

# *Bible Chart Handbook*

Dark brown cover with a reduced Colossians Chart proportionately centered in the middle

## *For The New Testament*

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## **Bibliography**

### **Bibles**

Amplified Bible  
Life Application Study Bible  
New American Standard Bible  
New International Version  
New King James Version  
New Living Translation

### **Commentaries**

Baker Exegetical Commentary On The New Testament  
Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament Edition  
Christ Centered Exposition Commentary  
D. Edmond Hiebert's Commentaries  
Donald Grey Barnhouse Commentary, Romans  
Focus On The Bible Commentary  
H. A. Ironside Expository Commentary  
Harold Hoehner Ephesians Commentary  
J. Vernon McGee's Thru The Bible Commentary  
James Montgomery Boice Expositional Commentary  
John Philipps' Commentary Series  
New International Commentary On The New Testament  
Pillar New Testament Commentary  
Preacher's Outline And Sermon Bible Commentary  
Preaching The Word Commentary  
Spiros Zodhiates Corinthians Commentary  
Spiros Zodhiates James Commentary  
The Bible Speaks Today Commentary  
The Expositor's Bible Commentary  
The IVP New Testament Commentary Series  
The New American Commentary  
The NIV Application Commentary  
Tom Constable's Notes On The Bible Commentary  
Twenty-First Century Biblical Commentary  
Tyndale New Testament Commentary  
Understanding The Bible Commentary Series  
Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament Volume 1 and Volume 2  
What The Bible Teaches Commentary  
Zondervan Exegetical Commentary On The New Testament

### **Handbooks and Surveys**

Complete Guide to the Bible  
Holman Bible Handbook  
Illustrated Bible Survey  
New Testament Survey  
The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown  
The Essence of the New Testament  
The Message of the New Testament  
What The Bible Is All About

### **Apologetics**

Francis Schaeffer Complete Works  
Josh McDowell Evidence For Christianity

## Introduction

People have many viewpoints about the Bible and they can be quite different, for example, some people think the Bible is just a book of antiquity and that it is outdated and irrelevant, others are critical of the Bible blaming it as the cause of many of society's ills, such as all of the religious and political conflict, others believe the Bible contains some good moral teachings but they are skeptical of it actually being God's word. Then there are those who believe the Bible is God's Word and they would like to know more about what the Bible teaches, but it is so complicated and difficult to understand with all the differing interpretations and opinions that they don't know where to start. This Chart Handbook was created for those who have an interest in studying and understanding God's Word because they know it contains truth about Jesus Christ, truth about salvation, and truth about eternal life.

While studying at Dallas Theological Seminary, several of the Professors emphasized the need to read a book multiple times and create a condensed model of the subject matter, such as outlines, a synopsis, or charts, before teaching on the individual book or topic. So as you study the charts and the individual books of the Bible you will see a main subject, a problem or issue centered around the subject, and the purpose the author had for writing the book, along with several interrelated themes interwoven in the argument or teaching. All acknowledgement and credit for the charts and the presentation of God's Word is given to God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who inspired the authors who wrote the New Testament Books and to Dallas Theological Seminary, whose Professors provided instruction on the best way to create charts. These Bible Charts reflect a Literal Biblical Evangelical interpretation, where the plain things are the main things, such as God loves people, but hates sin. Hope they benefit you, Leon W. Smith

## So, Is The Bible True?

Do you believe the Bible is God's true word or is it just a book written by men? Now, the next thought is very important; logically the Bible is true or it is not, either it corresponds to reality and is relevant, or it is a document created by men and has no bearing on humanity. If God is powerful enough to create everything that exists, then He is also capable of keeping His written revelation from corruption. There are over 24,000 New Testament manuscripts. The New Testament contains about 20,000 lines of Greek text and of those only 40 or so are questioned, which leaves the New Testament with a 99% accuracy declaring it the most reliable document of antiquity. The Old Testament is proven by comparing the Septuagint 130B.C.; the Dead Sea Scrolls 100B.C.; the Leningrad Codex 1009A.D.; the King James 1611A.D.; which reveals a 95% accuracy, not to mention that Jesus validated the Old Testament as Scripture (Matthew 22:29), so we know we have the Old Testament Scriptures Jesus quoted from.

The Bible, 66 books written by 40 authors inspired by God over a period of over 1500 years, claims to be the self-disclosure of God and the revelation of absolute truth that explains all of reality, which is something no other ideology nor religion can do. For instance, Genesis 1-3 presents over 50 concepts that correlate to reality; such as law, morality, rebellion, sin, justice, guilt, shame, personality, male, female, marriage, life, death, thought, creativity, intelligence, the idea of God, creation, the Anthropic Principle, the idea of utopia, unity and diversity, grace, mercy, good, evil, suffering, prophecy, and etc. If man's need is as great as the Bible says it is and if God cares enough about mankind to send His son to die for sin (John 3:16), then is it not logical that God would reveal himself and the truth mankind needed? What more evidence do you want? What do you want God to do that He hasn't already done? (Isaiah 5:4).

Jesus says in Luke 16:19-31, *"If people do not listen to God's Word, they would not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead."*

**Date Written: Late 50's Early 60's**

**Author: Matthew the Apostle**

Subject of Matthew – ‘ <b>Jesus is the Messiah</b> ’ Matthew’s detailed account of Jesus’ Words and His Works reveal that Jesus Christ was indeed Israel’s long awaited <b>Jewish Messiah</b>
The Problem – ‘ <b>Opposition and Rejection</b> ’ Jewish leaders scoffed at the notion of Jesus being the Messiah, let alone King of Israel. They opposed and rejected Jesus’ words & works
The Purpose of Matthew’s Gospel – ‘ <b>Fulfillment</b> ’ Matthew’s Gospel is distinctly Jewish, and documents that Jesus Christ <b>Fulfilled</b> Old Testament Prophecy concerning the Messiah
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Kingdom is at Hand</b> ’ John the Baptist and Jesus Christ preached, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand’ for He who had the right to rule had come
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Postponement of the Kingdom</b> ’ The Jews rejected an earthly kingdom when they rejected their King. The Kingdom was <b>Postponed</b> , to be fulfilled later
Summary of Matthew – ‘ <b>Messiah has Come</b> ’ In the fullness of time God sent Messiah ( <u>Daniel 9:24-26</u> ). Expecting a conquering Messiah, Israel rejected Jesus and also the Kingdom

## Chapter and Subject Divisions

## Themes

Key	King Messiah	Key
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Key **King Messiah**

Key **King Messiah**

**Key Verse –Matthew 28:18 “All authority has been given Me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

# Gospel of Matthew

## What Do You Think About The Cross?

There are generally three responses people have in regards to the Cross of Jesus Christ. (1) Some stumble at the message of the Cross, (2) Some laugh at the message of the Cross, (3) And some believe and experience the power of the Cross of Christ (*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*). The Jewish people's emphasis is on miraculous signs and they expected their Messiah to come in power and great glory. Therefore, the Jewish people *stumble* at what appears to be the weakness of the Cross. How could anybody put faith in a carpenter from Nazareth who died the shameful death of a common criminal? The Gentile people's emphasis is on wisdom and common sense and when they look at the Cross through a human point of view, they see no wisdom in the Cross. Therefore, the Gentile people *laugh* at the foolishness of the idea that an all powerful God would allow His own creation and those subject to Him to put Him to death on a Cross. There is a vast difference in how something may appear and the reality of how it really is. Now, if you really want to determine the meaning of the Cross of Christ, look to Jesus for your understanding. If a mere human, such as the two thieves who were crucified beside Jesus, died on a cross, it would be foolish to think there would be any eternal spiritual significance for anyone else. However, Jesus, who was God, who was without sin, came in the flesh to redeem and save mankind from their sin. So, the Cross represents God's love, wisdom, and power, and has spiritual significance for everyone who believes in Jesus (John 1:12). The *power* of the Cross, which is the body and the blood of Jesus, sets the one who believes free from the bondage and penalty of sin. This is the love of God that Jesus bore your sin, shame, and judgment on the Cross, so that God could give you freedom, righteousness, and life through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:13-14). God loves people (John 3:16), but God hates sin (Jude verse 15).

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# Gospel of Mark

**Date Written: 60's A.D.**

**Author: John Mark** (Peter's Account)

Subject of Mark – ‘ <b>Humble Servant</b> ’ Jesus was a <b>Servant King</b> like David. His greatest service was <b>Suffering Death</b> on the cross for the sin of the world (Isaiah 53; John 1:29)																	
The Problem – ‘ <b>Hardness of Heart</b> ’ Their lack of understanding prevented even the disciples from grasping the meaning of Jesus’ life, His words, His works, & His coming death																	
The Purpose of Mark’s Gospel – ‘ <b>Encouragement To Believers</b> ’ Written for encouragement to <b>Suffering</b> Christians in Rome with John the Baptist and Jesus as primary examples																	
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Servant Ministry</b> ’ Jesus came to put an end to sin and pay the debt owed to God. He represented God before man and represented man before God																	
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Unbelief</b> ’ The sin that rejects Jesus and prevents salvation and God from working wonders and miracles in people’s lives – Mark 6:6 and Mark 9:22-24																	
Summary Statement of Mark’s Gospel – ‘ <b>Gospel</b> ’ Jesus who was a son by nature became a <b>Servant</b> so that we who were servants of sin by nature might be adopted as sons of God																	
<b>Ministry In Galilee</b>						<b>Ministry To The Twelve</b>						<b>Ministry In Jerusalem</b>					
1:1 <b>The Gospel Of Jesus Christ</b> 5:43						6:1 <b>The Cost Of Discipleship</b> 10:52						11:1 <b>The Suffering Of The Servant</b> 16:20					
<b>Chapters &amp; Subject Divisions</b>	Introducing the Servant	Authority of the Servant	Compassion of the Servant	Teaching about the heart of man	The call to follow Jesus	Jesus foretells His death and resurrection	Rejection by Jewish Leaders	Signs of the End of the Age	Isaiah 53 Sacrifice of the Servant								
	The Beginning of Gospel of Jesus Christ John the Baptist calls the people to repent Jesus represents God’ s Kingdom at hand Jesus calls disciples to follow after Him Jesus begins His public ministry	Jesus teaching amazes the people Jesus reveals His authority over sickness Jesus reveals His authority to forgive sin Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath Jesus authority over satans kingdom Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God	Jesus reveals His authority over nature Jesus questions disciple for lack of faith Jesus heals and restores a persons mind Jesus heals and restores a womans body Jesus reveals He is the author of life	Unbelief in Nazareth hinders ministry Jesus teaches Mans heart defiles him The Hardness of heart causes unbelief John the Baptists fate is told Jesus teaches and feeds the five thousand	Jesus ask disciples, Who do you say I am Beware trusting in the teaching of men Jesus provides for His disciples ministry There is personal cost to following Jesus Only God removes a persons blindness Disciples witness Jesus transfiguration	Disciples unable to understand teaching Jesus begins His journey to Jerusalem Jesus gives solemn warning about hell With God all things are possible Jesus teaches Son of Man came to serve Son of Man to be condemned to death	Servant King is presented to Nation Israel Jesus runs moneychangers out of temple Chief Priests question Jesus authority Jesus rebukes the Jewish leaders Jewish leaders test and try to trap Jesus The Widow’ s sacrificial offering	Jesus warns of spiritual deception, Jesus warns that False Christs will come There will be wars and rumors of wars Famines, earthquakes, and disasters People will be persecuted by authorities Signs in the heavens before Jesus’ return	Chief Priests plot betrayal, death of Jesus The last Passover and the Lords Supper Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus on trial before Pilate and accusers Death, burial, and resurrection of Christ The Empty tomb’ s message to the world								
<b>Key Verse – Mark 10:45 “For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”</b>																	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Servant Ministry</b> – 1:29-34 1:38 1:41 2:1-12 3:7-12 4:1-9 5:19 5:34-36 6:7-13 6:33-34 6:53-56 7:14-16 8:1-3 8:34-38 9:38-50 11:7-10 14:1-42																
	<b>Miracles</b> – 1:25-26 1:31 1:42 2:12 3:5 4:39 5:13-15 5:25-29 5:41-42 6:37-44 6:47-51 7:29-30 7:33-35 8:5-9 8:22-26 9:1-8 9:17-27 10:52 11:14 16:6																
	<b>Hardness of Heart</b> – 2:6 3:5 4:13 4:40 6:6 6:52 7:6-8 7:17-23 8:15-21 9:19 9:32-34 10:5 10:22-23 12:24 16:11 16:13 16:14																
	<b>Opposition</b> – 1:13 1:24 2:7 2:16 2:18 2:24 3:6 3:20-22 5:17 6:3 6:14-29 7:1-5 8:11-13 8:32-33 10:2-9 11:15-33 12:1-40 13:1-23 14:43-15:20																
	<b>The Gospel</b> – 1:1 1:14 1:15 1:38 2:5 3:14 4:14-20 6:12 7:21-23 8:27-31 8:34-37 9:9-12 9:23-24 9:31 9:35-37 10:13-45 15:22-16:8 16:15-16																
<b>Key Verse – Mark 8:31 “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after threes days rise again.”</b>																	
<b>Sin &amp; Suffering</b>	<b>Leper</b> – (Mark 1) Leprosy is a picture of sin as it defiles, disfigures, and separates; yet, Jesus did not become unclean when He touched him, rather the leper became clean																
	<b>Paralytic</b> – (Mark 2) Jesus gave the Jewish leaders something to think about; ‘Which takes more authority, to heal a physical disability or the forgiveness of sins?’																
	<b>Gerasene Demoniac</b> – (Mark 5) The results that evil inflicts upon a lifestyle and the mind. <b>Bartimaeus</b> – (Mark 10) Blindness robs a person of clear direction in life																
	<b>Jairus’ Daughter</b> – (Mark 5) Sin results in death and robs a person of life. <b>Woman With Issue Of Blood</b> – (Mark 5) Physical infirmities rob a person of quality of life																
	<b>John The Baptist</b> – (Mark 6) The world is relentless in its attempts to silence God’s servants who confront the world with its sin and the need of repentance ( Book of Acts)																
	<b>Mute boy possessed by a spirit</b> – (Mark 9) <b>Gentile’s Daughter</b> – (Mark 7) Evil and the Darkness are intent on the destruction and disfiguring of a person from their youth																
	<b>Son of Man</b> – (Mark 14-15) Jesus drank from the cup of suffering and death, (separation from Father), in order to redeem mankind from sin, suffering, and death (Heb. 2)																
<b>Key Verse – Mark 8:34-37 “For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel’s, shall save it.”</b>																	

# Gospel of Mark

## Why Is There Evil And Suffering?

Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? Every person knows deep within themselves that life as it is, conflicts with their sense of what life ought to have been like. So, why is life not that way? Just like a mirror shows a little kid that they have a dirty face, so, also, life is like a mirror, it shows you that something is wrong, and that mankind has a dirty face. Evil, suffering, and death exist because mankind is guilty of sin whether they admit it or not. Many people are very critical of God because of all the evil and suffering that is present in the world and touches everyone's lives, but what if God designed His just punishment to seek the redemption and restoration of mankind lost in sin? This fact would answer the question as to why there is so much evil and suffering in the world. There is an old saying, "*You made the mess in your nest, now sit in it,*" what better punishment is there than to make someone live with the consequences of their decisions for the purpose of changing their behavior? If a person is never responsible for their actions, it only encourages lawless behavior. Could it be, the punishment fits the crime and that life is the way it is because God wanted to confront mankind with their rebellion against Him, giving them a chance to come to their senses and turn and be reconciled to God? Jesus teaches this very idea in the story of the '*Prodigal Son*' in Luke 15:11-24. So, God, in His righteous judgment, could have just wiped out mankind because of their lawlessness and sin, Romans 6:23 states, "*The wages of sin is death.*" However, God in His love, grace, and mercy, chose to give each person a chance to live with the result of their choices and a lifetime to reconsider and come to their senses. Each person must face sufferings and struggles in life, which are a result of sin, all the while knowing innately within that this is not the way life was supposed to be. However, most people don't like being confronted about their sin and resent the punishment. They want life to be heaven on earth and if it is not, then they blame God for all the suffering in their life and claim they shouldn't have had to endure any of it at all, that God should just have prevented the whole thing in the first place. People want God to just wink at sin and say that's ok, boys will be boys, however, God, being just and holy cannot be passive towards sin. People still say is not fair, and they question if God really cares about them. So what would be fair? If God suffered the punishment you deserve, would that be fair? Well, He did! When Jesus died on the 'Cross,' He died in your place, (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18).

Romans 5:8 states, "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

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**Author: Luke** (The Physician)

**Author: Luke** (The Physician)

# Gospel of Luke

## So, Who Is Jesus, Really ?

Many people look at Jesus and mistakenly assume that because he was a man, therefore, He must be like all men and cannot be God. To determine the truth about who Jesus really is, one must turn to God's revealed truth of the Bible. To answer otherwise without Biblical support is nothing more than opinion without basis. The first clue that Jesus is unique and distinctly different than any other person who has ever lived on this earth is the 'Virgin Birth,' testified to by Joseph and Mary in Matthew 1 and Luke 1-2, and then the 'Resurrection' testified to by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and 1 Corinthians 15. These two events, that bookend Jesus' life, reveal to us that Jesus existed before He came into this world and that He is alive today because the grave could not hold Him. The fact that death could not hold Him is the second clue that Jesus is unique and distinctly different. Acts 2:24 states that it was impossible for Jesus to be held by death's power, and the reason for this is because He was without sin as stated in 2 Corinthians 5:21. So, Who is Jesus, really? The Greek is explicit in Hebrews 1:2-3 that Jesus is the same substance as God. The Greek is explicit in Matthew 1:23 as the definite article precedes '*Theos*' which declares the Son the Virgin will bear, will be Holy God with us. Isaiah 9:6-7 declares that the Son who is given will be called Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. The Bible says in Isaiah 44:24 that God created all things and in John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 the Scriptures declare that Jesus created all things. Zechariah 12:1 states that the God who created all things also formed and created the spirit of man within man. Isaiah 43:10 and 46:9 declare only One God exists; so Jesus must be that God. Jesus also holds the offices of 'Prophet, Priest, and King;' *Prophet* (Deut.18:15; Matt. 24; John 4:44), *Priest* (Hebrews ch. 2-10), and *King*, (Psalm 2; Revelation 19:16). The Bible presents evidence, which proves that there is no question as to who Jesus really is, (Matthew 16:13-17). Yet, not everyone is willing to admit it (Romans 1:18-32).

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# Gospel of John

**Date: Late 80's or Early 90's A.D.**

**Author: John the Apostle**

Subject of John – ‘ <b>Son of God</b> ’ John 1:1-5, ‘ <b>The Word was God</b> ’ declares the <b>Deity of Jesus Christ</b> . God sent His Son ( <b>Lamb of God</b> ) into the world to save those who believe
The Problem – ‘ <b>Bondage and Unbelief</b> ’ Jesus came to testify to the <b>Truth</b> and heal the <b>Blindness</b> of the Nation Israel, but the Jewish leaders rejected, opposed, and crucified Him
The Purpose of John’s Gospel – ‘ <b>Belief</b> ’ Jesus performed <b>Signs</b> revealing His <b>Authority</b> . Those who believe and receive Him become children of God and receive <b>Eternal Life</b>
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Light</b> ’ Jesus revealed God’s <b>Glory</b> in His person. The new birth and new life begins with the entrance of the light of Christ into the heart of the believer
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Darkness</b> ’ Mankind’s heart and mind is dark because of <b>Sin</b> , so the unbelieving <b>Hate</b> God and they reject the truth about the words and works of Jesus
Summary Statement of John’s Gospel – ‘ <b>Word Became Flesh</b> ’ The virgin birth in Matthew & Luke is clearly defined in John. Jesus is God manifest ( <b>Incarnation</b> ) in the flesh

<b>Eternality Of The Word</b>	<b>Signs of Kingdom Authority</b>	<b>The Way, Truth, &amp; Life</b>	Genesis 22:8 Exodus 12 <b>Passover Lamb</b> John 1:29 Rev. 5:12
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John 1 <b>Tabernacled With Men</b>		2 <b>The Truth Shall Set You Free</b> 12			13 <b>Upper Room Discourse</b> 17		18 <b>God’s Sacrificial Offering</b> 21			
<b>Chapters &amp; Subject Divisions</b>	Light Came Into the World	Presentation to Nation Israel	The Bread of Life	The Good Shepherd	Resurrection and Life	The Comforter Spirit of Truth	The High Priestly Prayer	Testifying to the Truth	Trial and Crucifixion	Resurrection Empty Tomb
	In beginning was Word, Word was God John sent by God to bear witness to Light Jesus’ own people didn’ t receive Him Word became flesh and dwelt among men Jesus, only begotten full of grace & truth	John’ s testimony, Jesus, the lamb of God John’ s disciples begin to follow Jesus Andrew tells Peter theyve found Messiah Philip tells Nathanael to come see Jesus Nathanael is amazed by what Jesus says	Jesus turns the water into wine at Cana Nicodemus talks to Jesus about new birth Jesus’ words and works witness of Him Jesus is bread of life sent from the Father	Jesus teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus and the woman caught in adultery Jesus testifies that His word is Truth Jesus heals the man born blind from birth Jesus, shepherd watches over his sheep	Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead Leaders of the Jews conspire to kill Jesus Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with perfume Jesus enters Jerusalem for Passover Feast Jesus foretells of His suffering and death	Jesus shares Passover meal with disciples Jesus, as a servant washes disciples feet Jesus informs disciples He is going away Jesus tells disciples He and Father are one The Spirit, (same nature) sent to be helper Peace of God with those who believe	Jesus is true vine in which believers abide Jesus commands to love one another Jesus warns that the world will hate them Spirit convicts world of sin and judgment Jesus prays that God will be glorified Jesus prays for those who believe in God	Judas betrays Jesus to Jewish authorities Jesus on trial before Jewish high priest Pilate questions Jesus about being King Pilate tells Jews he finds no guilt in Jesus	Jewish officers tell Pilate to crucify Jesus Pilate writes King of Jews above cross Soldiers crucify Jesus on a Roman cross As Jesus dies He declares, It is finished’ Secret disciples put Jesus body in a tomb	Mary Magdalene finds Jesus tomb empty The risen Jesus appears to His disciples Jesus appears to His disciple Thomas John wrote Gospel so people will believe Jesus restores and instructs disciple Peter

**Key Verse – John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 1)**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Deity of Christ</b> – 1:1-18 3:12-18 5:17-47 6:26-58 7:37-39 8:12 8:23-30 9:35-39 10:7-18 10:25-38 11:25-27 ch.13-17 18:4-9 18:37 20:26-31
	<b>Eternal Life</b> – 1:4 3:15-16 3:36 4:14 5:21-24 6:27-40 6:54 6:68 8:12 8:51 10:10 10:28 11:25-26 12:25 12:50 14:1-6 17:2-3 20:31
	<b>Signs &amp; Belief</b> – 1:47-50 2:1-11 4:39-41 4:50-54 6:69 7:31 9:1-12 9:35-39 10:41-42 11:39-45 12:9-19 19:16-42 ch.20 21:5-7
	<b>Holy Spirit</b> – 1:32-33 3:5-8 3:34 4:23-24 6:63 7:39 14:16-17 14:26 15:26 16:7-15 20:22
	<b>Light &amp; Darkness</b> – 1:4-9 3:19-21 5:9-16 6:41-42 7:40-53 8:1-12 8:31-59 9:13-34 10:19-39 11:46-53 12:10-11 12:35-50 13:21-30 ch.18-19 20:24-25

**Key Verses – John 14:1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled; I will come again, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”**

<b>I Am's</b>	<b>“I am the bread of life,” John 6:35</b> – Jesus is the true spiritual bread whom the Father gives. God sent His Son down from heaven to give eternal life to all who believe
	<b>“I am the light of the world,” John 8:12</b> – Jesus is the only light that can penetrate & free the world from the darkness mankind finds themselves living in because of sin
	<b>“Before Abraham, I Am,” John 8:58</b> – Jesus declares His deity as uncreated eternally existent (Ex. 3; Deut 6:4) In John 14-16, Jesus reveals the triune nature of God
	<b>“I am the door, I am the Good Shepherd,” John 10</b> – Jesus opens the way to freedom for sinners from bondage and darkness, He watches over and cares for each believer
	<b>“I am the resurrection and the Life,” John 11:25</b> – Raising Lazarus established Jesus’ authority over life and death giving believers hope and certainty beyond the grave
	<b>“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” John 14:6</b> – The way of the cross of Jesus Christ is the only way to God; the truth about forgiveness, reconciliation, & eternal life
	<b>“I am the True Vine,” John 15:1</b> – Jesus teaches that union and communion with Him is what truly generates life, provides for every need, and sustains vitality and purpose
<b>“I am a King,” John 18:37</b> – Jesus declares to Pilate that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth and everyone who is on the side of truth listens to My voice	

**Key Verse – John 20:31 “These things are written that you may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” (John 1)**

# Gospel of John

## The Holy Spirit

Thanks to the Apostle John's inspired Gospel record, we have the unspeakable privilege of listening to the very words of Jesus as He instructed the disciples on the coming of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:16-26, Jesus states, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." In Jesus' words spoken to the disciples there are seven very important doctrinal truths for the Christian believer to know; (1) First and foremost, the Holy Spirit is a person, as the first person masculine pronoun, 'He' is used. The Greek word 'another' means another of the same kind, so the Holy Spirit is of the same nature and substance as Jesus. Jesus' words declare the Holy Spirit to be a divine person of infinite majesty, glory, holiness, and power, the third person of the Biblical Triune God, (2) The Holy Spirit is the inspiration and truth of Biblical Scripture. He is the reason John can remember and write the very words of Jesus in this gospel record without forgetting or misquoting what Jesus said, (3) The Holy Spirit is a helper, comforter, counselor, and advocate, and His ministry is to represent God to the believer the same as Jesus did in His incarnate existence, (4) The Holy Spirit's indwelling of the Christian believer is a specific privilege that the world cannot see or know, (5) By the power of the Holy Spirit, the love and the presence of the Lord Jesus and God the Father are manifest within the Christian believer, creating a personal relationship with God, (6) The Holy Spirit is a gift from God, (7) The Holy Spirit creates new spiritual life and abides forever with the person who trusts Jesus as their Savior, which is the basis for the doctrine of 'Eternal Security.'

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# Acts of The Apostles

Date Written: 60-62 A.D.

Author: Luke (The Physician)

Subject of Acts – ‘Acts Of The Apostles’ In the ‘Power of Holy Spirit’ the Apostles proclaim the ‘Risen Christ’ as Lord and the only way of salvation into the ‘Kingdom of God’
The Problem – ‘Religious Opposition’ Traditional ‘Religion’ is used by the ‘Adversary’ to persecute Jewish and Gentile Believers who testify of the truth of the risen living Christ
The Purpose of Acts – ‘Historical Orderly Account’ Luke documents coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Ministry of the Gospel by the Apostles, and The Early Church
Positive Central Theme – ‘Sovereignty of God’ God establishes and builds His Church & the gates of hell are not able to prevail against it, God’s Power accomplishes His Purpose
Negative Central Theme – ‘Assimilation or Annihilation’ Through ‘Persecution’ and ‘Suffering’ the ‘Adversary’ seeks to destroy the ‘Body of Christ’ or silence their ‘Faith’
Summary Statement of Acts – ‘Transition’ Acts documents the ‘Missionary Witness of the Church’ from Jew to Gentile, & from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, to all the world

Holy Spirit's Ministry	Apostles' Ministry	Peter's Ministry	Paul's Missionary Ministry
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1 At Pentecost	2 From Jerusalem	3 To Judea & Samaria	4 To All Men
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Chapter & Subject Divisions	At Pentecost		From Jerusalem		To Judea & Samaria		Missionary Witness Of Christ To All Men			
	The Ascension	Coming of the Holy Spirit	Sermons and Miracles	Persecution and Martyrdom	Conversion of Saul	Spirit comes to Gentile Believers	Missionary Journey	Jerusalem Council	Missionary Journeys	Paul's Defense Trip to Rome
	Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God Jesus instructs about receiving Holy Spirit Apostles are to be witnesses for Jesus Christ Jesus' ascension up into clouds of heaven Matthias is chosen as replacement for Judas	Day of Pentecost and coming of Holy Spirit Speaking in tongues a sign to the Jews Peters sermon of prophecy and Jesus Christ Jesus is risen as death could not hold Him Three thousand souls believed at Pentecost	Peter and John heal lame beggar at Temple Peters sermon about Faith in name of Jesus Peter and John warned not to speak of Jesus Sharing among Believers according to needs Lies and deaths of Ananias and Sapphira	Apostles jailed and flogged for witnessing Word of God spreads and many converted Stephens inspired defense against the Jews Stephen stoned to death and Saul approves Saul persecutes the Church in Jerusalem Philips ministry to the Ethiopian eunuch	Saul confronted by Jesus on Damascus road Saul converted to faith in Jesus and baptized Saul begins to proclaim faith he persecuted Barnabas confirms Sauls faith to Apostles Saul is persecuted for preaching about Jesus	Peters ministry accompanied by miracles Peter sees vision and then goes to Cornelius God shows no partiality of Jew or Gentile House of Cornelius believes and is baptized The Church at Antioch is established Peter's arrest and deliverance from prison	Saul and Barnabas first missionary journey Paul preaches to Jews first then the Gentiles Jealous Jews stir up dissension against Paul In Lystra Paul is stoned and left for dead Ministering to disciples in various cities	Dissension and debate over custom of Moses Council determines salvation is by Grace Abstain from idols, immorality, and blood Letter and witnesses sent to Antioch Church	Paul meets Timothy, a disciple of Jesus Churches planted in Philippi & Thessalonica Paul preaches on Mars Hill in Athens Churches planted in Corinth and Ephesus God performed many miracles in Ephesus Paul revisits churches then goes to Jerusalem	Pauls presence in Jerusalem starts a riot Paul gives his defense before the Jews Paul gives his defense before the Council Paul gives his defense before Felix Paul gives defense before Festus & Agrippa Paul is sent to Rome for trial before Caesar

Key Verse – Acts 1:8 “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

Themes	<b>Kingdom of God</b> – The Kingdom of God is the realm where God <b>Reigns</b> in absolute authority. One inherits the kingdom and eternal life only by faith in Jesus (John 14:6)
	<b>The Holy Spirit</b> – The Holy Spirit came at <b>Pentecost</b> and through <b>Signs &amp; Wonders</b> authenticates the Apostle's and the Gospel message as being sent from God (Acts 2-4)
	<b>God's Sovereignty</b> – God's power and will determine beforehand events that should happen in order to accomplish His purpose (Isaiah 46:8-11; Isaiah 55:11; Acts 2-4)
	<b>The Word of God</b> – Central to the growth, transition, and expansion of the church was the ‘Word of God’ as the Gospel about Jesus was proclaimed, taught, and received
	<b>Gospel Ministry</b> – Acts has long been a textbook of instruction and inspiration for believers of God's methods and means of spreading the good news of faith in Jesus Christ
	<b>Religious Opposition</b> – Jewish religious leaders objected to preaching of the resurrection of Jesus, and persecuted those who proclaimed a personal relationship with Jesus

Key Verse – Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved”

Kingdom of God	<b>The Risen Christ</b> – The Lord Jesus Christ continues to grow and expand His Church by His <b>Authority</b> and the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 16:18; 28:18; Acts 1:8)
	<b>The Apostles</b> – The Apostles were <b>Bold Eyewitnesses</b> of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and witness of <b>Faith</b> in the name of Jesus for power unto salvation (Acts 2-4)
	<b>The Holy Spirit</b> – The Holy Spirit is the <b>Power</b> of God working out the <b>Purpose</b> of God in establishing God's Kingdom of His Beloved Son (Acts 8:12; Colossians 1:13)
	<b>The Church</b> – Early Church models <b>Authentic Christianity</b> (Acts 2-4) which is Christ sanctifying the <b>Body of Christ</b> (Eph 5) to present her as <b>Bride of Christ</b> (Rev 19:7)
	<b>Worship &amp; Prayer</b> – Regenerated by Faith and transformed to new life in Christ, Believers devote themselves to worship, prayer, God's Word, and fellowship (Acts 2-4)
	<b>Israel</b> – Adulteress Israel (Jer 3; Eze 16; Hosea) rejected Jesus as Messiah (Acts 2-7), but the ungodliness will be removed from <b>Jacob</b> and <b>Israel</b> will be saved (Rom 11:26)
	<b>Missions To The Nations</b> – Jesus told the Apostles to make disciples of all Nations (Isa 49:6; Matt 28:18) and Paul was appointed Apostle to the Gentiles by Jesus (Acts 9)

Key Verse – Acts 28:28 “Let it be known to you therefore, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

# Acts of The Apostles

## Why The Cross?

Many people don't understand the need for the cross, so they ask the question, "*Why the Cross?*" The answer for this question can be found in one word, 'Sin.' God could not overlook sin or He would not be a Just and Holy God. When someone breaks an object that belongs to someone else, one of the two people involved must suffer loss. The one who broke the object will suffer loss if he pays for what was broken. The one to whom the object belonged will suffer loss if he chooses to release the one who broke the object from his obligation of just debt. So, what does the Cross represent? God brings all things represented in Genesis 3, to converge at the Cross. The tree, sin, guilt, life, death, God, man, satan, justice and the curse in the crown of thorns that Jesus wore. Yet, people don't understand how Jesus could be Holy God if He died on the cross. This is the reason for their skepticism when they say, *Jesus couldn't be God, He died! If Jesus was God, how could He die?* Hebrews 2:14-15 tells us Jesus took upon Himself human flesh (Virgin Birth) so he could identify Himself with mankind. Acts 2:22-24 tells us Jesus was raised from the dead because it was impossible for death to hold Him in its power. Jesus took upon Himself the punishment of death for the sins of mankind in substitutionary atonement. So, Jesus did die, but in doing so established His authority and power over sin and death. Jesus died in your place. First Corinthians 1:18 says, "*For the word of the Cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*"

Jesus is the Name above all Names, Acts 4:12 says, "*There is salvation in no one else, there is no other name by which men must be saved.*"

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**Author: Apostle Paul**

**Key Verse – Romans 12:1-2 “Present your bodies, a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God for service and worship, and be transformed by renewing your mind”**

# Book of Romans

## **The Lostness Of Mankind**

The lostness of mankind is an empirically verifiable truth whether one observes history or present day events, yet, it is a truth stubbornly denied by humanists, who argue that mankind is basically good. Mankind is Good? As compared to What? If you compare the average person to a criminal like Hitler, then you could possibly say mankind is basically good, but if you compare the average person to God's standard of Holiness, how could you possibly say that mankind is still good? Romans 3:10-23 says, *"There is no one who is good, not even one. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Romans 6:23 says, *"The wages of sin is death."* Sin is a disease in the heart of mankind and the root of the problem, and guilt is the nagging voice of lostness. Man's desire for a utopia, a reality as life ought to have been, but somehow was lost, has been the driving force of mankind's quest throughout history. Through knowledge, science, and technology, man continues to discover and conquer the world around him, but is unable to conquer himself. Man's attempts to correct and free himself throughout history have always led to further bondage, evidenced by man's inhumanity to man in all the wars, slavery, abuse, corruption, and prejudices that have plagued mankind. God has diagnosed the problem, and it is called 'sin,' but mankind doesn't like the solution and continually turns to himself for the answers and desperately searches for another way.

God says in Hosea 4 and Romans 1; *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.....professing themselves to be wise they have become fools."*

## **What Do You Do With Your Guilt?**

Personal guilt is that internal witness within a person that confronts the person with the fact that they have violated an objective law that governs over them. True moral guilt is that internal witness from within yourself that accuses and testifies against yourself that you have violated God's moral law and that you are accountable and will be held under judgment for your guilt. Romans 2:15 states, *"The Law of God is written in their hearts and their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts either accusing or defending them on the day God will judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ."* Every person has true moral guilt and this moral guilt is a witness of a universal moral law, which is a witness of a universal moral lawgiver, who is the God of the Bible. The purpose of the conscience and the witness of moral guilt that God has placed within every person is to awaken people to the truth that they are under the judgment and the wrath of God and are in need of moral salvation. People respond to guilt in one of seven ways; (1) Deny it, (2) Rationalize it, (3) Run from it, (4) Suppress it, (5) Dismiss it as nothing but religious indoctrination, (6) Hope that God will grade on the curve and overlook it, (7) Then there are those who turn to God for forgiveness of sins and salvation (Isaiah 1:18-20). Only the Bible has the answers to man's moral dilemma, and Jesus is God's only provision for the forgiveness of sins. The answer to guilt is always forgiveness. When God forgives, He removes our sins from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103). So, what have you done with your guilt?

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# Book of First Corinthians

## Why The Resurrection Matters

For the last 2000 years the ‘*Resurrection of Christ*’ has been rejected and opposed by other world religions and every form of anti-Christian thought for obvious reasons. If every other religious founder and philosophical genius are still dead in their grave, but Jesus’ Tomb is empty, then He must have been who He said He was and He is alive and does indeed hold power over life and death. Of course if you have never received Jesus as your Savior, His resurrection may seem meaningless to you. But consider that if you were traveling and you came to a place where the road divided in two different directions and you wanted to know which one to take and where it would lead you and you were looking for a guide to instruct you on which one you should take and you see two men, one is dead and the other is alive, which one are you going to ask for directions? On multiple occasions, Jesus told His disciples that He would be handed over to men who would crucify Him and that three days later He would rise again (Matthew 16:21; Mark 10:32-34). The Gospel accounts and Jesus’ appearances to numerous people as stated in 1 Corinthians 15 provide us with undeniable evidence that everything Jesus promised or predicted came true just as He said it would, not to mention the fact that Pilate and the Romans soldiers had the tomb guarded so as to prevent the disciples from stealing the body (Matthew 27:62-66). The fact that Jesus rose from the dead, (although denied by many), has never been refuted by anyone. The story of the life of Jesus continues on after His crucifixion, death, and burial. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all conclude with Jesus alive and interacting with His disciples and this narrative continues on into the Book of Acts. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Paul documents the fact that Jesus was seen by over 500 at one time. The Truth of the Bible and Christianity cannot be refuted because you cannot deny or explain away the documented evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the fact that for over two thousand years Christian Believers have testified of having a miraculous personal relationship with the living Jesus Christ. The Empty Tomb in John 20 testifies to Jesus’ victory over death, death could not hold Him. No other person in history has claimed to be God and provided empirical evidence to support that claim.

Therefore, all of Jesus’ words are trustworthy. John 14:6, “*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but through Me.*”

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Date Written: 56-57 A.D.

# Book of Second Corinthians

Author: The Apostle Paul

Subject of 2 Corinthians – ‘**Christ’s Ambassadors**’ Servants who endure many afflictions in sharing God’s word of truth by the Holy Spirit’s power making many rich in the Faith  
 The Problem – ‘**Slander**’ False accusations intended to discredit a person’s character and ministry as fraudulent in a shameless attempt to promote the credibility of the antagonist  
 The Purpose of 2 Corinthians – ‘**Defense of Ministry**’ Observe how God’s word is taught, what is done for Christ, are people’s lives changed, is the power of the Spirit evident  
 Positive Central Theme – ‘**Integrity**’ A clear conscience before God and men of godly sincerity in ministry. Saint’s righteous lives are God’s letter of recommendation from Christ  
 Negative Central Theme – ‘**Deceptive Influence of False Teachers**’ Twisting of God’s Word hides truth from the lost, justifies the legalist, and confuses and divides Believers  
 Summary Statement of 2 Corinthians – ‘**Examine Yourselves**’ Are you born of the Spirit and in the faith, is Christ in you, do you walk by faith and trust in God? (1 Timothy 5:24)

## Integrity in Ministry

## Support for Ministry

## Defense of Ministry

## Preaching Christ

## Giving to Christ

## Living For Christ

1:1 God Leads Us In Triumph In Christ 7:16  
 8:1 God’s Indescribable Gift 9:15  
 10:1 God’s Truth Prevails 13:14

Chapter & Subject Divisions	Godly Conduct	Letter Kills Spirit Gives Life	God’s Power In Ministry	New Creation In Christ	Separation From World	Ministry To The Saints	Generosity In Giving	Portrait Of Paul	A Thorn In The Flesh	Examine Yourselves
	God comforts us in our affliction Godly sincerity in ministry Division in church causes sorrow God leads us in triumph in Christ Preach Word of God in sincerity	Transformation of believing heart Servants of the New Covenant The Law exposes sin and death The Spirit gives life and liberty Hope and boldness serving Christ Blindness is removed in Christ	Satan blinds minds of unbelieving Light of Gospel is glory of Christ God’s power dwells in Believers Do not lose heart in adversity Focus on eternal not the temporal	Longing for the things of heaven Walk by faith and not by sight The Judgment seat of Christ Ambassadors for Christ to the lost Christ reconciles the lost to God	Enduring hardship to save the lost Do not fellowship with darkness Sorrow leads to Godly repentance Repentance leads to salvation Having great confidence in God	Giving to help support the Saints Financial giving is gracious work Christ gave Himself on our behalf Give out of abundance and ability Have integrity in handling money	Don’t be given to covetousness Be joyful and generous in giving God provides for those who give God provides for those in need Giving is a ministry of serving Thank God for He gave the most	Pauls ministry obedient to Christ Paul boasted in the Lord Jesus Paul defended the Gospel of God Paul endured hardship for Christ	Paul taken up to heaven in vision Paul struggled with thorn in flesh Gods grace is always sufficient Pauls Apostleship clearly evident	Power in ministry is from God Are you in Christ, in the Faith? God’s Truth is incorruptible In weakness is God’s strength

Key Verse – 2 Corinthians 2:14 “Thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma and knowledge of Him”

Themes	<b>Ministry</b> – Serving God and helping others is a multifaceted undertaking which requires commitment, integrity, hard work, prayer, and trust in God for fruition of God’s will
	<b>Preaching Christ</b> – Understanding the love of God demonstrated by Christ’s substitutionary death, Believers preach Christ to persuade the unsaved to be reconciled to God
	<b>Blindness</b> – Those that are lost are blind to the truth about Jesus Christ and are subject to the lies of satan and therefore prefer man’s prideful philosophies of this lost world
	<b>Standing Firm In The Faith</b> – True hope is in Christ and having received God’s mercy Believers do not lose heart but rely on the surpassing greatness of God’s power
	<b>Portrait of Paul</b> – Paul describes his ministry for Christ and his journey of faith, that through adversity and affliction he has come to know God’s love, power, and His grace

Key Verse – 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 “We are ambassadors of Christ and we beg you to be reconciled to God, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

Discernment	<b>Discernment</b> – Paul clearly establishes <b>Contrast</b> as the means of <b>Spiritual Discernment</b> between those who are Ambassadors for Christ, and the darkness disguised as light
	<b>Trials and Testing</b> – Adversity and hardship tend to reveal the real character and integrity of a person. Analyze and examine behavior to see if it is light or if it is darkness
	<b>Old Covenant vs. New Covenant</b> – Old covenant of law was glorious but brought death. It is superceded by the new covenant of faith and the Spirit gives life and liberty
	<b>Outer Man vs. Inner Man</b> – The flesh is weak, mortal, and will die, but those who have the spirit of faith are renewed day by day and destined for eternal life and glory
	<b>Temporal vs. Eternal</b> – The Love of Christ should compel the Believer to no longer live for themselves and temporary things of this world, but for Christ who died for them
	<b>Comfort vs. Affliction</b> – The Charlatan seeks worldly comfort and avoids affliction while God’s servant endures affliction trusting God to comfort in the midst of tribulation
	<b>Compulsion vs. Generosity</b> – A selfish heart gives grudgingly as compared to the attitude of the heart that gives generously inspired by the mercy that God has given them
	<b>Pride vs. Humility</b> – The sinful flesh masquerades as righteous attempting to adhere to the law but fails, whereas the Believer yields to the Holy Spirit and the fear of God
Discernment	<b>False Apostles vs. Apostle Paul</b> – Darkness vs. Light. Legalists pervert God’s Word for personal worldly gain. Paul boasted in Christ, of the life and grace found in Him!

Key Verse – 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you, My power is made perfect in weakness. I boast of my weakness so the power of Christ may dwell in me”

# Book of Second Corinthians

## A Clever Lie

When someone tells a lie or repeats a lie they have heard, generally there are three reasons for doing so: (1) They are attempting to hide the truth because it conflicts with their beliefs, (2) They are attempting to discredit or cause harm to someone for their benefit, or (3) They do not want to have to be responsible or face the consequences if the truth were to be known. It is just such a lie that many people have believed and repeat that the Bible, the Word of God is not true. They claim the Bible is not relevant to reality or their lives, and that the idea that God would hold them accountable and judge them according to their sins is absurd. The Bible is not just some 'Book of the Month' that you can dismiss as not being worth your time to read. No, the Bible is the 'Book of the Ages' and has absolute authority over your life whether you want to accept that fact or not, it is the absolute truth, (Hebrews 2:1-3). No book has had as much opposition as the Bible. People have laughed at it, they have scorned and ridiculed it, they have made laws against it so that it was a crime worthy of death if you owned a Bible, and many have vowed to discredit and destroy the Bible, but yet it still stands unblemished as the greatest book ever written and the best selling book of all time, (2 Corinthians 13:8). 1 Peter 1:24-25 states, "All flesh (mankind) is like grass, and its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, But the Word of the Lord stands forever," (Isaiah 40:6-8). If you believe the lie against the Bible, are you prepared to face the truth? It has been said, "The biggest liar is the person who lies to themselves."

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**Author: Apostle Paul**

Summary Statement of Galatians – **Freedom In Christ** Paul preached **Liberty** from bondage of sin in Christ, and warned the Galatians that returning to the law would nullify Grace

Gospel of Christ Defended			Gospel of Christ Explained		Gospel of Christ Applied	
Paul vs. False Gospel			Law vs. Faith		Flesh vs. Spirit	
Chapters & Subject Divisions	Paul's Authority	Jerusalem Council	Salvation By Faith	Freedom In Christ	Walk In The Spirit	Fulfill The Law Of Christ
	1:1                      1:24	2:1                      2:21	3:1                      3:29	4:1                      4:31	5:1                      5:26	6:1                      6:18
	An Apostle of Christ	Law & Gospel conflict	Receiving Spirit by Faith	In The Fullness of Time	Set Free by Jesus Christ	Bear one another's burdens
	Defense of <u>True</u> Gospel	Journey to Jerusalem	Maturity by Spirit, not law	God Sent His Son	Guidance by Holy Spirit	Consider your own self
	Condemns <u>false</u> gospel	The False brethren	Law declares all are guilty	Born Under The Law	Grace, Faith, Hope, Love	Do not be deceived
	Defense of Ministry	James, Peter, & John	<b>Jesus cursed for us</b>	Born According to Promise	Beware False Teachers	God is not mocked
	Origin of the Gospel	Acts 15 Council	<b>Just shall live by Faith</b>	Adoption into God's Family	Freedom is not license	Sowing and Reaping
	God's call of Paul	Paul confronts Peter	The Promise vs. the Law	Paul grieves their regression	Spirit vs. Flesh Conflict	Persevere in doing good
	A trip to see Peter	Justification by Faith	Redemption from the Law	Children under bondage	Deeds of the Flesh	Boast only in the Cross
	Missionary Journeys	The New Life in Christ	Faith comes to Gentiles	Children of Promise (Faith)	Fruit of the Spirit	A new creation in Christ
<b>Key Verse – Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, I live by faith in the Son of God who gave Himself for me.”</b>						
Themes	<b>Law (Bondage)</b> – Law was given to restrain sin (3:19); provide instruction (3:23-24); the law is a curse to men (3:10-13); demands perfection (5:3); cannot impart life (3:21)					
	<b>Grace (Liberty)</b> – Grace is God's gift to undeserving sinners who place their faith in Jesus Christ alone for justification and forgiveness of sins (1:3-5; 2:15-21; 3:13-14)					
	<b>False Gospel</b> – Paul declares any gospel that adds to, or takes away from faith in Christ's death on the Cross, nullifies the sufficiency of Christ, and is a false gospel (1:6-10)					
	<b>Desertion</b> – Paul warns the Galatians to reconsider their direction. If they turn from faith and embrace the law, Christ is no benefit to them (1:6; 3:1-5; 4:9-21; 5:1-12; 6:7-8)					
	<b>God's Promise to Abraham</b> – In the fullness of time God sent His Son (4:4); to fulfill His promise to Abraham (3:14-16); so people of all nations might be blessed (3:8)					
	<b>Flesh vs. Spirit</b> – The flesh and Spirit are in opposition to one another, and a believer will suffer intense conflict (5:16-26); What a person sows, that will they reap (6:7-10)					
<b>Key Verse – Galatians 5:1 “It is for Freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”</b>						
Grace	<b>Faith</b> – A person is saved by faith alone by trusting in Jesus, <b>not</b> from rules and requirements of law or religion (3:2-5; 3:14); Those of faith, are the sons of Abraham (3:7)					
	<b>Cross</b> –The Cross of Christ, through which the world has been crucified to the believer and the believer to the world (6:14); The Cross, a stumbling block to the world (5:11)					
	<b>Justification</b> – A believer is justified by Grace through <b>Faith</b> in Jesus Christ (2:16; 3:8); No person can be justified by the works of the Law (2:16; 3:11; 3:21) <b>Legalism</b>					
	<b>Righteousness</b> – Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness (3:6 – Genesis 15:6); The righteous shall live by <b>Faith</b> (3:11 – Habakkuk 2:4)					
	<b>Spirit</b> – The Holy Spirit, is the indwelling of Christ (4:6), the miracle of new life (3:5); the power of faith (3:14); and the power for Godly living (5:16; 5:18; 5:22-25)					
	<b>Freedom</b> – Christ's death on the Cross sets a believer free from the bondage of sin (5:1); A new creation to walk by the guidance of the Holy Spirit (3:3; 5:13-14; 6:14-16)					
<b>Key Verse – Galatians 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” Galatians 6:7 “What a man sows, this he will also reap”</b>						



# Book of Galatians

## What Is Justification?

Galatians 2:16 states, *“Know that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”* The Scripture references three classes of people, the first is ‘a man’, the second is a reference to the ‘Jews’, and the third is a reference to ‘flesh,’ which means that no person can be saved in any culture by attempting to please God by doing good deeds or being good (Psalm 14; Romans 3:9-23). The reference to works of the law, is any standard set before men as a benchmark they must attain or meet as a prerequisite before receiving God’s acceptance. Romans 2 tells us that each person violates even their own code of moral conduct. ‘Justified’ is a law term used to express the judicial action taken by God, apart from human merit, to declare a person pardoned or acquitted from their sin based upon Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death and atonement on the cross (Colossians 2:13-14). Now, this experience does not automatically happen to all people, but only when a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone as their ‘Savior’ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Faith is the means, not the source of Justification. Faith is Trust, however, this faith begins with knowledge, so it is not blind faith. This saving faith builds upon facts so it is not speculation or assumption. This faith stakes its claim on reality and the truth of God’s Word and Jesus Christ’s life and death, therefore is not an impractical faith. Yet, most people live as though their good deeds are equal with righteousness in God’s eyes, however, if righteousness could have come through the Law or good deeds, then for what reason did Christ die? Jesus says in John 5:24, *“He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*

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**Author: Apostle Paul (In Prison)**

# Chapters & Subject Divisions

# Themes

# In Christ

# Book of Ephesians

## The Marvelous Grace Of God

A lot of people believe that God is going to take people to heaven and award people eternal life on the basis of their good works. They have heard Bible verses like Jeremiah 17:10 that says, *“I the Lord search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds,”* so they think that because their good deeds outnumber their bad deeds that God will accept them into His heaven. But there are two serious reasons why this belief is not true nor Biblical, (1) The first is because the Bible never says God will award salvation and eternal life to a person according to their works, instead the Bible says that, *“No one is good,”* (Psalm 14, Mark 10:18, Romans 3). Furthermore, Isaiah 64:6 states that, *“all people are unclean and that their best deeds are like filthy rags.”* (2) The second reason God doesn’t take people to heaven based upon their works, is that it would then be possible for those people to boast, *“I am here because I did this.” “I am here because I did not do that.”* Boasting is an expression of pride and pride was the origin of sin! So, the question is how are people saved? Ephesians 2:8-9 states, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* So, what is Grace? Grace is best defined as a gift of God no one deserves. When a person humbles their heart and comes to God, asks for forgiveness and asks Jesus to be their Savior, God through His Grace gives them the gift of salvation because of their faith in Jesus. Romans 5:1-11 tells all about the marvelous grace God bestows upon each person who humbles their heart, (1) We have peace with God, (2) We have favor with God, (3) We have a steadfast hope, (4) We have purpose and meaning in life in all circumstances, (5) We have the love of God, (6) We have joy, (7) and because we are forgiven of our sins, we no longer face the wrath of God, which is His righteous judgment of our works, (John 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 1:5; Jude verse 15).

Romans 11:6 states, *“If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”*

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**Date Written: 61 A.D.**

**Author: Apostle Paul (In Prison)**

Subject of Philippians – **‘Gospel of Christ’** The only thing that truly gives purpose and meaning and joy to every area and stage of life is **Knowing Christ and Serving Christ**

The Problem – **‘Religion’** The practice of rules and regulations incites boasting and confidence in the flesh, which has no eternal profit. Instead, desire to know Christ personally.

The Purpose of Philippians – ‘**Gratitude**’ Paul wanted to thank the Philippians for their gift and encourage them in their faith and profess his love and affection for them all

Positive Central Theme – **‘Humility & Unity’** Jesus is set forth as the ultimate example of having the mind and purpose of God, loving and humbly serving others (John 13:15-16)

Negative Central Theme – **‘Selfish Ambition’** Vainglory is serving yourself and your own interests, which leads to strife, jealousy, envy, and every form of division and disunity

Summary Statement of Philippians – **‘Joy of the Christian Life’** Paul exhorts the Philippians to follow Christ’s example and pattern set before them and joy will triumph in life

Gospel of Christ			Example of Christ			Priority of Christ			Maturity in Christ				
Progress of the Gospel			Have the Mind of Christ			Pursuit of Christ			Stand Firm in Christ				
Chapter & Subject Divisions	Joy in Salvation		Joy in Fellowship		Joy in Christ		Joy in Maturity						
	1:1	Joy In Living	1:30	2:1	Joy In Service	2:30	3:1	Joy In Relationship	3:21	4:1	Joy In Christ's Provision	4:23	
	Thank God for your family of Believers The joy remembering others in prayer Participating in progress of the Gospel God will continue to work in your life True knowledge pursues righteousness Gospel isnt hindered by circumstances Rejoice in the proclamation of Christ With boldness and courage exalt Christ To live is for Christ, to die is gain Fruitful labor is progress of the Gospel Stand together in unity for the Gospel		Pursue characteristics of love and unity Do nothing from motive of selfishness Regard others as being more important Imitate the example set by Jesus Live out God' s will and desire for you Live without complaining or arguing Prove yourselves to be children of God You are lights in a perverse generation Having and sharing the Word of Life Rejoice in your service for the Lord Beware of living your life in vain Importance of serving one another God' s mercy prevents great sorrow Imitate example set by faithful servants		Review Scripture that protects you Place no confidence in the flesh Confidence in the flesh profits nothing Knowing Christ is the greatest value Desire to have Christ' s righteousness Desire the power of God in your life Desire fellowship of Jesus sufferings Persevere in God' s purpose for you Dont focus on the failures in your past Strive forward to prize God has in store Pattern for a victorious Christian walk Dont walk with mind on earthly things Our citizenship is in heaven & we wait		Stand firm in the ways of the Lord Live in harmony with other Believers Rejoice in the Lord always Be patient and considerate with all men Dont be anxious about anything Always be in prayer with thanksgiving Gods peace will guard heart and mind Let your mind dwell on good things Focus your life to practice good things Learn to be content in all circumstances You can do all things through Christ Share with others who are in need Giving also blesses the one who gives God is able to meet all of your needs To God be the glory forever and ever						
	Key Verse – Philippians 1:6 “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”												
	Themes	Gratitude – One mark of a mature Believer is that of a thankful heart. Be thankful to God and to each other for the love, care, support, and prayers that sustain us in life											
		Humility & Unity – Selfish ambition incites rivalry from within and popular religious philosophy demands conformity from without. Focus on the priority of the Gospel											
		Self Sacrifice – The secret to the joyous Christian life is putting Jesus Christ first (Philippians 1) and regarding others as more important than yourself (Philippians 2)											
		Discipleship/Christian Living – Desire to mature and grow spiritually in Christ. Good deeds do not perfect us, rather, as God perfects us, we do good deeds for Him											
		True Joy – The joy of a Believer is rooted in knowing Christ and all His eternal spiritual blessings, and not in temporary earthly or material things that can be taken away											
	Key Verse – Philippians 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ” Philippians 2:5 “Have this same attitude of mind in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”												
Joy	Joy Triumphs Over Suffering – Joy is the quiet confident assurance of God’s hand at work in our lives. (James 1) God works all things together for good (Romans 8)												
	Joy In Christ’s Righteousness – Righteousness in Christ means being right and doing right. The Lord guides in paths of righteousness for His Name’s sake (Psalm 23)												
	Joy In Christ’s Will – The Lord makes known the path of life and in His presence is the fullness of Joy and in His right hand there are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16)												
	Joy In Christ’s Strength – The Lord is always present to strengthen, help, and uphold those who are His (Isaiah 41:10) The joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8)												
	Joy In Unity – Fellowship among Believers is the joy of a common spiritual bond in Jesus Christ when they have committed their lives to proclaiming the Gospel to others												
	Joy In Prayer – When needs arise, believers should rejoice in the fact they can make supplication to a living God who knows, cares, and is intimately involved in their life												
	Joy In Hope –Biblical hope is the confident expectation (Faith) that God will do just as He has promised (Hebrews 11) Hope is the anchor of your soul (Hebrews 6:18-19)												
Key Verse – Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!” Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”													

# Book of Philippians

## The Great Love Of God

Have you ever received a Christmas gift that you didn't like, didn't want, or felt like you didn't need? A gift that wasn't practical, of no real benefit to you and one you certainly could not use? Whether we realize it or not, we form opinions and judgments about someone on the basis of what they give and how they give it. Why, as the recipient of a gift, do we evaluate the giver based upon our appraisal of the gift? Because we have all received gifts that seemed inappropriate or useless to us and because we have all received gifts that had underlying motives or so called strings attached from the giver, such as wanting a favor or something in return. However, have you ever been wrong in your assessment of a gift and later realized the immense value of the gift? When you change your opinion about the gift your attitude towards the giver suddenly changes dramatically as well. This is realizing a good gift from the givers point of view. The Great Love of God is revealed in the gift of His Son to the world, but the world from the time of Jesus' birth has not wanted God's gift. King Herod tried to have Him killed (Matthew 2), the Jewish leaders rejected Him (John 5, 8, 11), and the Romans killed Him (Luke 23). The Great Love of God is a gift like no other; (1) God's gift of love is not deserved, so it is gracious; (2) God's gift of love is free, so it is for all; (3) God's gift of love meets a desperate need, so it is good and beneficial; (4) God's gift of love is unique, so when truly accepted and received it changes a person spiritually and brings new life; (5) God's gift of love is eternal, and will be forever enjoyed; (6) God's gift of love is personal and sacrificial, meaning God's love is available to you and me because of the price Jesus paid for our sin. The world doesn't want God's gift of love and resents what He gave and the manner in which He gave it. Yet, those who hear, believe, and open up their heart to Jesus know the joy of the greatest gift ever given; God's Love, an undescribable gift, (2 Corinthians 9:15).

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# Book of Colossians

Date Written: 60-62 A.D.

Author: Apostle Paul (In Prison)

Subject of Colossians – ‘ <b>Christ Is All In All</b> ’ As creator of all things, Jesus is before all things. He is God, the author of life, of truth, revelation, redemption, salvation, eternal life
The Problem – ‘ <b>Synceritism</b> ’ False teaching had infiltrated the Colossian Church about Jesus, in an attempt to compromise truth with religious relativism and secular philosophy
The Purpose of Colossians – ‘ <b>Refute Heresy</b> ’ Counteract false teaching and lies with <b>Truth</b> , Jesus Christ is the perfect revelation and representation of God in every respect
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Truth Of The Gospel</b> ’ The Gospel is the power of God for salvation through <b>Faith</b> in Jesus Christ. Only in Jesus is there forgiveness and righteousness
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Religious Relativism</b> ’ Belief that salvation is acquired through special knowledge and rituals in relation to society and culture with no absolute truth
Summary Statement of Colossians – ‘ <b>True Spirituality</b> ’ Evidence of salvation is that Christ dwells within you, it is not what you know that saves you, it is who you know - <b>Jesus</b>

## Preeminence of Christ

## Sufficiency of Christ

## God, Creator, Redeemer

## New Life, New Focus, New Purpose

### Doctrine of Christ

### Polemic For Christ

### Life In Christ

### Live For Christ

Chapter & Subject Divisions	1:1 Truth Of The Gospel 1:29	2:1 Truth vs. Deception 2:23	3:1 True Knowledge 3:25	4:1 Wisdom For Living 4:18
	The Gospel of Truth of Jesus Christ	True knowledge is faith in Jesus Christ	A Believer has new life in Jesus Christ	Treat people with justice and fairness
	Pillars: grace, peace, faith, love, hope	<b>Religion vs. Relationship with Christ</b> Deception of man’s philosophical words	Focus your mind on the things of God	Devote yourselves to worship and prayer
	Thankfulness to God, praying always	By Faith Christ is received for salvation	A Believer is dead to worldly idolatries	Pray for mystery of Christ to be shared
	Knowing God’s will for faithful life	By Faith a believer matures and walks	Do not practice old desires of the flesh	Make the most of every opportunity
	Deliverance from darkness to light	Beware of appeal of seductive practices	New life practices character of Christ	Respond to each person with Grace
	Jesus is the image of Holy God	Fullness of Deity dwells in Jesus Christ	Let the peace of Christ rule your heart	Encourage the hearts of other Believers
	Jesus created and sustains all things <b>Reconciled to God through Christ</b> The mystery of Christ proclaimed	<b>A Believer is complete in Jesus Christ</b> God cancelled our debt by Cross of Christ Man made religion unacceptable to God	Let the word of Christ dwell within you Let relationships reflect Christ in you	Welcome fellow workers who serve God Share Word of God with other Believers

Key Verse – Colossians 1:15-17 “Jesus is the image of the invisible God, all things have been created by Him and for Him, and in Him all things hold together”

Themes	<b>Polemic Defense Of Jesus Christ</b> – In Colossians, Paul has written for the Church an aggressive <b>Truth</b> refuting the <b>Lies</b> of man made religions about the person of Christ
	<b>Wisdom &amp; Knowledge</b> – The treasures of wisdom and <b>True Knowledge</b> can only be found in Christ (Colossians 2:3). Man’s wisdom and reason is depraved (Romans 1)
	<b>Man Made Religion</b> – Spiritual knowledge and man’s rituals are of no true value because <b>Religion</b> has no power to change man’s heart or his desires (Colossians 2:23)
	<b>Jesus Christ (Head of the Church)</b> – Jesus is the foundation of all Christian <b>Discipleship</b> and in Him is the wisdom and pattern for life and the spiritual power to live it
	<b>Believer’s New Life</b> – Jesus <b>Reconciles</b> us to God to live a new life in a personal <b>Relationship</b> in the will and the love of God, instead of pursuing vain worldly idolatry
	<b>Mystery Of Christ</b> – The <b>Reality</b> of Christ’s incarnation, life, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, sending of Holy Spirit, and His return are <b>Manifested</b> in the Believer

Key Verse – Colossians 2:9-10 “In Christ all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you are complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority”

Jesus Christ	<b>Preeminence</b> – Term ‘ <b>Firstborn</b> ’ does not refer to time, but to place, status, first importance, or rank. Jesus is the image of the eternal God, existence prior to all creation
	<b>Supremacy</b> – As creator, Jesus is Lord over all that exists and everything is under His <b>Sovereign</b> authority and dependent on His sustaining power for existence and being
	<b>Deity</b> – All the <b>Majesty</b> of God, the sovereign authority, the glory, righteousness, holiness, justice, goodness, grace, and mercy is in the person of Jesus (Colossians 2:9)
	<b>Incarnation</b> – Christ, the image and glory of the invisible God, <b>Manifested</b> through the incarnation. Grace and truth were revealed through the words and works of Jesus
	<b>Redeemer</b> – By God’s Grace, Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for the forgiveness of sins, <b>Deliverance</b> from the darkness and an inheritance of eternal life in heaven
	<b>Sufficiency</b> – If Christ is sufficient to sustain a universe, Jesus is more than sufficient to provide for every spiritual and physical need to make one complete (Col. 1:27-28)

Key Verse – Colossians 3:17 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

# Book of Colossians

## What About Other Religions?

In this age of relativism, many people believe every major and ethical religion has truth and is an equally valid path that leads to God or to the ultimate reality. There is strong objection to Christianity for its exclusive claims of absolute truth that Jesus is the only way (John 14:6), which is a claim that is either totally true or totally false. While it is true many of the religions of the world share common beliefs such as ‘*moral values*,’ people often fail to realize these different religions all make exclusive truth claims that make it impossible for them to all be equally true and valid at the same time. It is more logical to say all religions are false, than to say all religions are true. For example, do you believe there is (1) One God, (2) Many gods, (3) All is God, (4) or that no god exists? Then if you believe God or gods exist, then you have to define the nature of that God or gods. Is this God personal or impersonal, is this God finite or infinite, is this God or gods distinct from creation or identified with creation, and etc? After you determine what you believe about God, then you have to determine your beliefs about man. Does mankind have a problem? If mankind does have a problem, is it, (1) Indoctrination, (2) Sin, (3) or Ignorance? Then should man’s quest be for enlightenment, reason, and meditation, or faith and obedience, or for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding? Then what will man receive for his efforts, will it be; liberation, salvation, or prosperity? The conclusion is that logically all religions can’t lead to God because they don’t agree on the definition of God nor the path you need to be on. Now, some people say logic shouldn’t apply to spirituality and religion, the problem with that argument is they are using logic to argue against logic, which is self-contradictory and defeating. Many people seek after the god they want, rather than the God who exists! Proverbs 14:12 states, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*”

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**Author: Apostle Paul in Corinth**

<b>The Gospel Plants A Church</b>	<b>The Gospel Sanctifies A Person</b>
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Chapters & Subject Divisions		1:1 Power 1:10	2:1 Witness 2:12	2:13 Hope 2:20	3:1 Comfort 3:13	4:1 Doctrine 4:18	5:1 Instruction 5:11	5:12 Conduct 5:28
		Thanking God and praying for Believers Jesus Christ inspires, Faith, Love, and Hope As a True Believer, you are beloved by God Gospel has power and joy of the Holy Spirit Turned from idols to faith in true living God Wait for Jesus' coming return from Heaven	Suffering as a result of sharing the Gospel God encourages and strengthens His servants Sharing Gospel in spite of strong opposition Seeking to please God who tests our hearts Sharing the Gospel without pretense or greed Sharing the Gospel with a servant's heart You are witnesses, live worthy of God	Accepting God's Word as Truth from God Gods Word is the voice of ultimate authority Standing strong in the face of persecution Hostile men reject God and hinder the Gospel Satan thwarted Pauls efforts to return to visit Paul writes the Thessalonians Letters instead Hope and Joy is in Christ's Coming	Paul sent Timothy to encourage their Faith A strong faith helps persevere through trials Persecution and trials are to be expected Strong faith encourages other Believers faith Good news results in praise/worship of God Pray for Lords provision and increased love Pray for strong pure hearts when Jesus comes	Paul speaks of commandments and potential It is God's will for you to be Sanctified Control yourself and avoid sexual immorality The importance of having Brotherly Love Live a life opposite of the worldly culture Doctrine and knowledge removes ignorance Jesus coming again for believers, <b>John 14:3</b> Believers caught up to Jesus in air, <b>Rapture</b>	The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly Sudden destruction will come on the ungodly Believers are sons of light, not in darkness Believers need to be alert and self-controlled Let faith, love, hope in Christ guide your life God did not appoint us to suffer wrath Salvation and victorious life is in Jesus Christ Encourage and build one another up in Christ	Hold Gods faithful servants in high regard Live in peace, encourage and help others Be patient, be kind, and warn the idle Be joyful, be thankful, and pray always Be mindful of the Holy Spirit's guidance Hold to the good, avoid every kind of evil May God sanctify you for Jesus Coming
Key Verse – 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 “You turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, to wait for His Son from Heaven who delivers us from wrath to come								
Themes	<b>Jesus Christ &amp; His Return</b> – The central doctrine of 1 Thessalonians is to have ‘Faith in Christ’ serve ‘The Living God’ and to wait for the sure ‘Return of Jesus Christ’							
	<b>Ministry</b> – True ministry is introducing lost people to Jesus, who is mighty to save, teaching doctrine for Believers to mature, and exhorting the faithful to <b>Persevere</b>							
	<b>Persecution</b> – Intent of persecution from satan, the world and false religions is to pressure Believers to abandon their faith in Jesus or to <b>Compromise</b> their Biblical beliefs							
	<b>Doctrine</b> – Instruction by the <b>Authority of God</b> (1 Thess 2:13). Bible reveals truth and imparts knowledge for the ignorant and correction for the wayward and disobedient							
	<b>Sanctification</b> – Spiritual maturity is result of daily walking in Christ's <b>Righteousness</b> , which is God's will and the only thing that truly satisfies the heart (Matthew 5:6)							
<b>Essential Christian Principles</b> – Paul emphasizes characteristics that should be ever present in a mature Believer's life by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 5:12-24)								
Key Verses – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “Jesus will come down from heaven, the dead in Christ will rise, and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air” (Rapture)								
Ambassadors	<b>Chosen</b> – Just as Paul was chosen by God to take the Gospel to Gentiles (Acts 9:15), so every Believer is chosen (John 15:16) to live a life serving God (Ephesians 2:10)							
	<b>Changed</b> – A Believer's life is radically changed by the Gospel. Faith in Jesus transforms the heart and character of a person to become a Disciple and be more like Christ							
	<b>Commissioned</b> – Ambassadors of Christ are sent into the world (John 17:18) to represent faith in Jesus and witness in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:8)							
	<b>Communicate</b> – Believers entrusted with the Gospel by God are to boldly trumpet the message of salvation in Jesus to everyone everywhere without pretense or apology							
	<b>Conduct</b> – A Believer's life should reflect work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, perseverance inspired by hope in Christ as an example for other Believers							
	<b>Compassionate</b> – Have a love for people and a desire to serve them, especially a love for lost people who need salvation. Shun all ulterior motives of guile, gain, and glory							
<b>Champion</b> – An advocate for the Gospel who models, contends for, and defends the Lord's Message in spite of strong opposition or adverse circumstances (1 Thess. 2:1)								
Key Verse – 1 Thessalonians 5:23 “May God sanctify you entirely, that your spirit, soul, and body be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus								

# Book of First Thessalonians

## What Are You Looking For?

Life and the world seem to promise so much but in the end all a person is left with are broken promises. For some people the harsh reality of life hits them when they are young, for others it comes during middle age, and others it comes at the end of life when their health and everything begins to slip away. Ecclesiastes 1 says, *“Meaningless, everything is meaningless! All things are wearisome and man is not able to explain why. The eye is never satisfied with what it sees and the ear never hears what it needs to hear. What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be accounted for.”* Deep down all people are searching and can usually be described as looking for one of five things; (1) They feel lost and are looking for someplace to truly call home, (2) others are lonely and looking for love that will satisfy the heart and not disappoint, (3) others feel dirty inside and long to feel clean and be free from guilt and shame, (4) others long for a place without evil and suffering where they can experience true joy and happiness, (5) and others long to be free from the slavery and bondage of life, as they feel trapped like a bird in a cage. They have tried it all, life is empty, full of despair, and nothing satisfies. So, if you come to that fork in the road where two paths divide, which path will you take, what are you looking for, and when you get where you are going, where will you be? Proverbs 14:12 states, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* The world cannot give you what you are looking for. Only in knowing Jesus as your Savior can all of these things be found.

Jesus says in John 14:6, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one can come to the Father, but through Me.”*

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**Date Written – 51-52 A.D**

## Author: Apostle Paul in Corinth

Subject of 2 Thessalonians – **‘Day Of The Lord’** The Day God has fixed when He will judge the world in righteousness. The Resurrection is proof of Christ’s return (**Acts 17:31**)

The Problem – **‘Misinterpretation & Misunderstanding’** Not knowing and understanding God’s timeline of events preceding Christ’s return leads to confusion and to deception

The Purpose of 2 Thessalonians – **‘Correct The Confusion’** God is a God of peace, not confusion. Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to hold onto the teachings based on God’s Word

Positive Central Theme – **‘Work Of The Spirit’** The Cornerstone of having saving faith is a personal relationship with the Living Jesus and the **sanctifying** work of Holy Spirit

**Negative Central Theme – ‘Work Of Satan’** The spirit of antichrist is ever present in the world (1 John) **deceiving** those who are perishing to believe a lie and not believe the truth

Summary Statement of 2 Thessalonians – **‘Centrality Of Doctrine’** The Foundation for victorious living is God’s Word, receiving it, knowing it, trusting it, and living it out daily

Compassionate Feedback Administration	Compassionate Confirmation	Confronting Worldly Lifestyle
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## Confronting Worldly Lifestyle

## Christian Principles

1-1	Encourage And Comfort	1-12	2-1	Destructive	2-17	3-1	Control - This is the	3-18
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<b>1:1</b>	<b>Encourage And Comfort</b>	<b>1:12</b>	<b>2:1</b>	<b>Doctrine</b>	<b>2:17</b>	<b>3:1</b>	<b>Counsel</b>	<b>3:18</b>
	Commanded for keeping a growing faith in God			Jesus' return is the 'Day of the Lord' Nation Israel Event				Prayer for the barren and outcast of the Gospel

Commended for having a growing faith in God	Jesus' return is the Day of the Lord	Prayer for the honor and outreach of the Gospel
<p align="center"><b>Matthew 24: Revelation 4:10</b></p>		

Increasing love and perseverance in midst of trials

**John 14:3-11** Thessalonians 1:10: 4:17: 5:9: Titus 2:13

God is just. He will judge on day of Christ's return.

**Don't be deceived by false teaching**

<p>Ungodly will be punished with eternal destruction</p>	<p>Events of apostasy and man of sin precede Day of the Lord</p>	<p>Confidence the Lord works in Believer's hearts and lives</p>
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466
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Jesus will be glorified on the day of His return	Holy Spirit restrains sin until He is taken out of the way	Avoid company with lazy brethren who don't obey God
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Category	Item	Value
A	1	100
	2	200
B	3	300
	4	400
C	5	500
	6	600
D	7	700
	8	800
E	9	900
	10	1000

Prayer for Believers that they live worthy lives	The Antichrist is in accordance with the work of satan	A good example and diligent work are admirable virtues
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 University of Applied Sciences

Prayer for Believers: lives to be directed by faith	God sends delusion for those who refuse to believe the truth	Don't become an unnecessary burden to others
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[illegible]

Prayer that Jesus be glorified in Believers' lives	Believers sanctified through work of Holy Spirit, stand firm	Never tire of doing what is right. Administer tough love
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**Key Verse – 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7 “A plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so you are worthy of the kingdom for God will give relief when Jesus is revealed”**

<b>Faith</b> – Saying faith is receiving God’s Word as truth and trusting Jesus as Savior. Growing faith is to trust, love, obey, and serve God in the midst of daily circumstances
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**Persecution And Perseverance** – In trials, adversity, and persecution, don't throw away your confidence in God, but discern and persevere in faith (**Hebrews 10:32-39**)

**Gospel Truth** – Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. The work of the Spirit sanctifies and gives eternal encouragement and hope

**Deception** – The counterfeit work of satan hides the truth and blinds the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the Gospel and the truth and glory in Jesus

<b>Ministerial Counsel</b>	Paul modeled the Gospel and corrected confusion, strengthened their faith, called them to remember, stand firm, hold onto truth, and obey the Lord
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	<b>Worldly Lifestyle</b> – People who refuse the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ, are condemned because of their lawlessness. Lifestyle conduct is consistent with beliefs
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**Key Verse – 2 Thessalonians 2:3 “Let no one deceive you, that Day will not come until the apostasy (departure) occurs first and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed”**

	<b>The Glory of God</b> – The glory of God is revealed in Jesus' coming in blazing fire with His powerful angels, and being marveled at by His people who believed in Him
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<b>Vindication of Believers</b> – God said, “ <i>Vengeance is Mine</i> ” (Deut. 32) God will vindicate His people and He will punish those who hate Him with everlasting destruction
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**The Apostasy** – Apostasy means ‘**Departure**’ and definite article points to specific event time of rebellion, (**Matthew 24:10-14; Revelation**), before the Day of the Lord

**Man of Lawlessness** – Satan’s counterfeit, the Antichrist, will proclaim himself to be God and oppose and exalt himself over everything that is called God or worshipped

**The Restrainer** – The **Holy Spirit** now holds back the darkness and lawlessness. When He is removed at the Appointed Time the man of lawlessness will then be revealed

**The Delusion** – Calling evil good and good evil, people will believe satan's antichrist, because they refused to love and believe the truth about Jesus Christ and be saved

**God's Judgment** – The ungodly are condemned to perish in everlasting destruction separated from the presence of the Lord, because they did not believe the Gospel Truth.

**Key Verse – 2 Thessalonians 3:5 “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance”**

# Book of Second Thessalonians

## The Great Apostasy

The Bible warns us in Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, and 2 Peter 2 that there will be false prophets and false teachers who will deceive and lead many astray, and that a great apostasy will take place in the last days. Apostasy is defined as a falling away, a departure, and or a willful rebellion against God and a turning away from the truth of the Bible to myths and lies (2 Timothy 4:3-4). There are at least eight theological truths Jesus and the Apostles taught that are rapidly being denied and rejected not only in America, but all around the world; (1) The Bible as God's Word and source of Absolute Truth, (2) The Virgin Birth, that Jesus is Holy God Incarnate, (3) Death as evidence that all mankind is lost in Sin, (4) The Cross of Jesus Christ as the only means for the forgiveness of sins and salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18), (5) The Creation account, (6) That the Israel of today is Biblical Israel of Antiquity, God's chosen people, (7) The Resurrection of Jesus, and (8) The Return and Second Coming of Jesus. This apostasy will lead to the formation of a World Religion or World Church that will be sympathetic and tolerant to all lifestyles and religious beliefs. A central person (false prophet) will lead the uniting of religions under the inclusive pretense that all beliefs have truth and all paths lead to heaven. This apostasy will also help prepare for the revealing of the Antichrist, who will bring temporary peace to the Middle East and a troubled world. His authority and acceptance will be easier to establish if the Bible is rejected, which exposes him as a counterfeit and liar. People who claim to have a belief in God and a love for God, but don't know what God's Word says will be easily led astray by those who manipulate and twist words and slander and deny truth. In Matthew 24:25, Jesus says, "*Behold, I have told you in advance.*" In Matthew 16:3, Jesus says, "*You know how to discern the weather, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.*" Ignorance Is Not Bliss!

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**Author: The Apostle Paul**

# Book of First Timothy

## Foundations Of The Christian Faith

If a person becomes interested in looking for truth that correlates with reality and desires to find out more information about the God who exists, and to find out what the Bible really teaches, where do you go, whom do you trust? This is a very good question, because so many claim to believe in the Christian God, yet, they teach and hold to beliefs that are contrary to what the Bible really teaches. It has been said that in the Bible there are some things that are difficult to understand, and there are some things that are almost impossible to understand, but then there are the plain things that you cannot misunderstand. These plain things are the foundations of the Christian Faith; (1) All mankind are sinners and are under judgment because of sin, (2) The Bible is God's revealed truth, both about God Himself and about mankind's dilemma. This truth mankind could not know unless God revealed it, (3) The virgin birth of Jesus. This is outside the natural physical order, so the obvious question must be asked and answered, "*Who is Jesus?*" (4) Jesus is God. The words and works of Jesus in the Gospels testify to His deity, (5) The atonement of Jesus. Jesus' death paid mankind's sin debt that mankind could not pay, (6) Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection further testify to His deity and that He was without sin, because death could not hold Him, (7) The literal second coming of Jesus to bring about justice, righteousness, and restoration. Those who change or teach contrary to these plain Biblical foundations do so based upon man's wisdom and the result is false teaching (Matthew 7:13-19). Jesus says if you want to know what is truth, listen to Him (John 18:37), and those who come to Jesus for forgiveness of sins will receive eternal life (John 5:24).

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# Book of Second Timothy

**Date Written – 66-67 A.D.**

**Author: Apostle Paul in Prison**

Subject of 2 Timothy – **‘Paul’s Last Will And Testament’** Paul’s life and ministry for Christ was an open book to Timothy (3:10-12). Paul exhorts Timothy to follow his example

The Problem – **‘Departure From The Truth’** Doctrine and theology taken out of context and not consistent with all of Scripture destroys faith and leads away from God’s truth

The Purpose of 2 Timothy – **‘Inspiration’** Holy Spirit inspired and governed the writing of Scripture, the Holy Spirit also inspires and empowers a life lived for Jesus and God’s glory

**Positive Central Theme – ‘Life And Immortality In Christ’** The risen Christ reveals the hope and security of eternal life to those who entrust themselves to salvation in Jesus by faith

Negative Central Theme – **‘Deception’** Evil men are deceived and purposely deceive others who lack godly wisdom and understanding and turn from truth to what they want to hear

Summary Statement of 2 Timothy – **‘Keep The Faith’** In midst of persecution the temptation is to doubt God. God is faithful, His promises are true, He will deliver you, don’t quit!

Faith In The Gospel			Live The Gospel			Teach The Gospel			Preach The Gospel			
Confidence			Discipline			Endurance			Passion & Boldness			
Chapter & Subject Divisions	1:1	Security In Christ	1:18	2:1	God’s Grace Is Sufficient	2:26	3:1	God’s Inspired Word	3:17	4:1	Keep The Faith	4:22
	Serving God with clear conscience			Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus			There will be terrible times in the Last Days			Jesus will judge the living and the dead		
	Remembering others in Prayer			Be inspired to work hard and endure			People will become ungodly and worldly			Always be prepared to preach God’s word		
	Fan into flame the gift of God			Remember the Gospel of Jesus Christ			People may appear Godly but not be saved			Many people will reject sound doctrine		
	Don’t be ashamed of the Lord			God’s Word is not restricted by anything			Depraved men oppose truth and faith in God			People will turn away from truth to myths		
	Jesus Christ has destroyed death			Always handle correctly the Word of Truth			Paul’s life was an open book to Timothy			Endure hardship and share the Gospel		
	Confidence in Christ for eternal life			The Lord knows those who are His			The godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted			Live your life well and keep the Faith		
	Guard the treasure entrusted to you			Flee evil desires and pursue righteousness			Scripture leads to salvation in Christ Jesus			Crowns and rewards await those faithful		
May the Lord bless faithful friends			Beware of schemes and snares of the devil			Scripture is inspired by God and profitable			Jesus works through His faithful servants			

**Key Verse – 2 Timothy 1:12** “I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day”

<b>Themes</b>	<b>God's Purpose</b> – God's revelation in Jesus Christ who abolished death on the cross and revealed life and immortality through His resurrection for the salvation of sinful men
	<b>Lord's Bondservant</b> – Honorable, trustworthy, patient, strong in grace, and able to teach others obedience in Christ and boldly stand for truth and Jesus against opposition
	<b>Faith</b> – Confidence in Christ that does not yield to temptation, does not compromise the truth of God's word, does not lose heart in persecution, and does not fear death
	<b>Endurance</b> – Metaphors of a soldier, an athlete, a farmer illustrate reward for worldly ambition. Remember Jesus Christ and be inspired to endure all things in God's grace
	<b>Last Days</b> – Figure of speech referring to the end of the age or any time during the Church age when the Word of God is set aside for the pursuit of worldly and fleshly desires
	<b>Snares of the Devil</b> – Distorted beliefs that twist God's word and discredit Jesus Christ result in a false religion that has the form of godliness but has no power for salvation

**Key Verse – 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of Truth”**

Inspiration	<b>Faith In Jesus Christ</b> – Entrusting yourself to Jesus means putting your faith in action, to be inspired like Paul to do whatever Jesus asks in gratitude that He has saved you
	<b>Holy Spirit</b> – God’s spirit dwelling within provides power, love, and discipline for living, gives insight for understanding, and guards and inspires passion to share the gospel
	<b>Word of God</b> – Scripture divinely inspired by God, leads to salvation, teaches, corrects, trains in righteousness so the man of God is equipped and inspired unto God’s work
	<b>Spiritual Gifts</b> – God gives talents and gifts through the power of the Holy Spirit for boldness in leadership and knowledge and wisdom for building up the body of Christ
	<b>Ministry</b> – Every Believer is called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, that God sent His Son into the world to save those who believe and make disciples (Matt 28)
	<b>Prayer</b> – Prayer is the key for accessing God’s power for ministry, deliverance in times of persecution, for intercession on behalf of others, and for strengthening one’s faith
	<b>Immortality</b> – Remember the risen Christ, Jesus is the basis for our hope that when we depart from this life we will step into immortality and we will be like Him (1 John 3:2)
	<b>Rewards</b> – For those who have fought the fight and kept the faith, and loved and served the Lord Jesus, there are rewards and an inheritance awaiting in heaven (1 Peter 1:4)

**Key Verse – 2 Timothy 3:15 – 4:2 “All Scripture is inspired by God. Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season, with great patience and instruction”**

# Book of Second Timothy

## Is There Evidence God Exists?

In regards to the subject of ‘*God*,’ people have become increasingly more skeptical of the existence of God. People want evidence they can evaluate for themselves, and often a person will issue a direct challenge for evidence to prove God exists, during a discussion about the God of the Bible. This is a fair and valid question, so, is there evidence that the God of the Bible does indeed exist? Yes, there is substantial evidence; First, for the person who has never picked up a Bible, there are three witnesses, (1) Creation is an external witness that testifies to every person about the glory of God, *Psalms 19:1-3*, (2) Each person’s heart is an internal witness with God’s Moral Law written on their heart, and their Conscience also bears witness to this fact as their thoughts either accuse them or defend them in regards to their words and their works, *Romans 2:15*, (3) Physical death is an absolute witness and constant reminder to each person that something is wrong, that they are guilty and under judgment because of sin and rebellion against God, *Genesis 3, Ezekiel 18:4*. So, the person who has never picked up a Bible, knows God exists, they know they are accountable to God, and they know life is not as it ought to be, that life shouldn’t end in death. Second, for the person who has read the Bible, there are five more witnesses that prove the God of the Bible exists, (4) The Biblical Scriptures are the self revelation of God, (5) The Nation Israel is a witness, (6) Fulfilled Prophecy is a witness, such as *Isaiah 53*, (7) Archaeology testifies as a witness on many Biblical accounts, such as King David, (8) The historicity of Christ and the resurrection testify as another witness. Yet, people will deny the evidence and continue to suppress the truth about God, but *Romans 1:20* says they are without excuse. Now, a question for those who suppress the truth and question the evidence of the existence of the God of the Bible; (1) What more would you have God do than what He has already done? (2) What more would you have God say than what He has already said? (Isaiah 5:4).

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# Book of Titus

Date Written – 64 A.D.

Author: The Apostle Paul

Subject of Titus – ‘ <b>Pastoral Leadership</b> ’	A servant of God is called to train leaders in sound doctrine, inspire growth and godliness in the faithful, and seek the salvation of the lost
The Problem – ‘ <b>Society A Culture of Depravity</b> ’	Society reflects mankind’s fallen nature as people love the world and pursue lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life
The Purpose of Titus – ‘ <b>Instruction and Exhortation</b> ’	The grace of God that brings salvation instructs us to abstain from evil desires and live godly and pursue righteousness
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Importance of Godly Living</b> ’	Believer’s are to be salt and light, good and kind, godly and wise, so that they have a profound influence in their society
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Ungodliness</b> ’	Rebellious men with a depraved mind suppress the truth by practicing wickedness and they encourage others to do the same (Romans 1)
Summary Statement of Titus – ‘ <b>Minister By Example</b> ’	A person who has the love, peace, joy, truth, and hope found only in Christ and serves others will be a light in a dark world

Church Leaders			Church Heretics			Church Relationships			Society Relationships			
Character			Deceivers			Orderly Conduct			Living Witnesses			
Chapters & Subject Divisions	1:1	Godliness	1:9	1:10	Corruption	1:16	2:1	Behavior	2:15	3:1	Citizenship	3:15
	Servants for the faith of those chosen			Beware rebellious men and deceivers			Dignified behavior for men is important			Be subject to the rulers and authorities		
	Servants for the knowledge of truth			Beware the legalism of the Judaizers			Reverent behavior for women is desired			Look for opportunities to do good deeds		
	The relation of truth to godliness			Heresy and corruption upset the church			Good family relationships are important			Do not slander or speak ill of anyone		
	Hope in eternal life promised by God			Pagan cultures are often very ungodly			Young people need to be sensible			Believers were once lost and ungodly		
	Elders are to be above reproach			Reprove severely ungodly behavior			Model your faith and God’s Truth			God saves the lost by His grace and mercy		
	Importance of character and behavior			Myths and legalism stray from the truth			Grace of God appeared bringing salvation			A person is regenerated by the Holy Spirit		
	Strong faith and teach sound doctrine			The unbelieving profess to know God			Look toward the blessed hope in Christ			Believers are justified and made heirs		
	Refute those who contradict the word			A person’s actions reveal the real truth			Be zealous for good deeds for Christ			Godliness is profitable. Shun ungodliness		

Key Verse – Titus 1:1-2 “For the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of truth that is according to godliness in the hope of eternal life God promised long ago

Themes	<b>Church Leadership</b>	Qualifications for leadership are explicit, he must be blameless in his home life, blameless in his personal life, and true and faithful to God’s Word
	<b>Character &amp; Conduct</b>	Belief influences behavior so that faith in Christ should result in visible transformation of every aspect of daily life and reflect godly character
	<b>Blessed Hope</b>	Hope is the confident certainty and expectation of eternal life promised by God that will be revealed upon the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ
	<b>Good Deeds</b>	Believers are not saved by good works, but are saved unto good works to do good for others as Christ has done for them (Matthew 7:12; Ephesians 2:10)
	<b>Citizenship</b>	Believers are dual citizens of the heavenly kingdom and temporarily of this world and called upon to be God’s witnesses and reflect His character in society
	<b>Godless Society</b>	Godless people are foolish and deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, given to slander, envy, hating one another and every other form of evil
	<b>Corruption</b>	Wolves in sheep’s clothing infiltrate the church with the motive to exploit others for financial gain and they prey upon the generous, the naïve, and the weak
	<b>Heresy</b>	Charlatans twist God’s word, teach a different gospel, promote their prideful knowledge, and create a following, but expose themselves by their corrupt lifestyle

Key Verse – Titus 2:11-14 “Our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ gave Himself for us that He might redeem us and purify for Himself a people for His own possession

Pastoral	<b>Church Foundation Is Christ</b>	Jesus Chris is your Savior, He is the one you follow and imitate, so that you leave the old life, live the new life, and look for His coming
	<b>Teach Sound Doctrine</b>	Teaching God’s word is to inspire what is understood and believed to be applied and practiced in personal life, so a life is transformed in Christ
	<b>Personal Example</b>	A good example provides encouragement for others of a life lived in Christ and a walk of Faith. People are not inspired to follow a poorly lived life
	<b>Transformation</b>	Regenerate faith in God leads to knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness which rests in hope of eternal life promised by a God who cannot lie
	<b>Patience &amp; Tough Love</b>	A leader must demonstrate Godly patience and tough love with those slow to learn and lazy in application, continually encouraging their faith
	<b>Godly Living</b>	The test of your fellowship with Christ is the holiness of your life, are you blameless in your thoughts, motives, and actions by power of the Holy Spirit?
	<b>Relationships</b>	The quality of your relationships with family, the church, and in society will reflect the degree of your maturity in Christ and your desire to be His servant

Key Verse – Titus 3:5 “He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done, but according to His mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Spirit



# Book of Titus

## The Spirit Of The Age

The quest for purpose and meaning and the search for answers and truth in regards to man's existence have had philosophers running around in circles for ages. One person attempts to construct an answer for the unity and diversity that encompasses all of thought and all of life, then another person says, "that is not the answer," so that man constructs an answer, but another man says, "that is not right, I will provide the answer," and the next man says, "you have failed, this is the answer," and so on it goes. One person's view of '*What is Truth*' is always in conflict or dispute with another person's viewpoint so the result is that their views are nothing more than preferences with no absolute foundation. Mankind is always searching but never finding what he is looking for, which is a philosophy or worldview that satisfies every person's longings. Man's truth always changes, so man's truth today will be disproven by man's truth tomorrow because mankind is finite and his knowledge is limited. The current popular mindset or what is often called '*The Spirit of the Age*' is that there is no absolute truth, so that what is true for one person need not be true for me or you, therefore, the cry for '*Tolerance*,' and the result is that everything has been reduced to '*Subjective Relativism*.' Relativism, is the belief that all points of view are equally valid, that nothing is objectively right or wrong, and that it is up to each individual to determine '*What is Truth*,' for them. Primarily, the main areas of discussion and contention are; (1) Truth or knowledge, (2) Morals, values, and ethics, (3) Faith and religion, (4) Social justice and politics. The Problem is that Relativism is primarily an individualistic philosophy that appeals to the egotistic, hedonistic, selfish, autonomous, and rebellious nature of mankind. Relativism is not new to mankind, and it has failed before. The theme of the book of 'Judges' in the Bible is, "*Every man did what was right in his own eyes*" (Judges 21:25). The negative consequences of 'Relativism' are everywhere evident in the culture as people have greater psychological struggles with themselves and have greater relationship struggles with other people. The '*Anger*' you see of people lashing out at other people in society, is a common emotional response along with '*Despair*' that people have when their expectations have failed. The Solution; People are diverse and only the God of the Bible is big enough to satisfy the longings and provide the answers each individual person is looking for. The God of the Bible is; (1) A Personable Friend, (2) Forgives sins, removes guilt, (3) Bestows love, grace, and mercy, (4) Delivers justice, (5) Restores hope, purpose and meaning to life. Deuteronomy 8:3 says, "*That He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.*"

Mankind thinks his problem is physical, but God says it is 'Spiritual.'

## Notes

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# Book of Philemon

Date Written – 60 A.D.

Author: Apostle Paul (In Prison)

Subject of Philemon – <b>‘Reconciliation’</b> Bringing together alienated parties of a damaged relationship from injustice and restoring the relationship by repentance and forgiveness
The Problem – <b>‘Indebtedness’</b> An insurmountable debt owed someone that is completely beyond a person’s ability to make restitution for, which requires a redeemer, a benefactor
The Purpose of Philemon – <b>‘Forgiveness’</b> To forgive someone is an act of the will to absolve another person of their injustice to you and receive them back into good fellowship
Positive Central Theme – <b>‘Mercy’</b> Having the position, power, and the opportunity to grant to someone a pardon or reprieve of the repercussions their behavior really deserves
Negative Central Theme – <b>‘Injustice’</b> Any action, behavior, or word spoken from fleshly selfish motives that results in a serious grievance that severely damages a relationship
Summary Statement of Philemon – <b>‘Christian Love’</b> Brotherly love is to have compassion for all fellow Believers and interact with them on the basis of Christ’s love for them

## Appeal To Philemon

## Plea For Onesimus

## Appeal For Mercy

## Plea For Forgiveness

Chapter & Subject Divisions	Verse 1	God’s Mercy	Verse 7	Verse 8	God’s Forgiveness	Verse 25
	Paul, a prisoner, a slave, and a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ			Paul has confidence in the love Philemon has for Jesus Christ to ask a favor from him		
	Paul’s letter is addressed to Philemon and other members of his household			Paul appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, who Paul led to faith in Jesus Christ		
	Paul’s letter is also addressed to the church that meets at Philemon’s house			Onesimus, who formerly was useless has been transformed and is now a useful person		
	Paul gives thanks to God and always remembers Philemon in his prayers			Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon with the letter and Paul’s heartfelt appeal		
	Philemon is commended for his love and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ			Perhaps God’s sovereign hand was directing circumstances to everyone’s benefit		
	Philemon is commended for his love and faith directed toward the Saints			Accept the repentant runaway returning home the same way you would your best friend		
	Christian fellowship is a blessing because of our relationship with Christ			Willing to take on another person’s indebtedness so they can be free in Jesus Christ		
	There is much joy and comfort when hearts are strengthened by brotherly love			Having confidence that sincere Believers will rise to the occasion in Christ like behavior		

**Key Verse – Philemon 4-5 “I thank my God always because I hear of your love, and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints”**

Themes	<b>Christ and Culture</b> – When the Gospel of Jesus Christ is lived out in personal life it not only transforms that life but the Gospel has the power to transform the lost culture
	<b>Slavery</b> – A difficult subject and the Bible doesn’t condemn it, perhaps because it’s a reality of life as every person is born a slave to sin and only in Christ are they set free
	<b>Injustice</b> – To live in a sinful world is to be subject to injustice on a daily basis, some people suffer more than others, learn to overlook, forgive, and go to Jesus for healing
	<b>Restitution</b> – When you have been the cause of injustice toward someone else, it is your responsibility as a Believer in Christ to ask for forgiveness and make restitution
	<b>Transformation</b> – True Faith changes everything, as a person becomes a new creation in Christ there is a change in thought, words, temperament, behavior, motives, etc.
	<b>Forgiveness</b> – When there is forgiveness and reconciliation, injustice and offense is overcome by the Grace of God and sin loses its power to cause discord and separation
	<b>Brotherly Love</b> – To receive and love others just as Jesus received and loved you in spite of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. True love is to be genuine, enduring, and tough

**Key Verse – Philemon 17-18 “If you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me, if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account”**

Forgiveness	<b>The Cross of Christ</b> – The cross is the perfect example as Jesus intercedes on behalf of lost sinners to be reconciled to God by the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God
	<b>The Prodigal Son</b> – The repentant prodigal son returns home to a loving father who, on the basis of mercy and forgiveness, joyfully receives him back in reconciliation
	<b>Peter</b> – After having denied his Lord, a devastated and repentant Peter is restored and reconciled in relationship to Jesus solely on the basis of love, mercy, and forgiveness
	<b>Paul</b> – Paul was estranged from God and was the worst of all sinners, yet through the grace, mercy, and love of God, Paul received forgiveness and was reconciled to God
	<b>John Mark</b> – After having abandoned Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey, John Mark was restored to fellowship based on mercy, forgiveness, and brotherly love
	<b>Woman Caught In Adultery</b> – Jesus’ ministry to people caught in bondage of sin is there is forgiveness not condemnation, if leave their sin and have faith in God’s mercy
	<b>Onesimus</b> – After having deserted, Onesimus found faith in Christ and returns to Philemon with a letter from Paul, encouraging mercy, forgiveness, and brotherly love

**Key Verse – Philemon 21 “Having confidence in your obedience, I write you knowing that you will do even more than what I ask”**

# Book of Philemon

## The Truth About Sin

The subject of ‘*sin*’ immediately stirs up strong emotions and reactions, such as ‘*Who are you to judge.*’ Most people don’t like to be confronted about their depraved behavior, but what is even worse, is that they don’t know the *nature*, *effects*, or the *bondage* of their sin. This can be correlated to a person who has a serious illness but refuses to seek treatment, they will perish because they didn’t want to be diagnosed, treated, and cured. So, what is the ‘*Nature of Sin?*’ When Adam and Eve rebelled against God’s law they sinned and immediately their nature was marred by the consequences of their rebellion which God had warned them about (Genesis 3). All of Adam’s posterity then inherited the sin nature as Romans 5:12 states, “*Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*” The ‘*Effects of Sin*’ have impacted all of man’s relationships. Although man still bears the image of God and the Nobility God bestowed upon him, man is marked by sin and death. This is evidenced; (1) by rebellion, rejection and hatred against God; (2) by deceit, murder, theft, cruelty, quarrels, war, and other inhumanities against mankind; (3) by death, fear, guilt, shame, mental disorders, and other conflict that man has with himself; (4) by the conflict man encounters with the natural environment around him (Genesis 3). Mankind is in ‘*Bondage to Sin*’ as man is spiritually dead and separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). Each person is a sinner by birth, by choice, and by practice; because sin is in the heart, the will, and the nature of man. There are only two responses to sin; (1) Some people reject and deny the truth about sin and don’t want to know God, to which God responds, “*Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?*” (Job 40:8), (2) Other people are looking for God and seeking forgiveness for their sins (Psalm 51, Psalm 32), and that is why Jesus came, “*To seek and save the lost*” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for the forgiveness of sin.

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# Book of Hebrews

Date Written: 64 A.D.

Author: Unknown

Subject of Hebrews – ‘ <b>Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ</b> ’ Hebrews documents the <b>Glory</b> , the <b>Person</b> , the <b>Offices</b> , the <b>Work</b> , the <b>Joy</b> , and the <b>Eternality</b> of Jesus Christ
The Problem – ‘ <b>Persecution</b> ’ New Jewish believers were confronted with Judaism’s hostility and contempt for the idea that Jesus was God’s Son and died on the Cross for Sin
The Purpose of the Book of Hebrews – ‘ <b>Revelation and Exhortation</b> ’ God has spoken to us in His Son and by <b>Faith</b> we inherit the promises of God fully revealed in Jesus Christ
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Work of The Cross</b> ’ The Cross displays the <b>Love</b> , the <b>Power</b> , and the <b>Wisdom</b> of God. Have <b>Confidence</b> in Jesus, the <b>Hope</b> and anchor of your soul
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Shame</b> ’ In Jewish culture a person sought honor and avoided shame. The <b>Truth</b> of the cross is offensive, scandalous, and shameful (1 Cor. 1; Heb. 12)
Summary Statement of Hebrews – ‘ <b>Evaluation</b> ’ The <b>Unbelief</b> of the ten spies kept Israel from the promised rest, therefore, keep the <b>Faith</b> , persevere and enter the rest of the Lord

Superiority Of Christ					Superiority Of New Covenant				Superiority Of Faith	
Very God of Very God					The Work and Word of The Cross				The Just Shall Live By Faith	
Chapters 1:1 Old Covenant of Law was a fading glory 6:20					7:1 New Covenant in Christ is an increasing Glory 10:39				11:1 Faith brings Eternal Life 13:25	
Chapters & Subject Divisions	Superior to Angels	Superior to Moses	Superior to Aaron	The Peril of Vacillating	Melchizedek Priesthood	Superior Covenant	Superior Sanctuary	Superior Sacrifice	The Triumph of Faith	The Triumph of Endurance
	In last days, God spoke to us in His Son Jesus is the same nature and being as God Jesus position is greater than the angels Jesus came to defeat death and the devil Jesus Christ crowned with glory and honor	Moses was a man, Jesus is the Son of God Moses served in house, Jesus built house Moses prophet of Law, Jesus fulfills Law Moses led out of Egypt, Jesus leads to rest	Aaron is high priest, Jesus great high priest Aaron ministered on earth, Jesus in heaven Melchizedek priesthood superior to Aaron Jesus Christ offered a superior sacrifice	Neglect results in drifting away from Word Failure to trust word results in a hard heart Dull of hearing causes spiritual immaturity Failure to learn results in inability to teach <b>Hope in Jesus is the anchor of the soul</b>	Melchizedek was a King Priest of God King of Jerusalem, righteousness, & peace Melchizedek received tithes from Abraham Jesus is a priest in order of Melchizedek Jesus ministry based on the New Covenant Jesus saves forever those who come to him	New Covenant brings freedom from Law The New Covenant is of Faith and promise New Covenant imparts life by the Spirit New Covenant imparts righteousness	Earthly sanctuary vs. heavenly sanctuary Veil is removed allowing all access to God External ministry vs. internal ministry Blood of animals vs. the blood of Christ	God provided sacrifice required not man Blood of Christ provides for removal of sin Jesus’ sacrifice was sufficient, once for all Those who reject Christ face wrath of God	Faith is the assurance of things hoped for Without faith it’s impossible to know God True Faith will be followed by obedience Faith chooses the eternal over the temporal Confident faith rests in God’s faithfulness By faith some achieve great victory in life By faith some endure great suffering in life	Be encouraged by the witnesses before us Fix your eyes on Jesus, author of your faith God disciplines His children for their good Don’t let bitterness spring up & defile you Jesus, the same today, yesterday, & forever <b>Don’t refuse Jesus for inferior teachings</b>

Key Verse – Hebrews 1:1-3 “God has spoken in His Son, and He is the exact representation of His nature (being) and upholds all things by the word of His power”

Themes	<b>Superiority of Christ</b> – Jesus is above all in power, might, and dominion, and above every name that is named. He is able to save to the very end, those who trust in Him
	<b>Offices Of Christ</b> – Christ came as a <b>prophet</b> to testify to truth, as the great high <b>priest</b> who offered a superior sacrifice, and as <b>king</b> of kings who will rule the nations
	<b>Old Covenant</b> – The Mosaic Covenant was <b>insufficient</b> and weak as it couldn’t impart righteousness nor life, and sacrifices had to be continually offered day after day
	<b>New Covenant</b> – The New Covenant is the <b>Sacrifice of Christ</b> , which offers forgiveness, righteousness, eternal life, and access to God through <b>Faith</b> in Jesus Christ
	<b>Faith &amp; God’s Promises</b> – Faith is only as strong and secure as the person in whom it is placed, God is faithful to His promises because it is impossible for Him to lie
	<b>Maturity &amp; Endurance</b> – Believers become mature only as they endure and share in the sufferings of Christ, which prove their character and the faithfulness of God

Key Verse – Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and He is a rewarder of those who seek Him”

Warnings	<b>Danger of Drifting 2:1-4</b> – ‘Neglect’ Believers need to pay attention to the great salvation they have received in Jesus, in order to prevent drifting from God’s Truth
	<b>Danger of Unbelief 3:7-4:13</b> – ‘Hard Heart’ Doubt and a hard heart results in a constant struggle with sin and restless unbelief and thus forfeits God’s full blessings
	<b>Danger of Not Maturing 5:11-6:20</b> – ‘Spiritual Ignorance’ When a person is <b>Ignorant</b> of the theology of the Cross there is no spiritual foundation for maturity
	<b>Danger of Drawing Back 10:26-39</b> – ‘Hesitant’ Unconvinced of God’s goodness and unwilling to trust Him, people put God to the test and conclude He doesn’t care
	<b>Danger of Refusing God 12:25-29</b> – ‘Resist’ Believing it of no value to serve God, people willing disobey and walk away, refusing Jesus His rightful place in their life

Key Verse – Hebrews 12:2 “Fixing our eyes upon Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, has sat down at the right hand of God”

# Book of Hebrews

## Begotten vs. Created

In John 1:14, the apostle says that, Jesus is God manifest in the flesh and further states that Jesus is the only begotten of the Father. *It is essential that the difference between begotten and created clearly be understood.* The word ‘*begotten*’ is used to indicate one of the same nature is brought forth, such as a father begetting a son. Whereas, the word ‘*created*’ is used to describe something other that is formed or fashioned from a design that first originates within a rational intelligence, before being brought forth, such as God creating angels, mankind, animals, or the earth. So, in Genesis 1:27, when it states, “*God created man in His own image.*” Scholars take this to mean that man has a dignity and superiority about him that separates him from the rest of creation. Within man’s character, he has emotion, the intelligence for reasoning and a will. Within his morality, man has the freedom and responsibility of obedience towards right and wrong, and within his spirituality, man has the capacity for relationship and communion with God. However, all of the elements of mankind’s makeup were severely marred by sin. This is not so with Jesus Christ, for He’s unlike any other man. Psalm 2:7 states, “*The Lord hath said to Me, Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee,*” this along with the statements of John 1:14 and John 3:16-17 leave us with an ‘absolute’ that demands Jesus must have the same nature as His Father, and there is not another like Him. God could not have made a greater sacrifice, than sending his Son. Six absolute truths about Jesus are present in John 1:1-5. (1) Whenever the beginning was in eternity past, the Word (Jesus) was already there existing. (2) In the beginning, the Word was there co-existing with God (Father). (3) From the beginning, the Word has the same nature as God the Father. (4) The Word created all things. No created thing or being exists that He did not create. (5) The Word is the source of all physical and spiritual life. Man’s physical and spiritual life comes from Him. (6) This light (Jesus) would invade the dominion of the darkness (the world).

## The Mystery Of Christ

The Bible presents Jesus as God the Son, which is a confusing mystery to many people. Jesus in prayer to the Father in John 17:1-3 states, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” In John 14:9 Jesus answered Philip’s request to see the Father by saying, “Have I been so long with you, yet hast thou not known Me Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father. How do you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” Jesus exhorts the disciples to believe in Him based upon His words and works, and He states in John 14:10-11, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? Jesus makes three things very clear: (1) There is only one true God, (2) For those who see and know Jesus, it is the same as seeing and knowing the Father. (3) The words and works of Jesus testify to who He is. Hebrews 1:2-3 confirms this as it states, “God in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.” There are several truths in relation to Jesus Christ besides the ‘Trinity’ that are a mystery to people because they are spiritual in nature, such as: (1) The Incarnation and the Virgin Birth, (2) The Substitutionary Atonement of the Cross, (3) The Resurrection, (4) The Indwelling and personal relationship with a believer, (5) Eternal Life after death, (6) The Authority of Jesus’ Words, (7) The Rapture, (8) Jesus is Immutable, (9) The physical return of Jesus Christ as King, to reign over all the nations.

## Notes

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# Book of James

**Date Written: 45-50 A.D.**

**Author: James (The Lord's Brother)**

Subject of James – <b>‘Christian Conduct’</b> True faith honors and glorifies God in everyday life. Whom you love you serve with joy and what you love you pursue with all your heart
The Problem – <b>‘Behavior Contradicts Declaration’</b> Professing to have faith in God without having genuine deeds of righteousness is the devil's delusion (Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:4)
The Purpose of James – <b>‘Confront Hypocrisy’</b> Talk is cheap and your religion is vain if your life reflects selfish ambition, moral filth, an unruly tongue, and worldly behavior
Positive Central Theme – <b>‘Word of God Leads To Maturity’</b> God's Word planted within inspires a Believer to grow spiritually and to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only
Negative Central Theme – <b>‘Spiritual Immaturity’</b> Failure to pursue Godly behavior shows a person does not understand faith or what God has done for them or they're not saved
Summary Statement of James – <b>‘Obedience’</b> True Faith is putting God's Word into practice in your changed life, walking the talk. To do otherwise is to be exposed as a hypocrite

<b>Trials &amp; Temptations</b>		<b>Sin of Partiality</b>	<b>Selfish Ambition</b>	<b>Double Minded</b>	<b>Self Indulgence</b>
<b>Behavior</b>		<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Wisdom</b>	<b>Motives</b>	<b>Accountability</b>
<b>Faith Perseveres</b>		<b>Faith Works</b>	<b>Faith Discerns</b>	<b>Faith Submits</b>	<b>Faith Triumphs</b>
<b>Chapter &amp; Subject Divisions</b>	<b>1:1 Spiritual Growth 1:27</b> Find Joy in all circumstances	<b>2:1 Right Choices 2:26</b> Don't show acts of favoritism	<b>3:1 Righteousness 3:18</b> Teachers have responsibility	<b>4:1 Humility 4:17</b> Wrong motives cause disorder	<b>5:1 Patience 5:20</b> Worldly wealth is temporary
	Faith perseveres and matures	Don't insult those who are poor	Controlling what the tongue says	The world is an enemy of God	Rich often oppress others
	Ask God for wisdom	The rich often mock the Lord Jesus	The tongue can be constructive	God opposes pride in people	Day of accountability to God
	Temptation from evil desires	Love your neighbor as yourself	The tongue can be destructive	Submit yourselves to God <b>Matthew 6 – Two masters</b>	Be patient until Lord returns
	Quick to listen. Slow to speak	All people have broken God's law	Evil speech is inspired by devil	Resist the devil and he will flee	Persevere like Job in trials
	Be doers of the Word of God	True faith performs good deeds	Evil speech contrary to faith	Don't be double minded	Suffering first then glory
	God's word gives freedom	Abraham illustrates faith in action	Worldly wisdom is of the devil	Don't judge one another	Make prayer a priority
	Faith pursues Godly behavior	Faith without deeds is worthless	Godly wisdom is honorable	Seek God's will for your life	Prayer is powerful privilege

**Key Verse – James 1:22-25 “Prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers and so deceive yourselves, an effectual doer will be blessed in what he does”**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>God's Word</b> – The Bible is divine revelation and instruction that exposes the sin nature, teaches of God's grace for salvation, and exhorts believers to live in righteousness
	<b>Trials And Temptations</b> – Trials and temptations prove the degree of maturity of faith in God the believer has in their heart and they expose worldly entanglement in sin
	<b>Behavior</b> – Conduct reveals core values of the heart and whether the motives are governed by faith or by the flesh. Without faith it's impossible to please God (Heb 11:6)
	<b>Wisdom</b> – There is a stark contrast between the worldly wisdom of selfish ambition and Godly wisdom that is peace loving, full of grace and mercy, and serves others
	<b>Wealth</b> – Worldly wealth has always been a stumbling block for God's people (Matt 6). True wealth is to know Jesus and have an inheritance in heaven (Phil. 3; 1 Pet 1)
	<b>Faith And Religion</b> – True faith is the unfolding of God's presence and influence in daily life. Religion is empty and worthless if it is all ritual, rhetoric, and masquerade

**Key Verse – James 2:14-18 “What good is it if a man claims to have faith, but he has no deeds? Can that faith save him? I will show you my faith by what I do”**

<b>True Faith</b>	<b>A Changed Life</b> – True faith in Jesus is a marked by a changed life. A change of heart, mind, behavior, speech, values, priorities, a new worldview centered around God
	<b>Persevere In Adversity</b> – An unexpected and unwanted crisis provides the opportunity to respond counter intuitively in faith and in God's wisdom to achieve God's goal
	<b>Working Faith</b> – Obedience is not defined as do these things and you will be accepted, rather because of your faith you are accepted, now do these things (Eph 2:8-10)
	<b>God's Wisdom</b> – God's Word counsels and inspires genuine acts of righteous behavior in the Believer's life that God desires instead of selfish pride and entertaining sin
	<b>Virtue</b> – Mature Godly behavior has great influence as outward actions and speech profoundly impact the lives of others as well as our own, joy inspires joy and more joy
	<b>Prayer</b> – The most powerful resource a Believer has is communion with God through prayer. If you need wisdom, endurance, compassion, temperance, virtue, then pray!

**Key Verse – James 5:16-17 “The prayer of a righteous man is effective and can accomplish much. Elijah was a man just like us”**



# Book of James

## The Law Of God

The first question to answer is, “*What is the definition of Law?*” ‘Law’ is a set or system of rules, a standard of conduct that is binding upon those under said ‘Law,’ and enforced by the ruling authority who established said ‘Law’. God has set up laws that govern the universe, laws that govern the planet Earth, laws that govern all of nature and the animal life, and God has set up laws that govern the existence of mankind. One purpose of God’s ‘Law’ is to provide for a person’s best interest and for those around them and at the same time to prevent harm or disaster from coming upon them. God’s Law has blessings for obedience and consequences for those who practice lawlessness and rebellion; *Psalms 1* states this fact very clearly, that the way of the wicked will perish. It has been said that Law without consequences or punishment is only advice. The second and primary purpose of God’s Law is to show each and every person that they are unable to keep God’s Law. James 2:10 states, “*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all,*” and Romans 3:23 tells us all people have violated God’s Law. So, why would God establish a law and code of conduct that was impossible for mankind to keep? To expose mankind’s heart as sinful and wicked, and that mankind has fallen far from where God intended mankind to be. However, God created mankind with ‘Free Will’ and man is addicted to self-effort and self-law, therefore many people choose to govern themselves to their own destruction rather than appealing to God’s love, grace, and mercy for forgiveness and eternal life. This is why Jesus came, to make a way for those who have no way, to give those who believe a hope and a future, (Jeremiah 29:11).

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# Book of First Peter

Date Written – 62-64 A.D.

Author: The Apostle Peter

Subject of 1 Peter – ‘ <b>Suffering For The Faith</b> ’ In living for the will of God, the Believer will suffer attacks from the devil, persecution from the world, and sinful desires of the flesh
The Problem – ‘ <b>Trials</b> ’ Adversity is the catalyst that activates faith dependent upon God’s grace and mercy so that joy and hope reign even in the midst of temporary grief (James 1)
The Purpose of 1 Peter – ‘ <b>Confidence In Christ</b> ’ The Christian’s living hope and confidence in Christ is as certain as the fact that Jesus is alive. (Assurance in knowing truth - 1 John)
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>A Refined Faith</b> ’ Trials purify and prove faith genuine as faith is put into practice. God’s word and promises must be applied in life to prove they are true
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Opposition To Christianity</b> ’ The world resents and heaps abuse upon Christians because they avoid sinful activity. World hates those who follow Jesus
Summary Statement of 1 Peter – ‘ <b>Christ Is Our Model</b> ’ In the midst of great suffering, Jesus is our example to live above reproach in remaining faithful and obedient to God (2:21)

Summary Statement of 1 Peter: Christ is Our Model. In the midst of great suffering, Jesus is our example to live above reproach in remaining faithful and obedient to God (2:21)															
Living Christ			The Living Stone			Christ's Submission			Suffering Of Christ			Chief Shepherd			
Living Hope			Living Stones			Submission			Suffering For Christ			Shepherds			
Chapter & Subject Divisions	1:1	Salvation	1:25	2:1	Growth	2:25	3:1	Suffering	3:22	4:1	Serving God	4:19	5:1	Overseers	5:14
	New birth by faith in Christ			Abstain from evil behavior			Submission is admirable by God			Christ suffered in life and in death			Be shepherds of God's flock		
	Living hope in the risen Jesus			Grow up in your Salvation			Beauty is a gentle and quiet spirit			Have the same view of sin as Jesus			Serve eagerly with pure motives		
	Inheritance kept in Heaven			Jesus Christ chosen by God			True beauty modeled by Sarah			God will judge the living and dead			Jesus is the Chief Shepherd		
	Trials refine faith in Jesus			Believers are a chosen people			Husbands value your wives			Be clear minded and pray			Men respect your elders		
	Love for the Lord Jesus Christ			Live good lives and glorify God			Live in harmony with others			Be servants of God to others			Humble yourselves before God		
	Set your hope in Jesus, be holy			Submit yourselves to authority			Don't respond unkindly to others			Sufferings are part of every life			Beware of your enemy the devil		
	The precious blood of Christ			If you suffer injustice, endure it			Make Christ Lord of your life			Rejoice in suffering for Christ			Resist the devil in your Faith		
	New life in the divine nature			Christ is our example to follow			Christ died for sins, once for all			Suffering for Christ is a Blessing			God restores those who suffer		

Key Verse 1 Peter 1:3 “God the Father in His great mercy has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

Themes	<b>Salvation In Christ</b> – Foretold by Prophets (Isaiah 53; 1 Peter 1:10-12) and preached by Peter (Acts 4) that salvation and eternal life are found only in Jesus and no one else
	<b>Persecution &amp; Suffering</b> – Believers are to have the mind of Christ and remember He first endured the suffering of the cross, then received the glory and crown (1 Peter 4)
	<b>Encouragement &amp; Perseverance</b> – In the midst of adversity remember you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your soul (Heb 10:35; Rom 13:11; Phil 2:12)
	<b>Submission &amp; Obedience</b> – Submission and obedience reflect a gentle quiet inner spirit whose hope is in Jesus as they live to serve others, this is of great value in God’s sight
	<b>God’s Justice</b> – Believers are to entrust themselves to God’s justice, this means God can ask us to endure injustice and He will make things right in His way and in His time
<b>Relationships</b> – Believer’s relationships with family and the brethren should reflect harmony, value, love, and humility. Be kind and respectful to others in good conscience	

Key Verse 1 Peter 1:7 “These trials have come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed”

Salvation	<b>New Birth</b> – The new birth brings forth new life into a new imperishable nature, which is the spiritual, glorious, eternal, holy, loving, and all powerful <b>Divine Nature</b> of God
	<b>Living Hope</b> – Living hope is based on the living resurrected Jesus and on God’s living Word which promises hope for this life and assurance of <b>Eternal Life</b> (John 14:1-3)
	<b>Trials</b> – God uses trials to grow and mature our <b>Faith</b> , but trials are also like mirrors that reflect our tendency to want control, our character flaws, and how we restrict God
	<b>Refined Faith</b> – A new Believer may not be convinced God’s way is best, but through trials God’s grace and mercy inspire a greater <b>Trust</b> , knowledge and confidence in God
	<b>Love For Jesus Christ</b> – A new personal relationship with God through the Holy Spirit by faith instills a new found and ever increasing love for Jesus (Rom 5:5; 1 Thess 4:9)
	<b>Transformation</b> – Turning from the empty way of life of the world and evil sinful desires of the flesh to follow Christ’s example and walk in His footsteps (1 Peter 2)
<b>Mystery</b> – God’s plan of salvation was a mystery to the prophets and the angels just as our <b>Inheritance</b> kept in heaven by God is a mystery waiting to be revealed (1 Peter 1)	

Key Verse 1 Peter 4:1-2 “He who has suffered in his body is done with sin, as a result, he does not live the rest of his life for evil desires, but rather for the will of God”

# Book of First Peter

## What Is The Gospel?

Nothing has troubled mankind more than the inescapable certainty of death, as no greater absolute has been placed upon all of mankind like that of death. Each person knows death waits, but the uncertainty of death and what follows only increases the anxiety and fear many people feel. So, people refuse to think about what will happen when life ends, and they refuse to seek answers to questions such as, what is death and why must we face it? The first fact to be discovered for such questions would be that death is a judgment leveled upon all mankind because of sin, rebellion, and lawlessness against God. The second fact that would be discovered is that there are two kinds of death, spiritual and physical. Spiritual death was the immediate separation between man and God because of sin and physical death would be a constant reminder to mankind of their sin and their need for reconciliation to God (Genesis 3). Mankind cannot change his condition nor can he save himself, so is there any hope? Romans 3:23 says, *“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”* Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* So, God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He has loved us, has demonstrated His love toward us, *“In that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). This is the ‘Gospel,’ that Jesus came to make dead men live. 1 Peter 3:18 says, *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”*

Jesus says it is the truth that sets you free and in John 6:63 Jesus says, *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.”*

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# Book of Second Peter

Date Written – 65-67 A. D.

Author: The Apostle Peter

Subject of 2 Peter – ‘ <b>Grow In Faith And Knowledge of Christ</b> ’ Know your faith is the same as Peter’s, and he details the application of spiritual knowledge to grow in faith in Christ
The Problem – ‘ <b>Forgetfulness And Spiritual Deception</b> ’ Too often Believers forget how to deal with sin or are deceived by false teaching and need reminded of the truth in God’s word
The Purpose of 2 Peter – ‘ <b>Exhort Believers In What They Know</b> ’ A mature faith is active in application of knowledge, fruitful in good deeds, wary of false teaching, vigilant for Christ
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>The Divine Nature</b> ’ The very nature of God born within a Believer’s heart by the Holy Spirit, who regenerates and indwells those with a saving faith in Jesus
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>The Sinful Nature</b> ’ The fleshly nature inherited from Adam is corrupted by sin and dead towards God and marked by rebellion, selfishness, and wickedness
Summary Statement of 2 Peter – ‘ <b>Remember God</b> ’ Be diligent to remember God’s calling and daily work out your salvation so you don’t backslide by neglecting the truth and Christ

Knowledge of God			Knowledge of False Teaching		Knowledge of Christ's Return				
Established In Truth			Corruption of Truth		Vindication of Truth				
Chapters & Subject Divisions	1:1	God's Faithful Promises	1:21	2:1	God's Word Maligned	2:22	3:1	God's Righteous Judgment	3:18
	Every Believer receives a faith of the same kind			False prophets were in Israel they will also be in the Church			Remember and do not forget God's prophetic word		
	Grace and peace are multiplied in knowledge of God			False prophets introduce heresies and slander God's truth			In the last days there will be scoffers and mockers of God		
	God's divine power, precious promises, divine nature			God's past judgment is a harbinger of His future judgment			The skeptics dismiss Jesus as Lord and His coming return		
	Progress by adding Godly attributes to your faith			God rescues the godly and holds the wicked for judgment			God's powerful word brings to pass whatever He wills		
	Important to remain faithful to God's calling			The wicked having no knowledge revile the things of God			God isn't slow about promises but patient toward sinners		
	Important to remember truth and knowledge of God			The wicked have trained their hearts in accursed behavior			On the Day of the Lord the heavens and earth will perish		
	Eyewitness accounts of the Apostles is significant			Thinking they have freedom, they are slaves of corruption			Believers must reflect the character of God, not the world		
Scripture is God's Word and divinely inspired			Warning – Don't turn from righteousness back to the world			You who know truth continue in the knowledge of God			
Key Verse – 2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory"									
Themes	Divine Nature – Partaking of the divine nature is a profound statement of the new birth of a Believer delivered from darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of God (Col. 1)								
	Divine Inspiration of Scripture – God's written Word is of divine origin and explicit in knowledge, truth, life, prophecy, and is a light shining in a dark place to be examined								
	Knowledge – Faith is the precious knowledge of God's truth and this knowledge leads to a godly life, exposes and overcomes false teaching, and is confident in Jesus' return								
	False Teachers – Know that satan's conspiracy will always result in heresy and error as God's Word is maligned. Biblical knowledge is important to correct, refute, and rebuke								
	God's Judgment – The Old Testament accounts of sure judgment on the ungodly are a solemn warning that all unrighteousness is under condemnation for the day of judgment								
Christ's Return – Second coming of Christ is guaranteed and will vindicate God's Name and His Word as the Day of the Lord will silence the scoffers as God has the last word									
Key Verse – 2 Peter 2:9 "Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment"									
Divine Nature	Divine Power – Through God's divine power He has bestowed upon us everything we need for life and godliness. The Holy Spirit enables us to be partakers of the divine nature								
	Faith and Promises – Through faith we lay hold of God's very great and precious promises so God's divine power manifests His divine nature in the daily life of the Believer								
	Moral Excellence – Progress in the faith requires virtuous characteristics be added to a changing life so good moral habits are established and fleshly lustful desires are purged								
	Knowledge – Distinguished from the intimate knowledge of God, this is wisdom and discernment needed in order to walk in the paths of righteousness (Proverbs; Matthew 5-7)								
	Self Control – Believers are no longer governed by fleshly passion and emotion, rather God's Biblical principles provide counsel in order to walk by the Spirit in newness of life								
	Perseverance – The resolve to stay the course and keep the faith no matter the difficulty or distress, trusting God's goodness and sovereignty over every circumstance of life								
	Godliness – Personal behavior so completely transformed by the power of God so every thought, word, and action reflects the righteous character of God and Christ (Romans 8)								
Brotherly Kindness and Love – Express kindness and demonstrate sacrificial love for the brethren, for those in need, love in spite of differences, and to have love for the lost									
Key Verse – 2 Peter 3:3 "Know this that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, saying, where is the promise of His coming?"									

# Book of Second Peter

## Good Men Don't Lie

The fact that Jesus is a historical figure in history is documented by sources outside the Bible, such as '*Tacitus*.' So, the question isn't whether Jesus actually existed in history, but who was He? It is common to hear people respond; "Jesus was a good man, and a good teacher, and if the world would live by His teachings, it would be a better place, but He wasn't who He said he was." Do you see the obvious contradiction in the previous statement? A vast majority of people really believe that Jesus was a good man with good teachings, but at the same time they are calling Him a liar. There is a problem here, *Good men, as Jesus words and works proved Himself to be, don't lie*. The first coming of Jesus did not fulfill all the Biblical prophecies associated with His coming so it is necessary that there must be another coming of Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 1:10-11 it states that first there would be the sufferings of Christ and that the Glories would follow. Jesus stated in Matthew 25:31-32 that there would come a time when He would come in all His Glory and all the Holy Angels with Him and sit upon the throne of His Glory with all the Nations gathered before Him. So, if Jesus isn't a liar, then His words take on significant importance and meaning, and the Book of Revelation which is the unveiling of the return of Jesus Christ should be important to every person to understand.

## Pride And Unbelief

John 12:37 presents a sobering statement; "Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in Him." The miracles of Jesus were neither few in number nor unimpressive in nature. Jesus had performed unbelievable works of power of almost every conceivable kind. He healed the sick, healed the crippled, expelled demons, controlled the winds, walked on the sea, turned the water into wine, gave sight to the blind, revealed to men their secret thoughts, and raised the dead. Jesus' miracles were done openly, in the light of day, before numerous witnesses, yet the people as a whole and especially the religious leaders "still would not believe in Him." The prevalence of unbelief, and the indifference of the people then, down through the ages, and especially now, is really illogical, tragic, and makes no sense at all. People's heart and conscience tells them one thing, but their pride tells them another, and they choose to follow pride. God has done all He can do to help people believe, yet people reject and refuse to believe the truth that has been openly revealed to them multiple times in multiple ways. In a sense, people close their eyes to the truth and therefore become blind by their own choosing. The Bible exposes the corruption, the sinfulness, the pride, and the hardness of the human heart towards God. Pride is the arrogance and the false assumption that you have power and complete control over your life, that you determine what is truth and important, and that your code of ethics and moral values are the right ones. When God addresses pride in the Bible He addresses it in malignant terms; (1) Pride is an abomination and the sin God hates most (Proverbs 6:16-17), (2) Pride is the root of evil (Proverbs 8:13), (3) Pride leads to dishonor (Proverbs 11:2), (4) Pride will lead to destruction (Proverbs 16:18-25).

God says that people love to rule by their own authority, but what will they do when they come to the end of it all? (Jeremiah 5:30-31).

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# Book of First John

Date Written: 85-90 A.D.

Author: Apostle John in Ephesus

Subject of 1 John – ‘ <b>God</b> ’ He who is from the beginning, the Eternal Life, the Creator, who appeared to mankind through the historical fact of the <b>Incarnation</b> of the Eternal Son
The Problem – ‘ <b>Deceptive Philosophy</b> ’ Alternative spirituality confuses truth with lies and appeals to the pride of man, and denies the way, truth, and life found only in Jesus
The Purpose of 1 John – ‘ <b>Assurance of Truth</b> ’ Truth is supported by historical, contemporary, and timeless evidence that can be <b>known</b> personally, experienced, tested, verified
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>Fellowship</b> ’ Eternal Life is to know God. Real Life is to have a conscious, continuous, intimate communion with the Son, the Father, and Believers
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>The World, The Flesh, The Devil, and Sin</b> ’ The Darkness constantly conspires to deny and devalue the person and the work of Jesus Christ
Summary Statement of 1 John – ‘ <b>God Revealed In Christ</b> ’ Who is Jesus Christ? (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1) If a person is wrong about Jesus Christ, they will be wrong about God

God Is Light		World Is Darkness		God Is Love		God Is Life	
Incarnation of Christ		Enemy of Christ		Sacrifice of Christ		Victory of Christ	
Fellowship With God		Deception		Christian Fellowship		Assurance	
Chapter & Subject Divisions	1:1 Foundation Of Truth 1:10	2:1 Spirit Of Antichrist 2:29	3:1 Foundation For Real Living 4:21	5:1 Foundation For Hope 5:21			
	God is beginning point of all things	Jesus is propitiation for sins of the world	Children of God practice righteousness	A true Believer in Jesus is born of God			
	God was manifested in Jesus Christ	Discern who walks in truth, who is a liar	Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil	Christian love is witness of a Believer			
	John bears witness what he has seen	Discern who is light and who is darkness	In love, Jesus laid down His life for us	Overcome the world by faith in Jesus			
	Fellowship with God through Jesus	Believers must overcome the evil one	God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ	Spirit of Truth bears witness of Jesus			
	God is Light and no darkness at all	Do not love the world of darkness	God commands us to love one another	Denying Jesus makes God to be a liar			
	To walk in light is to practice truth	Lust of eyes, lust of flesh, pride of life	Discern if spirit is of God or a false spirit	Assurance of Eternal Life in Jesus			
	Blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin	Spirit of antichrist has deceived many	Holy Spirit helps us discern truth from error	True Believers do not practice sin			
	If we confess our sins, God forgives	Holy Spirit reveals truth of life in Jesus	God is love, God’s love is manifested in us	Guard yourself from idols of the world			
Key Verse – 1 John 2:1-2 “Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (John 1:29)							
Themes	Witness – John establishes the authority of truth on his empirical eyewitness experience of seeing, hearing, touching, and knowing the historical resurrected Jesus Christ						
	Gospel – The Gospel is more than a philosophy of man’s ideas. The Gospel is the truth, Jesus came into world to seek and save lost sinners (Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15)						
	Truth – Jesus revealed truth about God, man, and life which provides confidence and assurance so <b>We Know</b> if we believe the truth about Jesus that we have eternal life						
	Fellowship – Who we associate with reveals who we are, what we practice reveals what we truly value and believe. There can be no fellowship between darkness and light						
	Deception – The natural man of the world loves the <b>Darkness</b> (John 3:16-21). The spirit of <b>Antichrist</b> deceives people so they love not God’s truth and believe false <b>Idols</b>						
	Religion – A mystical subjective religious system or experience that propagates man’s thinking as superior to God’s empirical truth revealed in His Word and Jesus Christ						
Key Verse – 1 John 4:8-9 “God is love, by this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so we might live through Him							
God	God The Father – God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever <b>Believes</b> in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John)						
	Jesus Christ – God <b>Manifested</b> and revealed Himself openly to the world through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is final and complete revelation of God to men (Hebrews 1)						
	Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit regenerates (John 3; Titus 3:5; 1 John). The Spirit abides, testifies of truth, glorifies Jesus, and convicts the world of sin (John 14-16; 1 John)						
	God is Light – God is light, in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). To fellowship with God, a person must have deliverance from darkness through Christ (Colossians 1)						
	God is Love – God is the source of unconditional selfless love. The love of God is a communicable attribute manifested in those born of God to love others as God loves						
	God is Life – Through <b>Faith</b> and belief in Jesus a person is <b>Born</b> a child of God and receives <b>Eternal Life</b> . Those who do not know Jesus do not have life (Matthew 7:23)						
Key Verse – 1 John 5:13 “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (John 5:24)							

# Book of First John

## The Need For Forgiveness

The Bible says in Isaiah 59:2 that, *“Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God. Your sins have hidden His face from you.”* People often struggle with guilt for all the bad things they have done so they think that God would never consider forgiving them. Others in their shame believe they have committed the unpardonable sin, which God cannot forgive, thus many people conclude it is useless to approach God because He will want nothing to do with them. Yet, God says in Isaiah 1:18, *“Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord. “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be white as snow.”* The burden many people carry is heavy and it often leads to despair, but it need not be this way because Jesus came to set sinners free from the bondage of their sin. God’s forgiveness is demonstrated in the story of the ‘Prodigal Son’ in Luke 15 where the father welcomes a wayward son back home with open arms. So also does God desire for each person to be reconciled back into right relationship with Him, and He is willing to forgive all who come to Him asking for forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Jesus says in Matthew 11:28, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.”* God doesn’t overlook our sin or turn a blind eye towards sin, rather He is able to forgive us based upon the fact that His Son, Jesus, who knew no sin paid our sin debt that we could never pay (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Where there is forgiveness, sin has no power. Psalm 32:1 states, *“How blessed is he whose sin is forgiven.”*

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Date Written: 90 A.D.

# Books of Second & Third John

Author: Apostle John

Subject of 2 & 3 John – ‘ <b>The Truth</b> ’ There is a supreme overarching Truth from which all other truth proceeds and that Truth is Jesus Christ (John 1:1-18; John 14:6; John 18:37)
The Problem – ‘ <b>Spirit of Antichrist</b> ’ Teachings and beliefs that deny the deity and truth of Jesus Christ and offer a substitute theology of Christ or another Jesus (2 Corinth. 11)
The Purpose of 2 & 3 John – ‘ <b>Warning of Threat to Truth</b> ’ Watch out for false teaching and don’t entertain it, and be alert for prideful church leaders who manipulate the truth
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>To Do Good</b> ’ Christian love is an act of the will, to love God is to love others and treat them in the same way God treats you, with grace and kindness
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Pride of Knowledge</b> ’ Pursuit of knowledge without love of truth will always be fascinated with new insights that convey a sense of spiritual elitism
Summary Statement of 2 & 3 John – ‘ <b>Walking In The Truth</b> ’ Let the Word of God and your intimate personal relationship with Jesus reign over the events of your everyday life

## Love Of The Truth

## Walking In The Truth

Bad Doctrine

Bad Conduct

2 John Verse 1

### Guard Against False Teachers

2 John Verse 13

3 John Verse 1

### Guard Against Prideful Leaders

3 John Verse 14

Chapter & Subject Divisions

Knowledge of the Truth unites Believers in genuine love and fellowship

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth that all of life is centered around

Truth transforms a life, Truth abides in daily life, Truth will be with us forever

Grace, Mercy, and Peace are from God and from Jesus, in truth and love

Walking in Truth is to obey God’s commandments and love one another

**Look Out! Watch yourselves that you do not stray from the Truth**

False teachers deny Christ’s deity because they do not know God nor the Truth

Prayer for Believers to be blessed by God and give thanks for those maturing spiritually

It is a joy and blessing to hear of fellow Believers walking faithfully in the Truth

Believers act faithfully on behalf of God when they help those bearing witness of God

It’s important to help ministers of the Truth, to be fellow workers in spreading the truth

Prideful leaders are motivated by selfish ambition rather than serving God and the Truth

**A testimony that is true will be according to Biblical Truth**

Do not imitate evil conduct, but imitate those who walk in truth, love God, and do good

**Key Verse – 2 John 2 “For the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son”**

Themes

**Truth & Love** – Truth is the most valuable thing in the world (Proverbs 3) for it leads you to God, and to love truth will lead you to faith and eternal life in Jesus Christ

**Obedience** – A transformed life is under Christ’s authority and the upward call of God (Philippians 3) and those who truly love God keep His commandments (John 14)

**Home & Church** – Satan’s primary targets are the home and church, so it’s important for the truth and love to modeled in the home and church to greatly influence society

**Discernment** – Teaching contradictory to the Apostle’s doctrine on the Word of God and the Person of Jesus Christ is to be rejected as heresy destructive to True Faith

**Pride of Knowledge** – When the priority is to self promote one’s knowledge it will lead to selfish ambition rather than proclaiming and glorifying the name of Jesus Christ

**Spirit of Antichrist** – False teaching points to another source of truth, denies Christ as God incarnate, and introduces the lie that salvation is by works or special knowledge

**Key Verse – 2 John 7 “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, this is the antichrist”**

Truth

**Reality** – Truth defines reality: Genesis explains everything about mankind’s existence and why life is the way it is, and prophecy foretells the truth of the future reality

**God** – God is the ultimate source and reference point for all truth: Everything that exists can trace its origin and beginning point back to the creating hand and mind of God

**Jesus Christ** – Jesus is the embodiment of all truth: If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus. If you want to know unconditional love, look to Jesus (John 14-15)

**God’s Word** – Scripture is special revelation of truth revealed about God and mankind through the incarnation of Jesus, who descended from heaven to testify of the truth

**Holy Spirit** – The Spirit teaches the truth of God’s Word to reveal the Son of God and manifest Christ’s life in the Believer enabling them to walk in truth by God’s power

**Personal Life** – True Truth is to be a subjective experience in daily life, a Believer is challenged to believe God’s truth, know and walk in the truth proving it by experience

Love

**God** – To love God is to love light and to love truth, because it is impossible to know God and to love God if a person’s life is characterized by darkness and disobedience

**Jesus** – To love the Lord Jesus and be loved by Him is the greatest privilege and blessing one can have in this life, everything else pales in comparison to the love of Christ

**Truth** – Love for the truth is a prerequisite to abiding in God’s truth and walking in love must not be separated from walking in truth or the door is opened for pride and sin

**God’s Word** – Love of God’s Word is essential for knowing truth, walking in truth and obedience, discerning false teaching, walking in love, and speaking truth in love

**Goodness** – Interaction with people, especially Believers, is not to be characterized by pride and selfish motives, but by a helping hand, meeting needs, and earnest prayer

**Genuine Affection** – Love is patient and kind, it is not envious, proud, selfish, angry, vengeful, or delight in evil, but rejoices in truth, trusts, hopes and endures (1 Cor. 13)

**Key Verse – 3 John 5-8 “Beloved, you are acting faithfully for the brethren, for we ought to support such men that we may be fellow workers with the truth”**

# Books of Second & Third John

## What Is Truth?

Truth is something that is absolute; it is consistent and unchanging. Truth is not abstract, nor is it some philosophical other, whose foundation is always moving. Truth is the basis for everything that exists, both in the physical realm and in the spiritual realm, which is beyond man's full comprehension and knowledge. Truth is self-existent, it is not dependent upon man's existence or man's belief in it, for it to be. Sincerity of belief does not create truth! For example; "Take whatever you believe to be true and whatever is the basis for your convictions upon which you have established and lived your daily life; can you answer the eight following questions so they are consistent with each other and correlate with reality?" (1) Explain the origin of creation and state your point of reference and source of absolute truth. Without a point of reference and a source of absolute truth, people make false assumptions that result in wrong conclusions. (2) Explain the origin of man. From who or what came life? Who or what has the power of being? (3) What is man? Is he material, immaterial, or both? (4) Why is life the way it is? Why is there evil, suffering, and death? (5) What gives life purpose and meaning that can't be taken away tomorrow? For instance, if you or one of your kids are in an accident tomorrow and are paralyzed from the neck down, does life still have meaning and purpose? (6) How does a person receive true justice? If a young girl loses her life because of a violent crime against her, how does she receive justice? (7) What do you do with your guilt? (8) Explain what happens after death?

In John 18:38, Jesus says, *"I have come to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

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# Book of Jude

Date Written: 64-66 A.D.

Author: Jude (The Lord's Brother)

Subject of Jude – ‘ <b>Contend For The Faith</b> ’	Through faith, prayer, and love, confront error, encourage doubters, admonish misconduct, and plead with sinners about faith in Christ
The Problem – ‘ <b>Departure From The Faith</b> ’	An initial profession to accept the truth and trust the savior that is deceived by lies and led astray from the truth into error and heresy
The Purpose of Jude – ‘ <b>A Call To Vigilance</b> ’	Believers have been entrusted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to witness to the lost of faith in Christ and defend the truth against lies
Positive Central Theme – ‘ <b>God’s Righteous Judgment</b> ’	God is just in condemning the ungodly for their pride, unbelief, rebellion, immorality, greed, and wickedness of heart
Negative Central Theme – ‘ <b>Apostasy</b> ’	Worldly people decry God’s restrictive doctrine on sin, absolute truth, deity of Christ, and His judgment is on innocent people and not fair
Summary Statement of Jude – ‘ <b>Sound Doctrine</b> ’	The true doctrine encompassing God’s Word and the Gospel of Christ has once for all been delivered to the saints by the Apostles

## Lives Marked By The Flesh

## Lives Marked By Faith

### Ungodly Men

### Godly Men

Chapter & Subject Divisions	Verse 1	Serving Only Themselves	Verse 16	Verse 17	Serving Others	Verse 25
	Jude was compelled by God to write to appeal to saints to contend for the Faith			Beloved Believers, remember the words spoken before by the Apostles of Jesus Christ		
	The Faith is the Gospel of Christ which the Apostles had delivered to the Saints			In the last days there will be mockers and scoffers following after their ungodly lusts		
	Apostates had crept into the church and were corrupting the Gospel of Christ			Beware of apostates who cause division, worldly minded and devoid of the Holy Spirit		
	Israel, fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of God’s judgment			Beloved Believers, keep building yourselves up in your faith in the Lord Jesus		
	Apostates are dreamers and they slander spiritual things they don’t understand			Keep praying in the Holy Spirit and keep yourselves in the love of God		
	Cain, Balaam, and Korah are examples of God’s righteous judgment			Keep the faith while waiting anxiously for the mercy of Christ and eternal life		
	Apostates boast of great knowledge but are empty and only serving themselves			Have mercy on those doubting, rescue the wayward, plead with the rebellious to repent		
	Ungodly will be judged for ungodly things they have done and said about God			<b>God loves people, but God hates sin!</b>		
				Jesus Christ is able to keep you from stumbling and present you blameless before God		

Key Verse – Jude 3 “Brethren, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints”

Themes	<b>The Faith</b> – Salvation is only in Christ, by His sacrificial atoning death on the cross, His resurrection from the grave, His call to godly discipleship, and His keeping hand
	<b>Ministry of Apologetics</b> – Having a passion for defending the truth and faith in Christ against detractors and enemies of the faith who are exposed by ungodly behavior
	<b>Ministry of Salvation</b> – Having a passion for godliness, reminding the Beloved of their salvation and to keep in the faith, and rescuing those in high risk behavior and sin
	<b>Apostates</b> – An apostate is not only ungodly but unruly and rebellious against the authority of God and brazenly defiant against God’s condemnation and judgment of sin
	<b>False Teachers</b> – Itinerant preachers who through false pretenses claim to have knowledge that is superior to the faith in Jesus Christ that the Apostles taught to the saints
	<b>Twisting Doctrine</b> – Defiant people attempt to change strict doctrine they don’t like or agree with so it allows them the freedom to pursue and satisfy their greed and lust
<b>Worldly Religion</b> – Pagan ideas and beliefs result in destructive and deadly errors to doctrine and cannot be allowed to creep into the Church and Believer’s fellowship	

Key Verse – Jude 14-15 “The Lord came to execute judgment upon the ungodly for their ungodly deeds done in an ungodly way and things ungodly sinners have spoken

Apostasy	<b>Ungodly</b> – Deceptive people appearing to be godly who deliberately engage in behavior God has forbidden having no fear of God’s judgment or reverence for His Word
	<b>Israel In The Wilderness</b> – Having no faith in the promise of God to possess the land, Israel instead persists in their <b>unbelief</b> and desires to return to bondage in Egypt
	<b>Fallen Angels</b> – Abandoning their position of glory with God, the <b>rebellious</b> angels forfeited what they had and whatever they hoped to achieve for darkness and judgment
	<b>Sodom &amp; Gomorrah</b> – An undeniable example God’s moral law is not to be flagrantly violated, that <b>sexual perversion</b> and gross immorality are destined for eternal fire
	<b>Cain</b> – The way of Cain is the way of religion without faith. <b>Pride</b> offers God the righteous works of their own hands and is <b>defiant</b> and angry when God judges their sin
	<b>Balaam</b> – The error of Balaam is to use ministry for <b>greed</b> instead of serving God. To know the truth of God and will of God then deliberately <b>disobey</b> for financial gain
	<b>Korah</b> – Dissatisfied with their position in life and <b>jealous</b> of the authority God has given other servants they <b>rebel</b> attempting to usurp power and authority for themselves
<b>Reference To Enoch</b> – Enoch is a representative witness of all of God’s servants who have warned the ungodly of the certainty of God’s coming <b>judgment</b> on apostasy	

Key Verse – Jude 24 “To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to Jesus be glory”



# Book of Jude

## Can Mankind Live Without God?

Most people given a choice would choose to go to heaven, however, most of these same people choose to live their lives without God. Why? There are certain things that determine how a person chooses to live their life; (1) the need to be loved and valued, (2) to have purpose and meaning, (3) to be happy and content, (4) their opinions and convictions about what is truth. People are prideful and autonomous in nature and want to make their own choices and be the captain of their own ship, so to speak; therefore, they will only invite, include, welcome, seek, or participate in things that will contribute positively toward fulfillment of their needs, desires, and what they value. So, in relationship to God, people desire the heaven as opposed to hell when this life is over, but as to God being involved in their life now, it has been said that people resist God for three basic reasons; (1) Pride in Power, meaning people do not desire anyone to have authority over their life, such as God, who may ask of them something they do not want to do, (2) Pride in Knowledge, meaning their wisdom is sufficient and any instruction from God is viewed as having little value, (3) Pride in Virtue, meaning they view themselves as a good person and they do not need to change, nor do they need forgiveness and God should be accepting of them. Every person has a philosophy of God and it is fully revealed by how they live their lives. So, do you need God? Can you live without God? That you have to decide; Romans 2:5 says, *“Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of God’s righteous judgment.”* Matthew 12:36-37 says, *“Every word men speak, they shall render account for in the Day of Judgment.”*

Proverbs 15:3 says, *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”*

## Notes

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# Book of The Revelation

**Date Written:** Mid 90's A.D.

**Author:** Apostle John on Patmos

Subject of Revelation – ' <b>God's Sovereignty</b> ' Revelation that Jesus is God Almighty and of His right to rule. That He will be victorious over evil, and His glory will endure forever									
The Problem – ' <b>Babylon Harlot</b> ' Babylon is the birthplace of the anti-God influence that has given rise to all worldly false religions that blaspheme God and persecute Believers									
The Purpose of the Book of Revelation – ' <b>God's Appointed Times</b> ' Declaration of future events which are God's appointed times that will take place before and with Jesus' return									
Positive Central Theme – ' <b>Christ's Return</b> ' The <b>Promise</b> of Jesus' return serves both to admonish and encourage believers to endure and persevere through faith and obedience									
Negative Central Theme – ' <b>Rebellion</b> ' The depraved and wicked heart of man is defiant against God's righteous judgment, they blaspheme God and refuse to repent of their deeds									
Summary Statement of the Book of Revelation – ' <b>Victory</b> ' Revelation is a prophetic account of the climatic conflict between good and evil, and Jesus wears the victor's crown									

Revelation to John		Revelation to Churches		Revelation to the World				Restoration	
Write What You See		Seven Churches of Asia		Seal – Trumpet – Bowl Judgments				Eternal State	

1	The Things You Saw 1:21	2	The Things That Are	3	4	The Things Which Shall Take Place After These Things			22
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Visions		Warnings		The Great Tribulation				Yom Kippur	Glory
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Chapters & Subject Divisions	The Island of Patmos	Commendation of the Seven Churches	Admonition of the Seven Churches	Title Deed to the Earth	Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	Events in Heaven	Judgment and Hell upon the Earth	Coming of The Lord Jesus Christ	The New Jerusalem
	The unveiling of God's plan and purpose The revelation and coming of Jesus Christ Command of John to write what he sees Command to send revelation to churches Jesus is seen as Prophet, Priest, and King Jesus Christ is revealed in all His Glory Christ holds the keys to death and to hades	Ephesus identified, rejected false teachers Symrna was persecuted, yet was faithful Pergamum faithful in midst pagan worship Thyatira involved in sacrificial ministry Philadelphia, a loving missionary church Sardis & Laodicea no approval from Jesus	Ephesus lost its first love, return to Jesus Pergamum wrongly tolerated pagan idols Thyatira wrongly tolerated false teachings Sardis was completely dead spiritually Laodicea became worldly devoid of Truth Symrna & Philadelphia had no warnings	John is ushered into the heavenly court Glory, praise, & majesty of throne of God The sealed scroll is Title Deed to the Earth The slain lamb is worthy to open the scroll God's authority & dominion over	Antichrist conquers & war, famine, death Believers killed & Nature is in upheaval 144,000 from Tribes of Israel are sealed Multitude in white robes from all nations Trumpet judgments sounded by Angels Strong angel gives John the little scroll	Middle of Tribulation and two witnesses Signs in heavens reveal tribulation events Satan, the devil is cast down to the Earth Satan pursues and persecutes Nation Israel	Antichrist's character revealed as a beast False prophet arises & mark of the beast Amidst the turmoil, Gospel is preached Persecution intensifies against Believers Bowls of Gods wrath poured out on Earth Judgment & fall Babylon religious order Men curse God, Kings lament Babylon	Rejoicing and marriage supper of Lamb Coming of Christ with armies of Heaven Armageddon, beast-kings armies defeated Beast & false prophet cast in lake of fire Satan bound First Resurrection	<b>Jesus' 1000 year millennial</b> Great White Throne and Final Judgment Book of Life, Second death and lake of Fire Evil & deaths defeat - new heaven & earth The New Jerusalem and the Glory of God Words of truth and hope - Come to Jesus

**Key Verse – Revelation 1:3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and take to heart what is written, the time is near”**

Themes	<b>God's Sovereignty &amp; Glory</b> – Worthy is the Lord our God and worthy is the Lamb to open the book with seven seals, which is the title deed to the earth (Revelation 4-5)
	<b>Christ's Return</b> – The King of Kings and Lord of Lords returns as a conquering king to judge in truth and righteousness and to rule over the nations (Revelation 19)
	<b>Faithful People of God</b> – True worship and belief in God is an obedient response to revelation. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says (Revelation 2-3)
	<b>Judgment Against Sin</b> – Reality and finality of the Lake of Fire, the second death. The end of false religion and the doom of satan, and his followers (Revelation 16-20)
	<b>Encouragement &amp; Hope</b> – Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning and blessed are those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19)

**Key Verse – Revelation 1:7 “Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, those who pierced Him, all tribes of the earth will mourn over Him, Amen”**

Prophecy	<b>Tribulation Revelation</b> – The first three and a half years (Rev. 6-9), Events at the middle of the tribulation (Rev. 10-14), The last three and a half years (Rev. 15-19)
	<b>Symbolism</b> – A kind of spiritual code about real coming events understood only by those who the Holy Spirit has revealed Jesus to, yet, a mystery and problem to the world
	<b>Day of the Lord</b> – Consummation and <b>Fulfillment</b> of all Old Testament Prophecy and New Testament Prophecy about that coming blessed and great 'Day of the Lord'
	<b>Final Judgment</b> – The unbelieving dead, great and small, will stand before the throne of God to be judged from the things written in the Books according to their deeds
	<b>Restoration</b> – Paradise Regained – The new heavens, new earth, and new Jerusalem where believers shall forever dwell in the presence of the Lord and His Righteousness

**Key Verse – Revelation 20:12-15 “The books were opened, and if anyone's name was not written in the Book of Life, they were thrown into the Lake of Fire”**

# Book of The Revelation

## The Book Of The Revelation

Two questions that are most common in regards to the Book of the Revelation in the Bible; (1) What does it all mean? (2) Why is it so difficult to understand? The key is within Revelation 1:1-3; “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*” Four important things can be learned from these first three verses; (1) *The central character of the Book is Jesus Christ.* The word ‘Revelation’ means to “Unveil something that is hidden, which gives light and knowledge (*insight*) of spiritual truth to those who behold it.” Which means that the curtain is being pulled back and we are given a glimpse of the great glory, power, and majesty of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (2) *The clear purpose of the Book* is to show His servants the things that must soon take place. It is written right there for us to know so we don’t have to guess that God’s clear purpose is to reveal the future events that surround the time of Jesus’ return to the world just as He promised He would return (John 14:1-6). (3) *The comforting promise of the Book.* The comforting promise is that whoever reads the Book of Revelation and hears what the Lord is saying and heeds the warnings will be *Blessed*. How is a person blessed just by reading a book? This world is heading into a storm and judgment is coming upon those who reject God, but those who receive Jesus as their Savior, will know salvation and peace instead of judgment. That is a comforting promise and blessing. (4) *The certain prophecy of the Book.* The prophetic time or event that is near or at hand is the *Second Coming of Jesus Christ*. God is in control, God knows the future, Jesus is coming again, and God has forewarned those who will hear. That is the story of the Book of Revelation!

## How Do You Interpret Prophecy?

Why is there so much symbolism in the Book of Revelation? Don’t you wonder why it couldn’t have been more simple and straightforward such as the Gospel of John? Well, here are some of the reasons; (1) Symbolism and Imagery are timeless. It is applicable to any era and or culture. (2) Symbols are able to impart graphic values. (3) Symbols are a secret code understood only by those who search God’s Word in order to know what is being referred to, yet, it remains a mystery and problem for those who have no interest in God’s Word. The Key to understanding the symbolism in the Book of Revelation is to understand the rest of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, because many of these symbols are allusions to things that happened in the Old Testament, like the Book of Daniel. It has been said that Daniel prefigures Revelation and Revelation interprets Daniel. Also, it has been said, the best commentary on the Bible, is the Bible itself, as it will inform and throw light on other Biblical Scripture. So, the question always comes up, are we to interpret the Book of Revelation literally or symbolically? The answer is both and there is no contradiction in doing so. You find out what the symbol stands for and then you literally interpret the symbol so you can understand what is being said. For example, in Revelation 12, satan is spoken of as a great red dragon with a long tail that knocks a third of the stars down from the heavens. Well, obviously that is symbolism, because satan is not actually a red dragon with a long tail that sweeps a third of the stars out of the heavens. However, as we study, we find out that the fallen stars represent fallen angels that have become demonic spirits, and we see that satan is characterized as a dragon because of his ferocity, power and might, and his pride and cruelty, (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Luke 10:18; James 2:19; John 13:27). The symbolism and numbers in the Book of Revelation all have their point of reference for understanding in previous Biblical Scripture.

## Notes

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