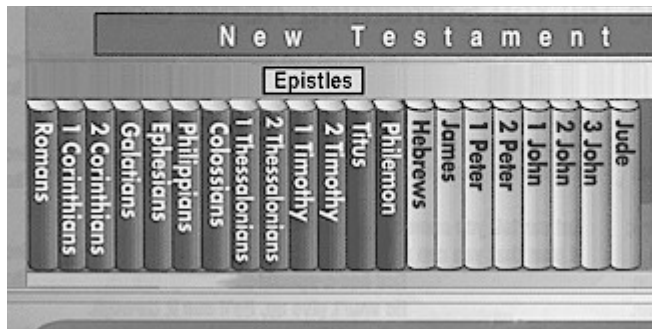


Introduction to the Bible – Week 5

Questions?

New Testament: Epistles

Bible books:



Timeline:

The early church grows as it is attacked by _____ &
_____.

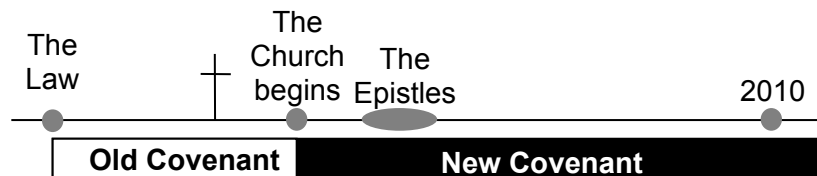
What is an Epistle?

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- A _____ document.
What prompted Paul to write to the Colossians?

Key features of the Epistles

- The Epistles were written _____
(Hebrews 8:1-13; 2 Cor. 3:5-18)



Under the New Covenant:

- The Old Covenant is _____. (Hebrews 8:13)
- The Holy Spirit indwells _____. (Romans 8:9-11)

Recall Exod. 29:45,46 “I will dwell” and Jn.1:14 “The Word dwelt among us”

The Holy Spirit is the _____.

The Holy Spirit _____ (John 16:13,14).

- The Epistles unpack the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

John 1:16,17 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God.

HIS PERSON AND WORK

1. HIS PERSON: The Epistle present Jesus as _____ (Col. 2:9; 1:15-18).

Sadly, without an acknowledgement of the full humanity of Jesus, we are left with a Jesus who appears eerily similar to Superman. We are left to believe that although Jesus looked like a Galilean carpenter, he did not really endure temptation and suffering as we do. The deity of Jesus without the humanity of Jesus tragically leaves us to see Jesus as a faker, not unlike Clark Kent. All we are left with is someone who cannot really sympathize with us in our weakness, as Hebrews says, because he was not fully human.

By itself, an incarnational Christology, though true, is not truly complete. Without a robust recognition of the corresponding deity of Jesus, the humanity of Jesus has the propensity to leave us with a marred false image of Jesus—little more than a limp-wristed, marginalized, hippie-esque, unemployed Galilean pacifist in a dress with feathered hair and open-toed sandals—a guy that the average man would be remiss to worship because he could beat up that Jesus. Therefore, in addition to the humble incarnation of Jesus where his humanity shines forth, we must also retain the glorious exaltation of Jesus where his divinity likewise shines forth. (Mark Driscoll, "The Church and the Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World," in *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World*, edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor)

2. HIS WORK: The Epistles _____ at the significance of Christ's death and resurrection.

Victory over _____ (Col. 2:13,14; 1 Peter 3:19)

Victory over _____ (2 Tim 1:10; Heb. 2:14,15)

Victory over _____ (1 Jn. 3:8; Col. 2:15; Eph. 1:20-23)

An important relationship you will see again and again in the Epistles:
What God wants us to DO is based on what he has DONE for us.

“This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.”
 – 1 John 4:10,11

Ask: What does God want us to DO?

Ask: What has God DONE for us?

Ask: What is the relationship between what we DO and what God has DONE for us?

Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ask: What does God want us to DO?

Ask: What has God DONE for us?

Ask: What is the relationship between what we DO and what God has DONE for us?

3. HIS WORK: The Epistles _____ to what Christ will do from now until his return.

Ask: How should I live in light of the fact that Jesus will one day return?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Romans 8:32

1 John 2:15-17

How to do an Epistle Overview

1. Read the letter in one sitting.
2. Reconstruct the “occasion” for the letter:

Philippians

Author	Audience	Opponents
Who wrote the letter? What information does the author provide about himself?	Who is the letter written to? What information does the author provide about his audience?	Does the author mention anyone who opposes God’s work? If so, who are they? What information does the author provide about the opponents?

- *Summarize:*

3. Outline the letter by writing a short title for each paragraph.

Philippians: Paragraph Titles (NASB)
1:3-8
1:9-11
1:12-21

4. Identify main themes in the letter (Philippians).

Ask: Are there any repeated words and ideas?

New Testament: Prophecy

Bible books: Revelation

The Book of Revelation describes how Jesus will bring about an end to this present phase of history and re-establish his rule.

Quick summary:

- Written by the apostle John in about 95 A.D. when he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos and received a vision from Christ. This was a time of widespread persecution of the fledgling Christian movement.
- Has some of the characteristics of an epistle (see 1:4-6, and chapters 2-3), but is essentially a prophetic book (see 1:3 “the words of this prophecy”).
- Has lessons for daily living but also provides key details about future events.
- Probably the most widely misused and misinterpreted book in the Bible.
- Ties together many biblical themes we’ve been studying throughout the course – a fitting conclusion to an amazing story.

PURPOSE: To strengthen Christians to be faithful witnesses in a hostile world by describing Jesus’ authority over human history

If we were to see Jesus today, we would not see him in his state of humble incarnation. Rather, we would see Jesus as both Isaiah and John saw him enthroned in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. This Jesus rules over gays and straights, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, black and white, simple and wise, healthy and sick, powerful and powerless, Republicans and Democrats, married and single, Christians and non-Christians, angels and demons, and the living and the dead.

The sovereign, unprecedented, and glorious exaltation of Jesus is typified by a throne. The imagery of a throne is used roughly 196 times in Scripture, with 135 occurrences in the Old Testament and 61 occurrences in the New Testament. Of the New Testament occurrences, 45 of the 61 are in the book of Revelation. The imagery of the throne appears in seventeen of its twenty-two chapters. The book of Revelation breaks into earthly scenes of sin and the curse, as well as heavenly scenes of worship and rule (Mark Driscoll, “The Church and the Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World,” in *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World*, edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor)

See Gary DeLashmutt’s Central Teaching series on the book of Revelation for a good introduction (www.xenos.org)

What’s next?

Are you going to be reading and applying the Bible to your life one month from now? A year from now? A decade from now?

The key to continued learning of the Word and continued motivation to learn is to be a _____ of the Word.

The desire to do comes from _____.

Matt. 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Things you can DO that will lead to further learning and motivation:

1. *Get involved in a _____ where you receive & give truth in the context of close relationships (Col. 3:16; Eph 4:15,16).*

2. *Develop a _____ of regular, prayerful, scripture reading (Ps. 119).*
 - See reading plans below

3. *Be responsive to the _____ of the Holy Spirit as He convicts you of sin He leads you out on His mission to share the truth (Gal. 5:16-25, Matt. 28:18-20;; Acts 16:6-10).*

Additional tips**1. Set specific goals for Bible reading**

Helpful Bible Reading Plans

Discipleship Journal Bible Reading plans

www.navpress.com/Magazines/DJ/BibleReadingPlans.asp

- *The Original Discipleship Journal® Bible Reading Plan* – Readings from four places in the Scripture every day: a Gospel, the Old Testament, an Epistle and the Wisdom Literature.
- *The Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan* – Readings from two places in the Scripture every day: an Old or New Testament book and the Wisdom Literature.

Carson, D.A., *For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1998).

2. Memorize scripture**3. Use the Study Center**