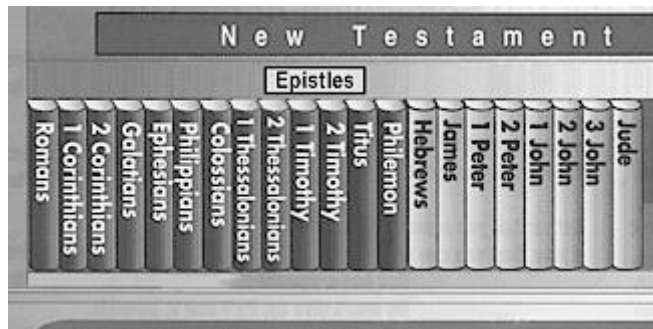


Introduction to the Bible – Week 5

Questions?

New Testament: Epistles

Bible books:



Timeline:

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

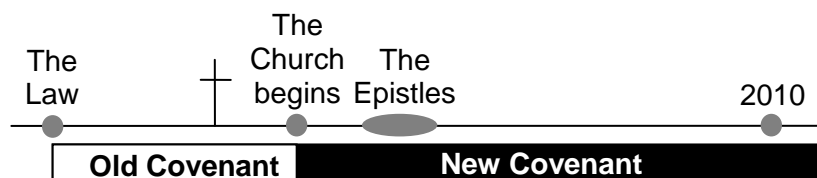
What is an Epistle?

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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 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).

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. (1 Cor. 2:12)

- The Epistles unpack the _____ which is about the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:1-4)

THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS

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

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.

Part of Christian identity is being an “heir” (Romans 8:14-17)

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

Romans 8:32

1 John 2:15-17

Phil. 1:21-25; 3:18-21

2 Timothy 4:6-8

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

Ask: where is the gospel? How are commands connected to the gospel?

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

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

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**