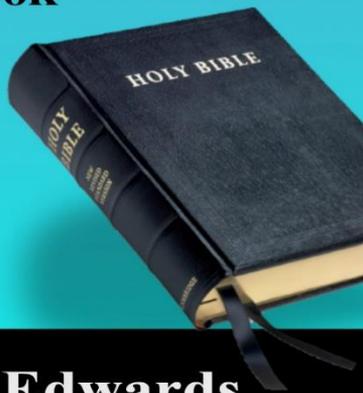


# Summary

*of each book in the  
New Testament*

**Plus**

- > **Key verse in each book**
- > **Key phrase of who Jesus is in each book**



**Bruce R. Edwards**

**Summary  
Of Each  
New Testament Book**

*Knowing the truth*

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**Bruce R Edwards**

**Summary of Each  
New Testament Book**

**By Bruce R. Edwards**

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ISBN: 0-999999999-99-9

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# THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

There are 3 main reasons God gave us the Bible. There are many more revelations and purposes within the Bible, but these 3 are foundational:

1. **God revealing Himself to us.** The Bible teaches us who God is, His character, nature, and attributes. He is God almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. **God sharing His plan for the human creation.** God created us to “tabernacle” with us. In other words, to have relationship with us - to walk and talk with us. God created us in His image so we would have the capacity to commune with Him and be with Him forever.
3. **God revealing His plan of redemption.** Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden and as a result all of mankind lost their relationship with God. God had a plan to reconcile man back to Him, it was Jesus Christ. Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation God reveals His plan of redemption.

**W**hen you read the Bible ask yourself what is God teaching me about Himself? Is there something about God's plan for man being shared, and how is God revealing Jesus the redeemer in these verses?

**A**lso, when you read the Bible read it as God writing it to you personally. Personalize it. It is God's love letter to YOU!

**I**n the following pages are some very, very brief summaries of each of the New Testament books. Reading summaries like this can be helpful but should never replace actually reading the Word of God.

**A**lso, I have included one key verse from each book. Obviously, there are several powerful verses in every book and every word is important, but each of these verses are key in our life of faith. I encourage to memorize each one of them.

**A**lso, I have included a short description of who Jesus is identified as in each book. Remember Jesus is in every book of the Bible. He

is our redeemer and God's plan of how to reconcile man back to Him.

**I**n addition, you will find scripture nuggets about the Word of God and some information about key people and other helpful insights to the New Testament.

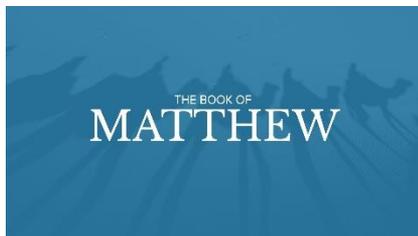
**I** pray you will be blessed, inspired, enlightened, and encouraged.

*Pastor Bruce*

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

*Joshua 1:8*

# Matthew



Matthew's descriptions of Jesus shows that He was and is indeed the King, Israel's long-awaited Messiah. He says so in his opening line, "*The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of*

*Abraham*" (Matthew 1:1).

From there, Matthew consistently takes us back to the Old Testament, providing Old Testament testimony regarding the birth of Jesus, Bethlehem as the location of Jesus's birth, the flight to Egypt, Herod's slaughter of the infants, and the beginning of Jesus's ministry.

In a world where many in the Jewish community had claimed the role of Messiah for themselves, Matthew's commitment to grounding the life of Jesus in the Old Testament raised Jesus above the multitude of these false messiahs.

The apostle paints us a picture of our Lord that highlights His

uniqueness among all others to ever walk this earth. Matthew gives us instruction on how citizens of Christ's kingdom are to live and how as Christians we should conduct ourselves in the church? He tells the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

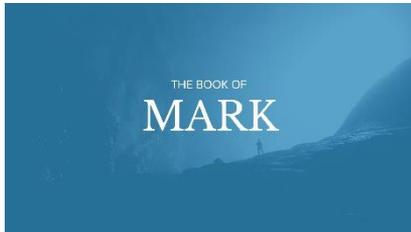
*Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

In Matthew Jesus is the Messiah

**Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.**

**Proverbs 30:5-6**

# Mark



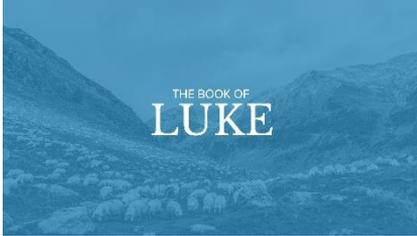
The shortest Gospel, and perhaps the basis for Matthew and Luke. Mark is the "action Gospel," with the word *immediately* appearing some 35 times. While Matthew's gospel portrays Jesus as the King,

Mark reveals Him as God's Servant. Mark filled his gospel with the miracles of Jesus, illustrating again and again both the power and the compassion of the Son of God. The book also portrays Jesus as the true God and the true man, reaching into the lives of people and effecting physical and circumstantial change.

Mark 16:15 - *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

In Mark Jesus is the Wonder Worker

# Luke



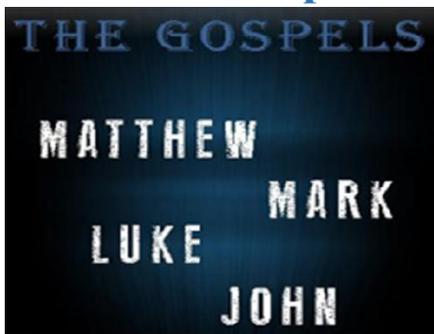
The humanitarian Gospel, with much attention to marginalized members of society. The longest Gospel, covering more of Jesus's life than the others. A very literary Gospel, with nearly thirty parables and four nativity hymns, it has

exerted the most influence on painters and hymn writers. Despite the variety of material, this Gospel flows beautifully and is easy to read from beginning to end. A famous scholar called it "the most beautiful book ever written."

Luke 10:19 - *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

In Luke Jesus is the Son of Man

## About the Gospels



The first four books of the New Testament are called the gospels. The first three Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels. These three books are very similar in that they cover much the same stories, however they each share the stories from their perspective and background. Each book tells us about the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Matthew was primarily written for a Jewish audience. It emphasizes Christ as King as the promised Messiah
- Mark was primarily written for a Romans audience. It presents Christ as the suffering servant yet, as a powerful Savior.
- Luke was primarily written for a Greek audience. It presents Jesus as the “Son of Man”. Luke is a doctor and also wrote the Book of Acts.

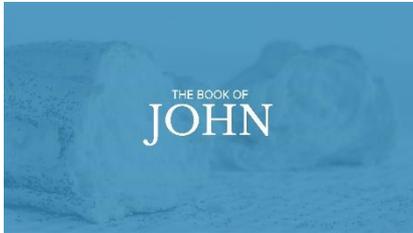
John was written to the world. This book presents Christ as the Son of God who sacrificed Himself for the whole of mankind because of the love of God and the purpose of His coming was to give life. Jesus was a perfect Savior. The Gospel of John focuses less on the messiahship of Jesus and more on his true humanity and true deity. John is more focused on personally knowing Jesus and eternal life.

Taken together, the four Gospels provide a more complete picture of the person, teachings, miracles, and life of Jesus Christ. These four Gospels ultimately provide one clear message that Jesus is the one, true, perfect, divine Son of God.

*Listen, my son: accept my words, and you'll live a long, long time. I have directed you in the way of wisdom, and I have led you along straight paths. When you walk, your step will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go! Guard wisdom, because she is your life!*

*Proverbs 4:10-13*

# John



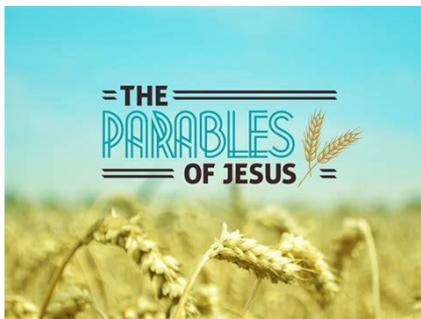
The poetic Gospel, embodying much of its meaning in great symbols such as light, bread, and water. Another literary aspect is its reliance on longer narrative and discourse units than characterizes the other Gospels.

This book is built around seven great signs or miracles that Jesus performed, and these in turn are paired with surrounding discourses that tie into the preceding or following "sign." The unifying plot conflict is between belief and unbelief.

*John 3:19 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

In Luke Jesus is the Son of Man

# List of All the Parables of Jesus



Jesus spoke a great deal in parables. Parables are very different than stories. Parables unlike stories are given to hide the truth and confuse people about the point that was made. At least that is what Jesus says about why He told parables. (Matthew 13) Jesus used parables to illustrate certain teachings—usually

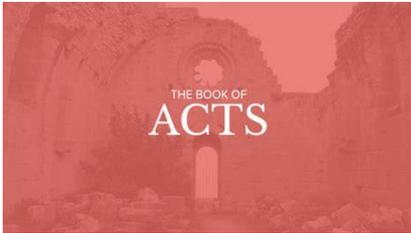
about the Kingdom of God. The parables of Jesus are treasure houses of wisdom. They are deep, theological, practical, sometimes confusing, but always worth the effort needed to unlock their mysteries. Jesus often had to explain the meaning of His parables to His disciples. They were living words from the mouth of God. So, read and study them with great expectancy. Here is a list of all the parables of Jesus.

- New Cloth on an Old Coat (Matthew 9:16; Mark 2:21; Luke 5:36)
- New Wine in Old Wineskins (Mark 9:17; Mark 2:22; Luke 5:37–38)
- The Lamp on a Stand (Matthew 5:14–15; Mark 4:21–22; Luke 8:16, 11:33)
- The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27; Luke 6:47–49)

- The Moneylender forgiving unequal debts (Luke 7:41–43)
- The Rich Fool Building His Bigger Barns (Luke 12:16–21)
- The Servants Must Remain Watchful (Mark 13:35–37;  
Luke 12:35–40)
- The Wise and Foolish Servants (Matthew 24:45–51; Luke 12:42–48)
- The Unfruitful Fig Tree (Luke 13:6–9)
- The Parable of the Soils (Matthew 13:3–23; Mark 4:1–20;  
Luke 8:4–15)
- The Weeds Among Good Plants (Matthew 13:24–43)
- The Growing Seed (Mark 4:26–29)
- The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32;  
Luke 13:18–19)
- Yeast (Matthew 13:31–32)
- Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- Valuable Pearl (Matthew 13:45–46)
- Fishing Net (Matthew 13:47–50)
- Owner of a House (Matthew 13:52)
- Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:12–14)
- The Master and His Servant (Luke 17:7–10)
- The Unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23–34)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37)
- Friend in Need (Luke 11:5–8)
- Lowest Seat at the Feast (Luke 14:7–14)

- Invitation to a Great Banquet (Luke 14:16–24)
- The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:28–33)
- Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4–7)
- Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–10)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)
- The Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1–8)
- The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31)
- The Early and Late Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1–16)
- The Persistent Widow and Crooked Judge (Matthew 18:1–8)
- The Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:10–14)
- The King’s Ten Servants Given Minas (Luke 19:12–27)
- Two Sons (one obeys, one disobeys) (Matthew 21:28–32)
- Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33–44; Mark 12:1–11; Luke 20:9–18)
- Invitation to a Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:2–14)
- The Fig Tree and Signs of the Future (Matthew 24:32–35;  
Mark 13:28–29; Luke 21:29–31)
- The Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13)
- The Talents (Matthew 25:14–30)
- The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31–46)
- The Sheep, Shepherd, and Gate (John 10:1–18)

# Acts



The storyline is accurately captured by the official title—*The Acts of the Apostles* (chiefly Peter and Paul). Another accurate label is ecclesiastical history (the history of the Christian church in various geographic regions), but

with the focus on people and events rather than names and dates. The general framework is narrative, but a surprising three-fourths of the book consists of speeches and orations (including the settings in which they were given). This gives a history of the earlier years of the church the good and the bad.

Acts 1:8 - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be <sup>[c]</sup>witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

In Acts Jesus is the Ascending Lord

## The Apostle Paul Bio



The Apostle Paul wrote almost half the New Testament – 13 or 14 of the 27 books that make up the New Testament. He was born Saul a Roman citizen in 6 AD. He was a devout Jew and becomes a Pharisee. He persecuted the church and sought ways to quiet the quickly growing movement of men and women who followed Jesus Christ until he met the Lord on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians.

He was miraculously converted. Immediately Saul he began to preach Christ in the synagogues. He began to be called Paul and in all his writing only refers to himself as Paul. The church in Antioch sends Paul with Barnabas out as missionaries to preach the gospel

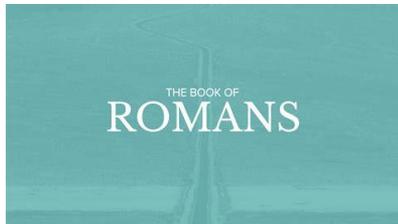
and start new works. This was the first of several trips the Apostle Paul took.

Many churches were started in these trips. Most of his letters were written to these churches to encourage and correct them. Paul suffers tremendous persecution for his work and testimony of Jesus. He is arrested and imprisoned several times. He wrote 4 of his letters from prison. Paul is given the revelation of salvation by grace and dedicates his ministry to teaching this truth. He is called to the gentiles. Tradition says Paul was beheaded with a sword near Rome, possibly in 67. The date and cause of death is not clearly known.

**“But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely.”**

**Psalm 1:2**

# Romans



The book of Romans is the clearest and most systematic presentation of Christian doctrine in all the Scriptures. Paul begins by declaring we all have been condemned due to our rebellion against God. However, God in His grace offers us justification

by faith in His Son, Jesus.

When we are justified by God, we receive redemption, or salvation, because Christ’s blood covers our sin. But Paul made it clear that the believer’s pursuit of God doesn’t stop with salvation; it continues as each of us is sanctified—made holy—as we persist in following Him.

The primary theme of the letter is the revelation of God’s righteousness in His plan for salvation. (Romans 1:16–17) Paul explains how human beings lack God’s righteousness because of sin (1–3), and how we receive God’s righteousness when God justifies us by faith (4–5), then how God demonstrates that righteousness as we are

transformed from rebels to followers (6–8), then confirm His righteousness when God saves the Jews (9–11), and finally share how to apply His righteousness in practical ways throughout our lives (12–16).

Romans 1:16-17- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

In Romans Jesus is the Justifier

**I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O LORD; teach me your decrees.**

**Psalm 119:11-12**

# 1 Corinthians



First Corinthians deals with issues in the Church at Corinth that Paul was made aware of. He deals with a number of issues related to both life and doctrine: divisions and quarrels, sexual immorality,

lawsuits among believers, marriage and singleness, freedom in Christ, order in worship, the significance of the Lord's Supper, and the right use of spiritual gifts; he also includes very important teaching on the resurrection.

The Corinthian church was corroded with sin on a variety of fronts, so Paul provided an important model for how the church should handle the problem of sin in its midst.

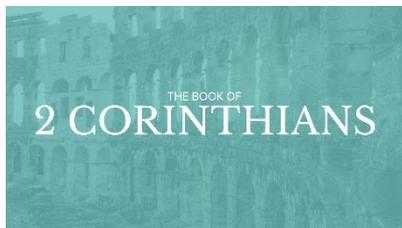
We are given instruction on what Christian conduct in the local church should be and is summed up by, "You have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body" (6:20).

1 Corinthians 6:19 – *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

In 1 & 2 Corinthians Jesus is the Gifts of the Spirit

**“But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely.”** Psalm 1:2

## 2 Corinthians

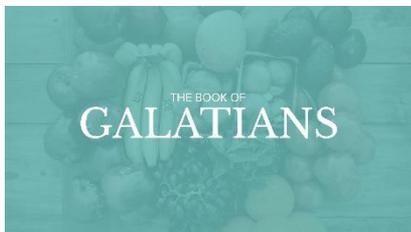


In this letter Paul shares details about his personal life as he gives a defense of his calling, reputation, and message against false accusations made against him. He then gives instruction to the church regarding giving and generosity. He

teaches how Christians should give generously according to their financial abilities and to give cheerfully, rather than under compulsion. Major themes include strength in weakness, the reconciliation of believers and our call to be minister of reconciliation. This letter provides rich comfort and hope for believers today around the world.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

# Galatians



Galatians deals with the issue of grace versus the law. Paul chastises believers for turning away from the gospel and back to the law.

They were trying to be justified by the Mosaic Law. For him, this was no minor issue, as he went so far as to call the Galatians deserters of Christ, people turning from the truth toward a gospel contrary to the one they had received from Paul.

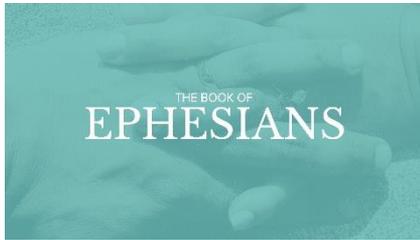
In contrast, Paul presents how justification comes to people by faith in Jesus Christ, not by their works under the Law. Paul made clear that justification—an act of grace through faith—need not and should not be used as a license to sin. He explains how as Christians we have been freed from bondage to the sinful nature, we now have the path of holiness open to us.

Galatians 3:13-14 - *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),<sup>14</sup> that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

In Galatians Jesus is the One Who Sets Us Free

*The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.  
Isaiah 40:8*

# Ephesians



Ephesians is about who we are in Christ. It deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice.

Paul divides this letter into two clear segments; the first part deals with who we are in Christ positionally.

The second part deals with putting those truths into action in our lives. We are adopted as sons and daughters of God, and we are brought near to the Father through faith in His Son.

All people with this faith—Jews and Gentiles alike—were dead in their transgressions and sins but have been made alive because of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

He makes clear it is expected that as a community of faith we should walk in accordance with our heavenly calling.

Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

In Ephesians Jesus is the Christ of Riches

**He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.**

**Psalm 107:20**

# Philippians



The second of four prison epistles. This one is written in Rome. Unlike most of Paul's letters that dealt with problems and crises this one he wrote primarily to express his appreciation and affection for the

Philippian believers.

Paul's affection for these people is clear throughout the letter as he encourages them to live out their faith in joy and unity This letter is filled with many often-quoted passages, but the portrait of Jesus Christ as a humble servant serves as the core of Paul's teaching in this letter.

The importance of the joy of a believer is emphasized. Paul explains and shows them and us that by centering our lives on Christ, is the key to having true joy in our lives. Philippians is also a missionary update letter.

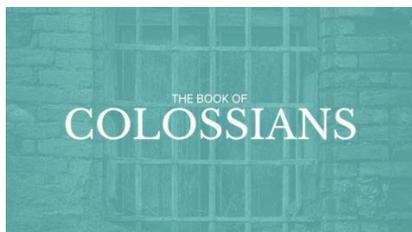
Philippians 3:9-11 – *“be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

In Philippians Jesus is the God Who Meets Our Every Need

**Our word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.**

**Psalm 119:105**

# Colossians



Colossians focuses on Christ's deity and sufficiency in all things because false teachers were denigrating the deity of Jesus; they were teaching that He was not actually God.

So, Paul presents Christ as the center of the universe, not only as the active Creator but also as the recipient of creation—in His taking on of human flesh. Christ was and is the visible image of the invisible God, containing within Himself the fullness of Deity. Because of His divine nature, Jesus is sovereign, above all things with an authority given Him by the Father. As such, Jesus is also Head over the church.

He has reconciled all things to Himself through His death on the cross, making believers alive to God and setting them on the path to right living. This proper view of Christ served as the antidote for the Colossian heresy as well as a building block for Christian life and doctrine both then and now.

Colossians 3:2 - *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

In Colossians Jesus is the Fulness of the Godhead

**“But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely.”**

**Psalm 1:2**

# 1 Thessalonians



Paul writes First Thessalonians to encourage the Christians to continue to grow in faith and godliness.

To this community of young Christians that were filled with questions and uncertainties, Paul offered the hope of Christ's return, providing both comfort in the midst of questions and motivation to godly living.

First Thessalonians provides Christians with the clearest biblical passage on the coming rapture of believers, an event that will inaugurate the seven-year tribulation. At the rapture, Christ will return for His people.

The dead in Christ shall rise first, while those still living will follow close behind. All believers will meet Jesus in the air to begin an eternity spent with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - *Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

In 1 & 2 Thessalonians Jesus is the Soon Coming King

Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.  
Proverbs 4:10

## 2 Thessalonians

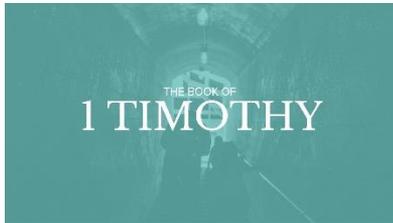


Partly a sequel to 1 Thessalonians, arising out of misunderstandings about when Christ would return and the need not to live idly in anticipation of that return. Paul explain the need to exert oneself in the Christian faith and "not grow

weary in doing good" (3:13). As with other New Testament epistles, we should accept the informal, meandering structure and not attempt to force it into an essay format.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 - *But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.*

# 1 Timothy

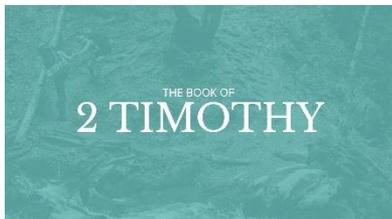


The first of a group known as the pastoral epistles written to individual pastors. First Timothy presents the most explicit and complete instructions for church leadership and organization in the entire Bible. It is a manual for church life, with special emphasis on the role and conduct of the pastor. Paul recognized the youth of Timothy but encouraged him not to let that be an obstacle to his ministry. Therefore, on two occasions Paul encouraged Timothy to “fight the good fight”

*1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*

In 1 & 2 Timothy Jesus is the Mediator Between God and Man

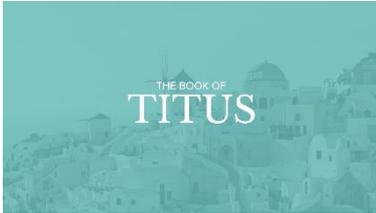
## 2 Timothy



The second letter to Timothy offers a picture of Paul at the end of his ministry, just before his death and is, written while he was on death row in Rome. At the close of the letter, Paul mentioned a significant number of people—some who had wronged him and others who had served faithfully alongside him. Paul again as he did in his first letter exhorted Timothy to “fight the good fight”.

*2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

# Titus



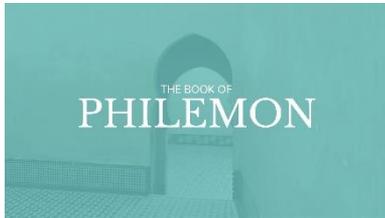
A pastoral epistle written to a pastor on the island of Crete, this letter filled with commands is understood to be a general guidebook for living the Christian life in a world where evil seeks to destroy the good. The

style is very compressed, reading almost like an outline. There are also directives for church organization.

*Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

In Titus Jesus is the Faithful Pastor

# Philemon



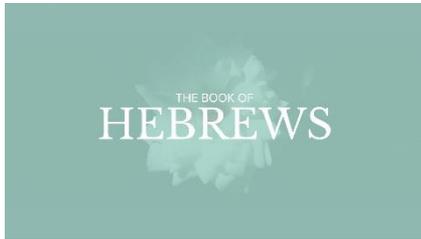
A single-chapter book known best for the story that lies behind it, namely, a runaway slave who had become a Christian and whom Paul is sending back to his owner (also a Christian) with the letter. He wanted Philemon to forgive Onesimus, to accept the

slave as a brother in Christ, and to consider sending Onesimus back to Paul. It is a revelation of God's personal concern for each person and of the power of love and forgiveness.

*Verse 6 – I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ*

n Philemon Jesus is the Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother

# Hebrews



Hebrews is a tremendously important book that ties the New to the Old testament. It makes clear that Jesus Christ exceeds all other people, pursuits, objects, or hopes to which human beings offer allegiance.

Hebrews pictures Jesus as better than the angels, as bringing better lives to humanity through salvation, as offering a better hope than the Mosaic Law could promise, as a better sacrifice for our sins than a bull or a goat, and as providing a better inheritance in heaven for those who place their faith in Him.

Jesus is indeed superior to all others. Jesus is both the divine Son of God and completely human, and in His priestly role He clears the way for human beings to approach the Father in heaven through prayer.

Jesus is superior to the Old Testament priesthood of Aaron, because only through Jesus do, we receive eternal salvation. Jesus became

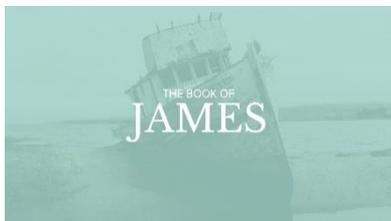
the permanent and perfect High Priest, going beyond all other priests by offering Himself as a sinless sacrifice on behalf of the sins of human beings.

A subtext is the need to hold fast to the Christian faith and not revert to Judaism in a time of persecution. Another theme by which we remember the book is faith, climaxed in the famous “hall of faith” in chapter 11.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*

In Hebrews Jesus is the Blood that Washes Away My Sins

# James



James often a controversial book that if not understood seems to contradict Paul. Martin Luther took issue with the book and questioned if it belonged in the Bible.

Throughout the book, James contends real faith produces authentic deeds (works). In other words, if those who call themselves God's people truly belong to Him, their lives will produce deeds or fruit.

This does not contradict Paul who championed the message of salvation of grace apart from works. (Ephesians 2:8) James is not talking about how a nonbeliever gets saved he is talking about an already saved person and how their faith as a believer out bear fruit.

The pages of James are filled with direct commands to pursue a life of holiness. He makes no excuses for those who do not measure up. For James, a faith that does not produce real life change is a faith that is worthless.

The goal is to impart skill for living, and a good tagline for the book is "faith that works."

James 1:26 - *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

In James Jesus is the Great Physician

## The Apostle Peter Bio



The Apostle Peter the most outspoken of the twelve apostles in Jesus' ministry is known for always putting his foot in his mouth, but He also became one of the boldest witnesses for the faith. His beginnings were certainly humble in origin.

He was born about 1 B.C. and died sometime around A.D. 67. Peter was originally named Simon. He was a fisherman and was the brother of Andrew. Peter

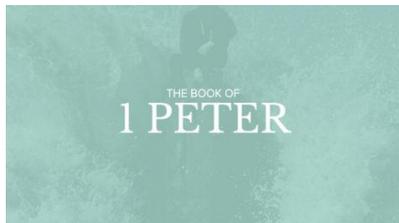
was married. He was also a follower of John the Baptist.

Peter was the very first disciple that Jesus called along with His brother Andrew. Peter was bold but often times in the wrong. Once he even rebuked the Lord and said that he was willing to die for

Jesus even though at the arrest and trial of Jesus he denied Him three times. Peter was an eyewitness to the many miracles that Jesus did and also witnessed the Shekinah Glory along with John and James in the Transfiguration.

Peter was the first one to preach on the day of Pentecost after the coming of the Holy Spirit and he was the first one to proclaim Christ to a Gentile. He willingly suffered persecution, imprisonment, beatings, and even rejoiced at the fact that he was worthy to suffer disgrace for the Lord's sake (Acts 5:41). He wrote 1 & 2 Peter.

# 1 Peter



First Peter focuses on the importance of believers bearing up under unjust suffering and continuing to live victorious. Peter provides encouragement for true believers to continue on with perseverance in the way that Jesus has

laid out for all of His followers.

Peter points his readers to Jesus as our example to follow. He called Christians to “sanctify Christ as Lord” in their hearts, that believers might live and act as Jesus desires during their short time here on earth.

This would include submission to authority—even unjust authority—in the government, in the home, and in the workplace. Jesus becomes the focal point for ordering one’s life in the midst of trials and tribulations.

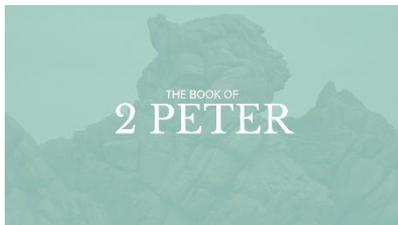
By rooting their perseverance in the person and work of Christ, believers can always cling to hope in the midst of suffering. The letter

is outlined in three parts (1) the riches that believers possess in Christ, (2) duties for living the Christian life, and (3) how to endure suffering for the sake of Christ.

*1 Peter 5:6-7 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

In 1 & 2 Peter Jesus is the Chief Shepherd

## 2 Peter



Peter's theme in his second letter is a simple one: pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God as a remedy for false teaching and a right response to heretics in light of Christ's promised second coming.

The churches of Asia Minor had strife and dissension within their ranks because of heresy and false teaching that had entered into the church.

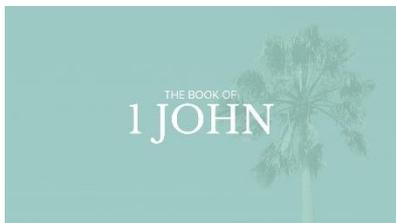
Peter emphasized the importance of learning and clinging to the proper knowledge of God. In fact, this concept was so important to him that the word *knowledge* appears—in one form or another—some fifteen times in the span of this short, three-chapter letter. He repeatedly points to the Word of God as the primary means of growth for the Christian.

2 Peter 1:3-4 - *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

**I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.**

**Psalm 119:15-16**

# 1 John



This is the same John that wrote the Gospel of John. As he did in his gospel, the apostle John stated with clarity the purpose of his first letter.

He proclaimed the good news about Jesus to the recipients of this letter, saying “so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ” Later, John added “so that you may not sin” (2:1) and “so that you may know that you have eternal life” (5:13).

John wanted his readers to experience true fellowship with God and with God’s people. But he knew that would not happen until the Christians set aside their own selfish desires in favor of the pursuits God had for them. To help them attain that goal, John focused on three issues: 1) the zeal of the believers, 2) standing firm against false teachers, and 3) reassuring the Christians that they have eternal life.

John's first epistle teaches that while it is important to recognize the lines between truth and error, it must always be done in a spirit of love.

*1John 4:4 - You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world*

In 1, 2, & 3 John Jesus is Everlasting Love

*My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.”*

*Isaiah 55:11*

## 2 John



Second John makes clear what our position should be regarding the enemies of the truth. Whereas 1 John focuses on our fellowship with God, 2 John focuses on protecting our fellowship from those who teach falsehood. He exhorted believers to “love one another” (1:5), a clear reference to the great commandments of Jesus—to love God and love your neighbor. In other words, those who walk in the truth should be people who love others, but he also warned the true believers to stay away from false teachers. John’s encouragement, then, was not simply to love but to love others within the limits that truth allows.

*Verse 6 - And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

### 3 John



All three of John’s epistles are largely concerned with the issue of fellowship—with God, with enemies of the gospel and, in the case of 3 John with those who are in the ministry.

John wanted to ensure a warm welcome from the churches to those who traveled around preaching the gospel, offering them hospitality and a send-off “in a manner worthy of God. John was made aware that Diotrephes had taken control of one of the churches in Asia and used his power to ban certain travelling missionaries from coming to the church at all.

Power had gone to his head and he refused to welcome those traveling ministers of the gospel to preach and take rest with his church. And even worse, upon receiving an earlier correction from John, Diotrephes refused to listen.

This troubling situation prompted John to write to Gaius, commending the believers for holding fast to the truth and doing so with a

loving attitude. These Christians strove to make the gospel a reality in their lives through the way they treated one another.

And John, in response to this good report about the behavior of these “rank and file” Christians, encouraged them to continue to love and support those visiting believers who gave of themselves and ministered in the churches of Asia.

*Verse 2 - Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

# Jude



The purpose of Jude is twofold: 1) to expose the false teachers that had infiltrated the Christian community, and 2) to encourage Christians to stand firm in the faith and fight for the truth.

Jude recognized that false teachers often peddled their wares unnoticed by the faithful, so he worked to heighten the awareness of the believers by describing in vivid detail how terrible dissenters actually were.

But more than simply raising awareness, Jude thought it important that believers stand against those working against Jesus Christ.

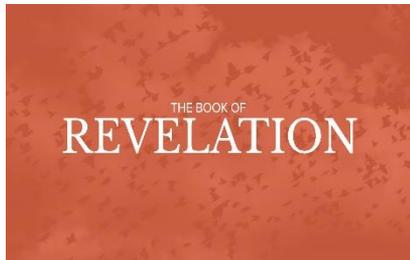
Believers were to do this by remembering the teaching of the apostles, building each other up in the faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, and keeping themselves in the love of God.

Verse 20 – *“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”*

In Jude Jesus is The Lord Who Came Down

So, keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’  
Deuteronomy 4:6

# Revelation



The book of Revelation is a Revelation from and of Jesus not the revelation of the antichrist.

It is written by the Apostle John while exiled on the island of Patmos. John is told to write to seven churches in Asia, present day Turkey.

key.

John is given insight to many future events. Revelation is filled with fantastic imagery as John tells what he sees with descriptions about the four horsemen, the opening of the 7 seals, the seven trumpets, the mark of the beast, the battle of Armageddon, the binding of Devil, the Rule of the Lord, the Great White Throne of Judgment and the finally the nature of the eternal city of God.

However, it is the final four chapters that dictate the overall message of the book. Those four chapters tell of Christ's future triumph over the forces of evil and His re-creation of the world for the redeemed.

Ultimately, the book—and the world—end in a final victory for truth and goodness and beauty.

The book is not to create fear in a believer, but to encourage them and the church to complete the work of preaching the gospel and discipleship. It is not a book of bad news but a book of good news.

Revelation 1:17 - *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

In Revelation Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords

**FACTS  
&  
INFORMATION**  
*About the New Testament*

## The New Testament has 27 books total, which consist of . . .

- **Historical Books**--Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
- **Pauline Epistles**--Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- **Non-Pauline Epistles**--Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation

A list of books with brief descriptions of contents.

### Historical Books

1. **Matthew**--Presents Jesus as the Messiah. Genealogy of Jesus through Joseph. Fulfillment of O.T. prophecy.
2. **Mark**--Presents Jesus as the Servant. 1/3 of the gospel deals with the last week of His life.
3. **Luke**--Presents Jesus as the Son of Man to seek and save the lost. Genealogy of Jesus through Mary. Largest of the gospels.
4. **John**--Presents Jesus as God in flesh, the Christ, so that you might believe.

5. **Acts**--Historical account from Jesus' ascension to travels of Paul in his missionary journeys.

## **Pauline Epistles**

1. **Romans**--A systematic examination of justification, sanctification, and glorification. Examines God's plan for the Jews and the Gentiles.
2. **1 Corinthians**--This letter deals with factions and corrections due to immorality, lawsuits, and abuse of the Lord's Supper. Also mentions idols, marriage, and the resurrection.
3. **2 Corinthians**--Paul's defense of his apostolic position.
4. **Galatians**--Paul refutes the errors of legalism and examines the proper place of grace in the Christian's life.
5. **Ephesians**--The believer's position in Christ and information on Spiritual warfare.
6. **Philippians**--Paul speaks of his imprisonment and his love for the Philippians. He exhorts them to godliness and warns them of legalism.
7. **Colossians**--Paul focuses on the preeminence of Jesus in creation, redemption, and godliness.
8. **1 Thessalonians**--Paul's ministry to the

Thessalonians. Teachings on purity and mention of the return of Christ.

9. **2 Thessalonians**--Corrections on the Day of the Lord.
10. **1 Timothy**--Instructions to Timothy on proper leadership and dealings with false teachers, the role of women, prayer, and requirements of elders and deacons.
11. **2 Timothy**--A letter of encouragement to Timothy to be strong.
12. **Titus**--Paul left Titus in Crete to care for the churches there. Requirements for elders.
13. **Philemon**--a letter to the owner of a runaway slave. Paul appeals to Philemon to forgive Onesimus.

## Non-Pauline Epistles

1. **Hebrews**--A letter to the Hebrew Christians in danger of returning to Judaism. It demonstrates the superiority of Jesus over the O.T. system. Mentions the Melchizedek priesthood. (Hebrews may be of Pauline origin. There is much debate on its authorship).
2. **James**--a practical exhortation of believers to live a Christian life evidencing regeneration. It urges self-examination of the evidence of the changed life.
3. **1 Peter**-- Peter wrote this letter to encourage its recipients in

the light of their suffering and be humble in it. Mentions baptism.

4. **2 Peter**--Deals with the person on an inward level, warnings against false teachers, and mentions the Day of the Lord.
5. **1 John**--John describes true fellowship of the believers with other believers and with God. God as light and love. Encourages a holy Christian walk before the Lord. Much mention of Christian love.
6. **2 John**--Praise for walking in Christ and a reminder to walk in God's love.
7. **3 John**--John thanks Gaius for his kindness to God's people and rebukes Diotrephes.
8. **Jude**--Exposing false teachers and uses O.T. allusions to demonstrate the judgment upon them. Contends for the faith.
9. **Revelation**--A highly symbolic vision of the future rebellion, judgment, and consummation of all things.

Regular Bible reading is one of the most important habits you can develop. Below is a link to a Bible Reading plan. This daily Bible reading plan will give you all the benefits of a steady diet of God's Word. It is designed to take you through the New Testament every month.

Be blessed!

<http://www.breakthroughforyou.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/newtestamentbiblereadingplan.pdf>

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*Hebrews 4:12*

Be diligent to present  
yourself approved to God, a  
worker who does not need to  
be ashamed, rightly dividing  
the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

