called to do: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

2 Timothy

Paul's _____ Letter

Author: 2 Timothy 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of 2 Timothy as the Apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Timothy was written in approximately 67 A.D., shortly before the Apostle Paul was put to death by Nero.

Purpose of Writing: Imprisoned yet again, the Apostle Paul felt lonely and abandoned by people. Paul recognized that his earthly life was likely coming to a soon end. The Book of 2 Timothy is essentially Paul's "last words." He looked past his own circumstances to express concern for the churches and specifically for _____. Paul wanted to use his last words to _____ Timothy, and all other believers, to persevere in faith (2 Timothy 3:14) and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:2).

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All scripture is given by _____ of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach _____; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Brief Summary: Paul encourages Timothy to remain passionate for Christ and to remain firm in _____ doctrine (2 Timothy 1:1-2:13). Sound doctrine is clear, logical, reasonable truths that stand up to scrutiny – are not wild ideas and fantasies or old wives tales. Paul reminds Timothy to avoid ungodly beliefs and practices and to flee from anything _____ (2 Timothy 2:14-26). In the end times there will be both intense persecution and _____ from the Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:1-17). Paul closes with an intense plea for believers to stand firm in the faith and to finish the race as strong (2 Timothy 4:1-8).

Practical Application: It is easy to get side-tracked in the Christian life. We have to keep our eyes on the prize – being rewarded in Heaven by Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:8). We must strive to avoid both false doctrine and ungodly practices. This can only be accomplished by being grounded in our knowledge of God's Word.

Titus

Letter to a Church Starter

Author: Titus 1:1 identifies the Apostle Paul as the author of the Book of Titus.

Date of Writing: The Epistle to Titus was written by Paul in approximately 66 A.D. Paul's many journeys are well documented and show that he wrote to Titus from Nicopolis in Macedonia (Greece).



Purpose of Writing: The Epistle to Titus is known as one of the _____ Epistles as are the two letters to Timothy. This epistle was written by the Apostle Paul to encourage his brother of faith, Titus, whom he had left on the island of Crete to better organise the churches which Paul had established on one of his missionary journeys (Titus 1:5). This letter advises Titus in what qualifications to look for in seeking leaders for the church as he warns Titus of the reputations of those living on the island of Crete (Titus 1:12).

In addition to instructing Titus in what to look for in a leader of the church Paul also encouraged Titus to return to Nicopolis for a visit. Paul suggested Titus bring with him two others from the church “that nothing be lacking unto them.” Meaning, that Paul wanted to make sure they were fully trained by him knowing that the job was very demanding that God had called for Titus and others to do!

Key Verses: Titus 1:3 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”

Titus 1:5, “For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”

Titus 1:16, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

Titus 2:15, "Say These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

Titus 3:3-6, “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”

Brief Summary: How wonderful it must have been when Titus received a letter from his mentor, the Apostle Paul. Paul was a much honoured man, and rightly so, after establishing dozens if not hundreds of churches throughout the middle-eastern world. This famous introduction from the Apostle would have been read by Titus, “To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 1:4).

The island of Crete where Titus was left by Paul to lead the church was inhabited by natives of the island and Jews who did not know the truth of Jesus Christ (Titus 1:12-14). Paul felt it to be his responsibility to follow through with Titus to instruct and encourage him in developing leaders within the church at Crete. As the Apostle Paul directed Titus in his search for _____ Paul also suggested how Titus would instruct the leaders so that they could grow in their faith in Christ. To help Titus continue in his faith in Christ Paul suggested Titus come to Nicopolis and bring with him two other members of the church (Titus 3:12-13). This was for their training. Paul knows that the island people were especially tough to train, notice: “One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said,

The Cretians are always _____, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is _____. Wherefore rebuke them _____, that they may be sound in the faith” (Titus 1:12,13).

Practical Application: The Apostle Paul deserves our attention as we look to the Bible for instruction on how to live a life that will be pleasing to our Lord. We can learn of that which we should avoid as well as that which we are to strive to imitate. Paul suggests we seek to be pure as we avoid the things of life which will defile our minds and conscience. And then the Apostle Paul makes a statement which should be on our minds every moment of every day; “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16).

Along with the warning, Paul gave us he also gave us the answer to teach us how to avoid denying God; “he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.” By seeking a daily renewal of our minds by the Holy Spirit we can develop into Christians that honour God by the way we live.

Philemon

Letter to a Slave Owner

Author: The author of the Book of Philemon was the Apostle Paul (Philemon 1:1).

Date of Writing: The Book of Philemon was written in approximately 60 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The letter to Philemon is the shortest of all Paul's writings and deals with the practice of slavery. The letter suggest that Paul was in prison at the time of the writing. Philemon was a slave-owner who also hosted a church in his home. During the time of Paul's ministry in Ephesus, Philemon had likely journeyed to the city, heard Paul's preaching and became a Christian. The slave Onesimus robbed his master, Philemon, and ran away, made his way to Rome and met Paul (probably in prison). Onesimus was still the property of Philemon and Paul wrote to smooth the way for his return to his master. Onesimus had become a Christian and Paul wanted Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ and not as a slave.

Key Verses: Philemon 1:15,16, "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?."

Philemon verse 18, "If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account."

Brief Summary: Paul had warned slave-owners that they had a responsibility towards their slaves and showed slaves as responsible moral beings who were to fear God. In Philemon, Paul did not condemn slavery but he presented Onesimus as a Christian brother instead of a slave. When an owner can refer to a slave as a brother, the slave has reached a position in which the legal title of slave is meaningless. The early church did not attack slavery directly but it laid the foundation for a new relationship between owner and slave. Paul attempted to unite both Philemon and Onesimus with Christian love so that emancipation would become necessary. After exposure to the light of the gospel the institution of slavery could only die. This shows how Christianity changes cultures through revelation, and not rioting or rebellion. The truth about a person's value in Christ changes everything!

Practical Application: Employers, political leaders, corporation executives and parents can follow the spirit of Paul's teaching by treating Christian employees, co-workers and family members as members of Christ's Body. Christians in modern society must not view helpers as stepping stones to help them achieve their ambitions but as Christian brothers and sisters who must receive gracious treatment. In addition, all Christian leaders must recognize that God holds them accountable for the treatment of those who work for them, whether the helpers are Christians or not. They must eventually answer to God for their actions (Colossians 4:1).

Hebrews

Paul's Letter to His People proving Jesus Christ is Better than all things Old

Author: Although some include the Book of Hebrews among the Apostle Paul's writings, the certain identity of the author remains in question. Because Paul's customary salutation so common to his other works is missing from the letter (see 2Thes 3:17), and, because the writer of this epistle relied upon knowledge and information provided by others who were actual eye-witnesses of Christ Jesus (2:3) seems makes Pauline authorship doubtful. But that seems to me to make it more plausible that it is Paul, because it was not Paul that heard Jesus at first! Some think Luke is its writer; others suggest Hebrews may have been written by Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, Philip, or Aquila. But the best guess is Paul because of the way chapter 13 is written – it is Paul through and through. Probably the reason why Paul refused to put his name to the letter was so that the Hebrew speaking people would read it instead of dismissing it because of Paul's traitorous conversion from Judaism. For a Jew to read a letter from a heretical Jew would be incomprehensible.

Date of Writing: The early church father _____ quoted from the Book of Hebrews in 95 A.D., and the fact that Timothy was alive at the time to epistle was written and the absence of any evidence showing the end of the Old Testament sacrificial system that occurred with Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D. indicates the book was written between 50 and 65 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The late Dr. Walter Martin, founder of the Christian Research Institute and writer of the best selling Kingdom of the Cults, quipped in his usual tongue-in-cheek manner that the Book of Hebrews was written by a Hebrew to other Hebrews telling the Hebrews to stop acting like Hebrews. In truth, many of the early Jewish believers were slipping back into the rites and rituals of Judaism in order to escape the mounting persecution. This letter, then, is an exhortation for these persecuted believers to continue in the grace of Jesus Christ alone, and not turn back to a completed system of Old Testament faith. Remember, the New Testament was just being written so most everything Christian Jews knew was from the Old Testament, and without clear, strong preaching and teaching, they would easily slip back into Judaism. Hebrews is also written to make sure people don't forget the link that exists between the Old Testament pattern and the New Testament reality. There is no New Testament without the Old Testament!

Key Verses:

Hebrews 1:1,2 "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his _____, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also _____ made the worlds.*"

Heb 2:3 "*How shall we escape, if we _____ so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.*"

Heb 4:14-16 "*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come _____ unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*"

Heb 12:1,2 "*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, _____ unto Jesus the _____ and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*"

Brief Summary: The writer of Hebrews continually makes mention of the _____ of Christ in both His personage and in His ministering work. In the writings of the Old Testament, we understand the rituals and ceremonies of Judaism symbolically pointed to the coming of Messiah--in other words, the rites of Judaism were but _____ of things to come. Hebrews tells us that Christ Jesus is better than anything mere religion has to offer. All the pomp and circumstance of

religion pales in comparison to the person, work, and ministry of the Messiah Jesus. It is the superiority of our Lord Jesus, then, that remains the theme of this eloquently written letter.

The book of Hebrews is doctrinal in character. It contains 13 chapters and 303 verses. The emphasis of Hebrews is Jesus Christ who is someone better than, and his work something better than anything in Judaism. The purpose of the book of Hebrews is to provide sound reasons for these Hebrew Christians to remain faithful to Christ and not to revert to Judaism. The book proves that the change from the Levitical to the Christian system was predicted by the Old Testament, particularly the change to a new priesthood, a new covenant, a new sacrifice and a new sanctuary.

All the Better Things listed in Hebrews!

- Better Revelation 1:1-4
- Better Rest 4:9
- Better Things 6:9; 11:40
- Better Hope 7:19
- Better Covenant 7:22; 8:6
- Better Priesthood 7:23-28
- Better Promises 8:6
- Better Sacrifice 9:23
- Better Substance 10:34; 12:24
- Better Country 11:16
- Better Resurrection 11:35

Key words in the book of Hebrews:

“Better” occurs thirteen times

“Heaven” or “heavenly” occurs fifteen times

“Once” or “once for all” occurs nine times

Old Testament references in Hebrews:

- * Thou art my son 1:5 / Psa 2:7
- * Let all the angels worship him 1:6 / Psa. 97:7
- * Who maketh his angels spirits 1:7 / Psa. 104:4
- * What is man 2:6-8 / Psa. 8:4-6
- * I will declare thy name 2:12 / Psa. 22:22
- * Today if you will hear his voice 3:7-11 / Psa. 95:7-11
- * God rested on the seventy day 4:4 / Gen. 2:2
- * Thou art my son 5:5 / Psa. 2:7
- * Make all things according to the pattern 8:5 / Ex. 25:40
- * To make a new covenant 8:8-12 / Jere. 31:31-34
- * Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not 10:5-7 / Psa. 40:6-8
- * Vengeance belongs to the lord 10:30 / deut. 32:35-36
- * The just shall live by faith 10:38 / Hab. 2:4
- * Despise not God’s chastening 12:5-6 / Prov. 3:11-12
- * I will never leave thee nor forsake thee 13:5 / Deut. 31:6

Lessons To Be Learned From The Book Of Hebrews

- * Jesus is god’s prophet 1:1-2
- * Jesus is the personification of god 1:3
- * Careful attention should be given to the things we have been taught 2:1-3
- * Jesus died in behalf of every man 2:9
- * A child of God can apostatize 3:12
- * Christians should encourage one-another continually 3:13
- * Rebellion against god is an expression of unbelief 3:16-4:6
- * The word of God is living and active 4:12
- * Jesus is the author of salvation to the obedient 5:8-9
- * Spiritual maturity is to be developed 5:12-6:4

Practical Application: Rich in foundational Christian doctrine, the Epistle to the Hebrews also gives us encouraging examples of God's "faith heroes" who persevered in spite of great difficulties and

adverse circumstances (Hebrews 11). These members of God's Hall of Faith provide overwhelming evidence as to the unconditional surety and absolute reliability of God on our behalf when we but trust Him. Likewise, we can maintain perfect confidence in God's rich promises, regardless of our circumstances, by confidently living based upon the rock-solid faithfulness of God's workings in the lives of His Old Testament saints.

The writer of Hebrews gives ample encouragement to believers, but there are five solemn warnings we must heed: There is the danger of _____ towards spiritual things (Hebrews 2:1-4), the danger of _____ (Hebrews 3:7-4,13), the danger of spiritual _____ (Hebrews 5:11-6,20), the danger of failing to _____ (Hebrews 10:26-39), and the inherent danger of _____/resisting God (Hebrews 12:25-29). And so we find in this crowning masterpiece a great wealth of doctrine, a refreshing spring of encouragement, and a source of sound, practical warnings against slothfulness in our Christian walk. But there is still more, for in Hebrews we find a magnificently rendered portrait of our Lord Jesus Christ--the Author and Finisher of our great salvation (Hebrews 12:2).

James

Practical Faith – Faith that Works

Author: The author of this epistle (letter) is James, also called James the Just, the _____ of Jesus Christ (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3). James was not a believer at first (John 7:3-5), until after the resurrection (Acts 1:14, 1 Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 1:19). He became the _____ of the Jerusalem church, and is mentioned first as a pillar of the Church (Galatians 2:9). It's amazing what the resurrection will do to someone!

Date of Writing: The Book of James is probably the _____ book of the New Testament, written perhaps as early as A.D. _____, before the first council of Jerusalem in A.D. 50. The apostle James was martyred in 35 AD in Acts 12, so he couldn't have written this book. This James (according to tradition) was martyred in approximately 62 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Some think that this epistle was written in response to an overzealous interpretation of Paul's teaching that was never intended. This extreme view, called antinomianism, held that through faith in Christ one is completely free from all Old Testament law, including all legalism, all secular law, and all the morality of a society. The book of James is intensely Jewish and is directed to Jewish Christians scattered among all the nations. Martin Luther, who detested this letter and called it "the epistle of straw," failed to recognize the purpose of James. Martin saw the whole of Scripture only through the eyes of Grace, but God wants us to see the Bible as a whole, not in just successive leaps of revelation. While Pauline teachings concentrate on our justification with God, James' teachings concentrate on our discourse and justification amongst each other. James was writing to Jews to encourage them in their continued growth in this new Christian faith. James emphasizes that good actions (good works) will naturally flow from those who are filled with the Spirit and questions whether someone may or may not have a saving faith if the fruits of the Spirit cannot be seen, much as Paul describes in Galatians 5:22-23.

Key Verses:

Jas 1:2-5 *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; _____ this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be _____ and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and _____ not; and it shall be given him."*

Jas 1:19 *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to _____."*

Jas 2:17-19 *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being _____. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."*

Jas 3:5 *"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"*

Jas 5:16 *"Confess your _____ one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Brief Summary: The Book of James outlines the faith walk through:

- **Genuine** (True) Religion (1:1-27),
- Genuine **Faith** (2:1-3:12) and
- Genuine **Wisdom** (3:13-5:20).

This book contains a remarkable parallel to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. James begins in the first chapter by describing the overall traits of the faith walk. In chapter two and the beginning of chapter three he discusses social justice and a discourse on faith in action. He then compares and contrasts the difference between worldly and Godly _____ and asks us to turn away from evil and draw close to God. James gives a particularly severe rebuke to the rich who hoard and to those who are _____. Finally he ends, albeit abruptly, upbeat with encouragement to be patient in suffering, praying and caring for one another and bolstering our faith through fellowship.

Practical Application: We see in the Book of James a challenge to “walk the walk” and “talk the talk” of a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. While our faith walk, to be certain, requires a growth of knowledge about the word, James exhorts us to not stop there. Many Christians will find this reading challenging as James presents us with _____ obligations in only 108 verses. It is hard-hitting as he asks us in verse 1:23 to look at ourselves in the mirror of God’s _____ and then straighten ourselves up. He focuses on the truths of Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount and motivates us to act upon what He taught.

An unknown author has stated, “Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence; faith is obeying in spite of the consequences.” Read James and go forth with a faith rooted in love, and evidenced by action.

1 Peter

Encouragement in Times of Suffering

Author: 1 Peter 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of 1 Peter as the Apostle Peter.

Date of Writing: The Book of 1 Peter was likely written between 60 and 65 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: Peter understood persecution. He was beaten, threatened, punished and jailed for preaching the Word of God. He knew what it took to stand strong. This knowledge of living hope in Jesus was the message and Christ's example was the one to follow. Peter handed down rules for wives, husbands, slaves, elders and just all people in general.

Key Verses: 1 Peter 1:3, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath _____ us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*"

1Peter 1:5-8 "*Who are _____ by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through _____ temptations: That the _____ of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with _____, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet _____, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*"

1 Peter 2:9, "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should _____ forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*"

1 Peter 2:24, "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should _____ unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*"

1 Peter 5:8-9, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____: Whom _____ stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*"

Brief Summary: Any time of persecution is despairing, but Peter reveals that this is actually a time to rejoice. He says to count it a _____ to suffer for the sake of Christ as our Saviour suffered for us. This letter of Peter's makes reference to his personal experiences with Jesus and his sermons from the book of Acts. Peter confirms _____ as the great enemy of every Christian, but the assurance of Christ's future return gives the incentive of hope.

Practical Application: The assurance of eternal life is given to all Christians. One way to identify with Christ is to share in His suffering. To us that would be to endure insults and slurs from those who call us "goodie two shoes" or "holier than thou." This is so minor compared to what Christ suffered for us on the Cross. Stand up for what you know and believe is right and rejoice when the world and Satan aim to hurt you.

2 Peter

How to Handle False Teachers

Author: 2 Peter 1:1 specifically states that the Apostle Peter was the author of 2 Peter. Peter's authorship of 2 Peter has been challenged more than that of any other book in the New Testament. However, the early church fathers have found no good reason to reject it.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 Peter was written toward the end of Peter's life. Since Peter was martyred in Rome during the reign of Nero, his death must have occurred prior to AD 68. He very likely wrote 2 Peter between 65 and 68.

Purpose of Writing: Peter was alarmed that _____ were beginning to infiltrate the churches. He called on Christians to grow and become strong in their faith so that they could detect and combat the spreading apostasy. He strongly stressed the authenticity of the Word of God and the sure return of the Lord Jesus. He did not call Christians to submit to papal authority or to the authority of the Church, but to the authority of the word of God as written in the Bible!

Key Verses:

2 Peter 1:3-4, "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us _____ great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the _____, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*"

2 Peter 2:1 "*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false _____ among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*"

2 Peter 3:3 "*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days _____, walking after their own lusts,*"

2 Peter 3:9: "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is _____ to us-ward, not _____ that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*"

2 Peter 3:18: "*But grow in _____, and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*"

The key word is _____; with its related words, occurring 15 times in the Book of 2 Peter.

Brief Summary: Knowing that his time was short (2 Peter 1:13-15), and these churches faced immediate danger (2 Peter 2:1-3), he called upon the readers to refresh their memories (2 Peter 1:13) and stimulate their thinking (2 Peter 3:1-2) so that they would remember his teaching (2 Peter 1:15). He challenged the believers to become more _____ in their faith by adding to it specific Christians virtues, thereby becoming effective and productive in their knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-9). They needed to REALLY believe what they claimed to believe! Times were going to get hard, and their faith needed to be strong enough not just to handle trials, but false teachers! The Old and New Testament writers were set forth as their authority for their faith (2 Peter 1:12-21, 3:2, 3:15-16). Peter desired they become strong in their faith to _____ the false teachers that had crept in and adversely affected the churches. In his denunciation of them, he described their conduct, their condemnation, and their characteristics (2 Peter chapter 2), and also that they ridiculed the Lord's _____ (2 Peter 3:3-7). For the Christians, Peter taught that the _____ is the incentive for holy living (2 Peter 3:14). After a final warning, Peter again encouraged them to grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He concluded with a word of praise to his Lord and Saviour (2 Peter 3:18).

Practical Application: Certainly, as Christians in the 21st Century, we are nearer our Lord's return than the first-century Christians to whom this epistle was written. Through television and other means of mass communications, mature Christians are aware that many charlatans are parading as true Christian leaders, and that immature Christians have been "taken in" by their quackery and false interpretation of Scriptures. It is vital that all born-again Christians be so grounded in the Word so that they will be able to detect truth from error.

1 John

Getting Assurance

Author: 1, 2, and 3 John have from earliest times been attributed to _____ the apostle, who also wrote the fourth and final gospel. The content, style, and vocabulary also easily prove that these three epistles were addressed to the very same readers as the gospel of John.

Date of Writing: 1 John was likely written between A.D. 85-95.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of 1 John seems to be a summary that assumes the readers' knowledge of the gospel as written by John and offers certainty for their faith in Christ. The first epistle indicates that the readers were confronted with the error of Gnosticism, which became a more serious problem in the second century. As a philosophy of religion it held that matter is evil and spirit is good. The solution to the tension between these two was knowledge, or gnosis, through which man rose from the mundane to the spiritual. In the gospel message this led to two false theories concerning the person of Christ: Docetism, regarding the human Jesus as a ghost, and Cerinthianism, making Jesus a dual personality, at times human and at times divine. The key purpose of 1 John is to set boundaries on the content of faith and to give believers assurance of their salvation.

Key Verses: 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 3:4 "*Whosoever committeth _____ transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*"

1 John 4:4, "*Ye are of God, little children, and have _____ them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*"

1 John 5:7 "*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*"

1 John 5:13, "*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may _____ that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*"

The key word is "_____"; with its related words, occurring at least 13 times in the Book of 1 John.

Brief Summary: False spiritual teachers were a big problem in the early church. Because there was not a complete New Testament that believers could refer to, many churches fell prey to pretenders who taught their own ideas and advanced themselves as leaders. John wrote this letter to set the record straight on some important issues, particularly concerning the true character and identity of Jesus Christ. Because this letter is about the basics of _____ in Christ, it helps his readers reflect honestly on their faith. It helps them answer the question, Are we true believers? John told them that they could tell by looking at their actions: If they consistently loved one another, that was evidence of God's presence in their lives. But if they bickered and fought all the time or were selfish and did not look out for one another, they were betraying that they, in fact, did not know God. That did not mean they had to be sinlessly perfect. In fact, John also recognized that believing involved regularly admitting our sins and seeking God's forgiveness. Depending on God for cleansing from guilt, along with admitting our wrongs against others and making amends, was another important part of getting to know God.

Practical Application: The book of 1 John is a book of _____ and _____. It explains the fellowship we have with others and with Jesus Christ. It differentiates between happiness and joy. True joy is something we all seek. We all want it. 1 John tells us exactly how to get it - by taking the words of God, written by John, and applying them to our daily lives. The apostle John is a disciple who knew Christ well. He is telling us that we can all have a close intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus is right here with us in both the simple, mundane parts of our lives and in the complex, soul

wrenching parts of our lives. John teaches us that Christ is the believer's life. It is only as a person has Christ in his life that he is able to have true fellowship with Him. John testifies as a witness of his personal experiences that God became flesh and lived among men. That means Christ came here to live with us. He still lives with us! He walks through each and every day of our lives. He is still with us! We need to apply this truth to our lives and live as if Jesus was standing right next to us every second of the day. Put this truth into practice and day by day you will be adding holiness to your life and becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

2 John

Author: The Book of 2 John does not directly name its author. The tradition from the earliest days of the church states that the author was John the Apostle. There have been various conjectures over the years that another disciple of Christ named John may have been responsible for this letter. However, all the evidence points to the author as John the beloved disciple who also wrote the Gospel of John.

Date of Writing: The Book of 2 John would most likely have been written at about the same time as John's other letters, 1 and 3 John, likely between 85-95 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: 2 John is an urgent plea that the readers of John's letter should show their love for God and His son Jesus by obeying the commandment to love each other and live their lives in obedience to the Scriptures. 2 John is also a strong warning to be on the lookout for _____ who were going about saying that Christ had not actually risen in the flesh (like the Jehovah's Witnesses say).

Key Verses: 2 John verse 6, *"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."*

2 John 18,9 *"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."*

2 John 1:10,11 *"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*

Brief Summary: The Book of 2 John is addressed to 'The _____ and her children'. This could either have been a lady of important standing in the community or, to the local church and its congregation. 2 John is largely concerned with an urgent warning concerning deceivers who were not teaching the exact doctrine of Christ and who maintained that Jesus did not actually rise again in the flesh but only spiritually. John is very anxious that true believers should be aware of these false teachers and have nothing to do with them.

Practical Application: It is extremely important that Christians should check everything concerning Christianity that they see, read and hear with the Scriptures. This cannot be too strongly emphasized as one of the Devil's greatest weapons is _____. It is very easy to be taken in by a new and exciting doctrine (2Cor 11:4) that appears to be based on Scripture, but if examined closely, is in fact a departure from the Word of God. We should be constantly on the alert for this.

3 John

Author: The Book of 3 John does not directly name its author. The tradition from the earliest days of the church has been that John the Apostle was the author. There have been occasional doubts raised by those who thought it possible that this was written by another disciple of the Lord named John, but all the evidence points to the author being John the Apostle.

Date of Writing: The Book of 3 John would most likely have been written at about the same time as John's other letters, 1 and 2 John, likely between 85-95 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: A three fold purpose: 1. To commend and encourage his beloved co-worker _____ in his ministry of hospitality to John's itinerant preachers who were going from place to place to preach the Gospel of Christ. 2. To indirectly warn and condemn the behaviour of a man named _____, a dictatorial leader who had taken over one of the churches in the province of Asia, and whose behaviour was directly opposed to all that the Apostle and his Gospel stood for. 3. To commend the example of _____ who was reported as having a good testimony from all.

Key Verses: 3 John verse 4, "*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in _____.*"

3 John verse 11, "*Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.*"

Brief Summary: John is writing with his usual strong emphasis on _____ to this much loved brother in Christ, Gaius, a layman of some wealth and distinction in a city near Ephesus. He highly commends Gaius' care and hospitality to his messengers whose mission was to take the Gospel from place to place, whether they were known to him or were strangers. John exhorts him to continue to do good and not to imitate evil, as in the example of Diotrophes. This man had taken over the leadership of a church in Asia and not only refused to recognize John's authority as an apostle but also to receive his letters and submit to his directions. He also circulated malicious slanders against John and excommunicated members who showed support and hospitality to John's messengers. Before he concludes his letter he also commends the example of Demetrius, of whom he has heard excellent reports.

Practical Application: John, as always, emphasizes the importance of walking in the truth of the Gospel. Hospitality, support and encouragement for our fellow Christians is one of the main precepts of the teachings of Jesus, and Gaius was obviously an outstanding example of this ministry. We should do the same whenever we can, welcoming visiting missionaries, preachers and strangers (as long as we are sure that they are true believers) not only to our churches but also to our homes, and offer them whatever support and encouragement they need. We also need to be careful always to follow only the example of those whose words and actions are in line with the Gospel, and to be discerning enough to be able to be aware of those such as Diotrophes whose behaviour is far from being like that which Jesus taught.

Jude

Contending for the Faith

Author: Jude 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Jude as Jude, a brother of James. This likely refers to Jesus' half-brother Jude, as Jesus also had a half-brother named James (Matthew 13:55). Jude likely does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus out of humility and reverence for Christ.

Date of Writing: The Book of Jude has a close relationship with the Book of 2 Peter. The Book of Jude was written around 80 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Jude is an important book for us today because it is written for the _____, for the end of the Church Age. The Church Age began at the Day of Pentecost. Jude is the only book given entirely to the coming great apostasy. The book of Jude writes that evil works are evidence of apostasy. He admonishes us to contend for the faith, for there are "tares among the wheat," false brethren are in the Church, therefore the saints are in danger. This is a small but important book worthy of study, written for the Christian of today.

Key Verses: Jude verse 3 "*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly _____ for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*"

Jude verses 18-19 "*How that they told you there should be _____ in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*"

Jude verse 24,25 "*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*"

Brief Summary: According to verse 3, Jude was anxious to write and explain more about our salvation, however, he changed topics to contending for the faith. This faith embodies the complete body of Christian doctrine taught by Christ, later passed onto the apostles. After Jude warns of false teachers (verses 4-16) he directs us to advise on how we can succeed in spiritual warfare (verses 20-21). Wisdom we would well accept and adhere to as we go through these days of the end times.

Practical Application: We live in a unique time in history and this little book can help equip us for the untold challenges of living in the end times. Today's Christian must be on guard for false doctrines which can so easily deceive us if we are not well versed in the Word. We need to know the Gospel; to protect and defend it; to accept the Lordship of Christ, which is evidenced by a life-change. The most effective Christian life is one that lives "the faith" in everyday life. Authentic faith always reflects Christ-like behaviour. Our life in should reflect our very own heart knowledge that rests on the authority of the Almighty Creator and Father that puts faith into practice. We need that personal relationship with Him, only then will we know His voice so well that we will follow no other.

The Revelation

Revealing the Future

Author: Revelation 1:1,4,9 and 22:8 specifically identify the author of the Book of Revelation as the Apostle _____.

Date of Writing: The Book of Revelation was likely written between 90 and 95 A.D.

Purpose of Writing: This Book is all about _____, NOT about hiding things. The first verse tells us this book was written... to show his servants what must soon take place. This book is filled with explanations of mysteries and things to come. It is the final warning that the world will surely end, and that judgment will be certain. It gives us a tiny glimpse of Heaven and all of the glories awaiting we who keep our robes white. Revelation takes us through the great tribulation with all the woes and the final fire that all unbelievers will face for eternity. The book reiterates the fall of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for. We are shown the duties of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of the saints that will live forever and ever with Jesus in the New Jerusalem. This is Jesus Christ's revelation. He is about to do some revealing - Jesus Christ was revealed to man in the Gospels, but here in the Book of the Revelation, Jesus is going to reveal the future. The word Revelation even in Greek ("Apocalypse") means unveiling as in "Revealing". Yet, why does everyone approach the Book like it is a "mysterious" book? People actually fear this Book!

John's audience: To the 7 Churches as listed in chapters 2 and 3, comprising both Christians and agnostics! These 7 churches have many problems, and they apply in one way or another to churches throughout history. This is a very interesting concept - The Lord Jesus Christ dictates letters to seven literal local churches as listed in chapters 2 and 3, and yet, the letters will apply to a total of four sets of churches:

1. Seven literal, local churches in Asia minor that really existed at the time of the writing (95 AD).
2. Seven types of churches that will exist over the next two thousand years from the Cross to the rapture.
3. Seven periods of church history that span the two thousand years since Christ came.
4. And finally, this Book is directed doctrinally right at literal, local churches in Asia-minor in the future, in the time of the Great Tribulation.

Its Importance and Significance:

This Book represents one of the most "mysterious" Books in the Bible due to people's predisposition to the Book - people from the start determine that it _____ be understood, so they don't even try. Yet, note 1:3 - Nothing is said about completely "understanding" this Book, just reading and hearing it. See also Deuteronomy 29:29.

This Book is primarily _____ - both of coming judgment (it generates a real fear of God. See 2 Cor 5:10,11) and of future blessing. The purpose of prophecy is not just for knowledge (see 1 Cor 8:1), but to purify the believer (see 1 John 3:1-3), and to provide hope (Rom 15:4)!

This is the only Book other than the "Law" as mentioned in Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3 that provides for a special blessing upon those that read it (1:3)!

How you approach this Book will determine how you approach the Second Coming of Christ (2 Tim 4:8)!

Its Theme - " _____ "

Genesis starts out with "the beginning" of everything, and Revelation ends up with the completion of all of God's plans. Nothing is left "undone". Everything is restored. Watch how things match between Genesis and Revelation in the following table:

Overview of the New Testament

Detailed Overview of the New Testament Books

In Genesis	In Revelation
The first Adam and his wife reigning over the earth (Gen 1:27,28)	The last Adam (Christ) and His wife (the Church) reigning over the universe (Rev 21:9)
The creation of the sun, moon (1:5,16)	There is no further need for the sun or moon (21:23)
The tree of life is denied to man (3:22)	The tree of life made available to man (22:2)
The ground becomes cursed, woman becomes cursed, man becomes cursed (3:17)	"And there shall be no more curse" (22:3)
Satan appears (3:1)	Satan is banished forever (20:10)

Prophetic subjects that will be dealt with in this study will include:

- * The Tribulation
- * The Rapture
- * The literal reign of Jesus Christ on this earth in the near future
- * The Judgment Seat of Christ
- * The Great White Throne Judgment
- * The Antichrist
- * The Two Witnesses
- * The 144,000 witnesses

Brief Summary: The Revelation is lavish in colourful descriptions of the visions which proclaim for us _____ before Christ's return and the ushering in of the new Heaven and new earth. The Revelation reveals the series of devastations poured out upon the earth; the mark of the beast, "666"; the climatic battle of Armageddon; the binding of Satan; the 1,000 year reign of the Lord Jesus; the Great White Throne Judgment; and the nature of the eternal city of God. All prophecies concerning Jesus Christ are fulfilled and a concluding call to His Lordship assures us that He will soon return.

A Simple Outline Of The Book: (1:19) The "Three-Fold Division"

1. "What thou hast seen..." The Past - Chapter 1
2. "The things which are..." The Present - Chapters 2 and 3
3. "The things which shall be hereafter..." The Future - Chapters 4 - 22
 - a. The soon rapture of the church (Rev 4 and 5)
 - b. The tribulation of seven years (Rev 6-19)
 - c. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ for 1000 years (Rev 20)
 - d. The new heavens and new earth (Rev 21)

An Expanded Outline of Future Events

1. The soon rapture of the Church which will take place without warning (1 Thes 4:13-18).
2. The "mystery of iniquity" which will set in on this earth and will increase rapidly as described in 2 Thes 2. The antichrist will appear during this time as a conqueror of all the world's problems.
3. Israel will be safe in its own land. The antichrist will make a peace pact with Israel protecting it from kings both to the north and south that desire to destroy it. Daniel's' 70th week will be in motion as described in Daniel 9.
4. Judgment from God falls on this planet throughout the next seven years. God begins to punish the Gentiles and purge the Jews. The judgments are brought about by the commands of the two witnesses that appear for the first 3 1/2 years.
5. In the middle of the seven year time called the Tribulation, the Beast (antichrist) will break his covenant with Israel and conquer it, setting himself up as God on the throne of the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (2 Thes 2:4). The false prophet will appear on the earth, directing all worship toward the Beast. Once enthroned, the Beast will slay the two witnesses out in the middle of a street with the whole world watching!

6. The Beast will assume a world-wide dictatorship. During the last 3 1/2 years the worst of the judgments will fall on this world and its inhabitants, with the Jews being protected and fed out in the wilderness like it had been in Exodus through Deuteronomy.
7. The Beast will prepare a massive army to wipe out the Jews in one final battle.
8. Jesus Christ will appear in the heavens with millions of battle-ready soldiers riding behind Him. These soldiers will do no fighting though. The Sword that will proceed out of Jesus Christ's mouth will devour the enemy completely.
9. The beast and the False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).
10. Satan shall be bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, allowing Jesus Christ to reign on the earth as King of kings during the millennium.
11. After the millennium, Satan will be loosed "for a season" and many will be deceived into following him in a rebellion against God at the final last war to end all wars - the battle of Gog and Magog (Ezek 38 and 39). At the completion of this battle, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, forever banished from this earth (Rev 20:10).
12. All the unsaved of all time will then stand before God and be judged. They will then be cast into the lake of fire, to join the devil and his angels, in torment (Rev 20:11-15).
13. This present earth and heaven will then be burned with fervent heat, and a new heaven and earth will replace it (Rev 21; 2 Pet 3:10).
14. For the rest of eternity (if you can comprehend that), God, and His people will enjoy this universe as it was intended to be, yet without sin, and its curse!!!

The SEVEN SEVENS in the Book of Revelation

1. The Seven _____ (Chapters 2, 3)
2. The Seven _____ (Chapters 6, 7, 8)
3. The Seven _____ (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)
4. The Seven _____ (Chapters 12, 13) - The Beast, False Prophet, the Dragon, the Woman, the Man Child, the Lamb, the Archangel.
5. The Seven _____ (Chapters 15, 16)
6. The Seven _____ (Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20) - Armageddon, the destruction of Babylon, the destruction of Mystery Babylon, The Beast and False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire, the battle of Gog and Magog, the Great White Throne Judgment, the casting of Satan himself into the Lake of Fire!
7. The Seven _____ (Chapters 21, 22) - New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, New Nations, New River, New Tree, New Throne

Practical Application: Have you accepted Christ as your Saviour? If so, you have nothing to fear from God's judgment of the world as described in the Book of Revelation. The Judge is on our side. Before the final judgment begins, witness to your friends and neighbours about God's offer of eternal life and forgiveness in Christ. The events in this book are real. Live your life like you believe it and so that others will notice your joy about your future and want to join you in that new and glorious city.