

TVC STUDY NOTES

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

This course is an introduction to—a “Survey” of—the New Testament.

By survey I mean, we will take a casual and yet comprehensive view of the New Testament. Casual in the sense that we will not go chapter by chapter, verse by verse, it will be an overview but comprehensive in that we will look at all books of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation.

Old Testament, New Testament

Old Covenant, New Covenant

Old Will, New Will

The Bible Part 1, The Bible Part 2

First Phase, Second Phase

You Cannot Understand One without the Other

One is Foundation, the other is the building

In this course you will learn who wrote the books of the New Testament (NT), when and to whom they were written, why they were written and what they were about, etc.

A survey of the NT is a powerful and rewarding study.

1. The NT tells us of Jesus' death on the cross on our behalf and His victorious resurrection from death - and what our response should be to His life and death.
2. The NT gives us much wonderful information about the God of this universe, and about how to live according to His laws, to enjoy a personal relationship with Him, in a way that pleases Him.

When was it written?

The NT was written _____ the life of Jesus, from approximately 45 to 95A.D. It was originally written in _____ (fellowship) Greek, the common Greek of that time.

TVC STUDY NOTES

The five sections of the New Testament:

1. _____ give us four different, yet not conflicting, accounts of the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospels demonstrate how Jesus was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and lay the foundation for the teaching of the rest of the NT.

2. _____: The book of Acts records the deeds of Jesus' apostles, the men Jesus sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel of salvation. Acts tells us of the beginning of the church and its rapid growth in the first century.

3. _____, written by the Apostle Paul, are letters to specific churches giving official Christian doctrine and truth.

4. The _____ Epistles compliment the Pauline Epistles with additional teaching and application.

5. _____y: The book of Revelation prophesies the events that will occur in the end times.

TVC STUDY NOTES

Lesson 1 Course Syllabus	Lesson 19 Philippians, Part 1
Lesson 2 God's Good News	Lesson 20 Philippians, Part 2
Lesson 3 Between the OT and NT	Lesson 21 Colossians
Lesson 4 Matthew	Lesson 22 1 Thessalonians
Lesson 5 Mark	Lesson 23 2 Thessalonians
Lesson 6 Luke	Lesson 24 1 Timothy
Lesson 7 John, Part 1	Lesson 25 2 Timothy
Lesson 8 John, Part 2	Lesson 26 Titus
Lesson 9 Acts, Part 1	Lesson 27 Philemon
Lesson 10 Acts, Part 2	Lesson 28 Hebrews
Lesson 11 Romans, Part 1	Lesson 29 James
Lesson 12 Romans, Part 2	Lesson 30 1 Peter
Lesson 13 1 Corinthians, Part 1	Lesson 31 2 Peter
Lesson 14 1 Corinthians, Part 2	Lesson 32 1 John
Lesson 15 2 Corinthians, Part 1	Lesson 33 2 John
Lesson 16 2 Corinthians, Part 2	Lesson 34 3 John
Lesson 17 Galatians	Lesson 35 Jude
Lesson 18 Ephesians	Lesson 36 Revelation & Conclusion

GOD'S GOOD NEWS – Lesson 2

The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This means that God divinely influenced the human authors of the Scriptures in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God.

2. The word “inspiration” simply means “_____”; God’s breath makes the Bible unique among all other books. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. Even though God used men with their distinctive personalities and writing styles, God divinely inspired the very words they wrote. 2 Peter 1:21

The Bible is alive and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. Hebrews 4:12

1. The word of God has a life-force that is unlike any merely human book.

It is not only alive; it gives life to those who are spiritually dead.

2. It renews the heart by giving spiritual life to the spiritually dead, and changes our character in an essential, fundamental transformation of the heart.

3. Reading the Bible will cause our motives and desires to become changed; it cleanses and renews us thoroughly; and it brings about a total moral overhaul such as no human literature could ever hope to accomplish.

4. In biblical terms, it sanctifies us—something no other book could ever claim.

5. There is no human instrument or worldly technique more effective than the Word of God to penetrate the human heart.

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The Bible teaches us Who God is:

God is the eternal, changeless, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, holy, righteous, loving God.

BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS – Lesson 3

Introduction: _____ elapsed from when the last books of the Old Testament were written until the birth and life of Jesus Christ. This 400 years is called the intertestamental period, or, because there was no prophetic word from God during this period, as the “_____.”

From Persian dominance to Roman dominance:

1. The political, religious, and social atmosphere of Palestine changed significantly during this period.

2. In the last days of the OT, Israel was under the control of the _____.
 - a. The Persians allowed the Jews to practice their religion and even allowed them to rebuild and worship at the temple. Ezra 1:1-4
 - b. This period included the last 100 years of the Old Testament period and about the first 100 years of the intertestamental period. It was a time of relative peace and contentment.

3. Alexander the Great defeated Persia, bringing Greek rule to the region.
 - a. Greece required that their culture be promoted in every land they conquered.
 - b. As a result, the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek, becoming the translation known as the Septuagint. Most of the NT references to OT Scripture use the Septuagint phrasing.
 - c. Though Greece allowed religious freedom, Greek culture was very worldly, humanistic, and ungodly.

4. After Alexander died, Judea was ruled by a series of successors, culminating in Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - a. Antiochus did far more than refuse religious freedom to the Jews. Around 167 B.C.,

TVC STUDY NOTES

he overthrew the rightful line of the priesthood and desecrated the temple, defiling it with unclean animals and a pagan altar.

b. Eventually, Jewish resistance to Antiochus restored the rightful priests and rescued the temple.

c. The period that followed was one of war, violence, and infighting.

5. Around 63 B.C., Rome conquered Palestine.

a. This eventually led to Herod being made king of Judea by Rome.

b. This was the power that taxed and controlled the Jews, and eventually executed the Messiah on a Roman cross.

6. Roman, Greek, and Hebrew cultures were now mixed together in Judea.

Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes?

1. During the span of the Greek and Roman occupations, two important political/religious groups emerged in Palestine, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Many Pharisees were also Scribes.

2. The Pharisees _____ through oral tradition and eventually considered their own laws more important than God's. While Christ's teachings often agreed with the Pharisees, He railed against their hollow legalism and lack of compassion.

3. The Sadducees represented the aristocrats and the wealthy.

a. The Sadducees, who wielded power through the _____, rejected all but the Mosaic books of the Old Testament.

b. They refused to believe in resurrection and were generally shadows of the Greeks, whom they greatly admired.

4. The Scribes were the ones who drew up legal documents. They also copied the Old Testament Scripture. They also devoted themselves to the study of the law, and the determination of its applications on daily life. They also studied the Scripture with respect to doctrinal and historical matters. Noted scribes had their own disciples. Many of the scribes were members of the Jewish council.

MATTHEW – Lesson 4

Author and Date: Scholars believe the author was Matthew, _____ who became one of Jesus' twelve Apostles. He wrote it sometime between A.D. 55-65.

1. Note Matthew's keen interest in accounting Matt. 18:23-24; 25:14-15

2. The Gospel of Matthew is very orderly and concise. Rather than write in chronological order, Matthew arranges this Gospel through six discussions.

3. Tax collectors could write in a form of shorthand, which meant that Matthew could record Jesus' words, such as the Sermon on the Mount, as He spoke.

Purpose of Writing: Matthew intends to prove to the _____ that _____.

1. More than any other Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew quotes the OT to show how Jesus fulfilled the words of the Jewish prophets (over 60 times).

2. Matthew describes in detail the lineage of Jesus from King David, and uses many forms of speech that Jews were familiar with (ie. Son of man, Son of David).

Key Verses: _____

Brief Summary:

- 1. The Gospel of Matthew discusses the lineage, birth, and early life of Christ in the first two chapters.**

- 2. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry.**

- 3. Matthew records Christ's teachings through "discourses" such as:**
 - The Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5 through 7.
 - Chapter 10 involves the mission and purpose of the disciples;
 - Chapter 13 is a collection of parables;
 - Chapter 18 discusses the church;
 - Chapter 23 begins a discourse about hypocrisy and the future.

- 4. Chapters 21 through 28 describe the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, concluding with the Great Commission.**

Matthew frequently quotes the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Messiah:

- 1. His virgin birth in Bethlehem Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2**
- 2. His return from Egypt after the death of Herod Hosea 11:1**
- 3. His ministry to the Gentiles Isaiah 9:1-2; 60:1-3**
- 4. His miraculous healings of both body and soul Isaiah 53:4**
- 5. His speaking in parables Psalm 78:2**
- 6. And His triumphal entry into Jerusalem Zechariah 9:9**

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Practical Application:

1. Matthew's intended audience was his fellow Jews, many of whom—especially the religious leaders—stubbornly refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah.

a. They wanted a political Messiah, one who would free them from oppression and fulfill their earthly desires.

b. Jesus rebuked them for their hard hearts and their refusal to recognize Him (John 5:38-40).

2. Matthew's climactic closing gives Jesus' last words—the Great Commission—that we, His disciples, are to “go and make disciples of all nations” (people groups).

MARK – Lesson 5

Author: Although the author does not name himself, Bible scholars through the ages have believed the writer was _____ of the NT. Acts 12:12

Date of Writing: Mark was one of the first NT books written, probably in A.D. 55-59.

Purpose of Writing:

1. Whereas Matthew is written primarily to his fellow Jews, Mark appears to be written more to _____ (everyone who was not a Jew).

2. Mark desired that non-Jews have the story of Jesus as Servant and Savior of the world, in order to strengthen their faith in the face of severe persecution and to teach them what it meant to be Jesus' disciples.

Key Verses:

1. “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’” Mark 1:17

TVC STUDY NOTES

2. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Brief Summary:

1. Mark emphasizes Jesus' _____ more than His teaching, moving quickly from one episode in the life of Christ to another.
2. Mark does not begin with a _____ as in Matthew, because Gentiles would not be interested in His lineage.
3. Mark follows Jesus' baptism and public ministry. What follows is the record of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
4. In a dynamic profession, the disciples, led by Peter, acknowledged their faith in Him (Mark 8:29-30), even though they failed to understand fully who He was until after His resurrection.
5. In the days leading to His final trip to Jerusalem, we see His disciples bewildered, fearful and doubting. At Jesus' arrest, He stood alone after they fled.
6. In the following hours, while being tried, Jesus boldly proclaimed that He is the Christ, and that He would be triumphant at His return. Mark 14:61-62
7. After His death and burial, early in the morning of the first day of the week, some women went to the tomb with burial spices and discovered that Jesus had risen. They announced the joyful news: "He is risen!" (Women were the first evangelists!)

Practical Application:

1. Mark presents Jesus as the suffering Servant of God and as the One who came to serve and sacrifice for us, in part to inspire us to do the same. Mark 10:45
2. We are to minister as He did, with the same greatness of humility and devotion to the service of others. Jesus exhorted us to remember that to be great in God's kingdom, we must be the servant of all. Mark 10:44
3. Self-sacrifice should transcend our need for recognition or reward, just as Jesus was willing to be abased as He lay down His life for the sheep.

TVC STUDY NOTES

LUKE – Lesson 6

Author and Date: The author of the Gospel of Luke does not identify himself, but from Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3, it is clear that the same person wrote both _____.

1. From the earliest days believers have agreed that _____ a physician and travel companion of the Apostle Paul, wrote both Luke and Acts. Colossians 4:14
2. Luke was the only _____ (non-Jew) to write any books of Scripture.
3. The Gospel of Luke was likely written between A.D. 58 and 65.

Purpose of Writing:

1. As with the other two synoptic gospels—Matthew and Mark—this book’s purpose is to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ and all He “began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven.” Acts 1:1-2
2. Luke is unique in that it is a meticulous history—an “orderly account” (Luke 1:3) consistent with Luke’s medical mind—giving details the other Gospels omit.
3. Luke’s history of the life of the Great Physician emphasizes His ministry to—and compassion for—Gentiles, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors, sinners, and others regarded as outcasts in Israel.

Key Verses: “‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:18-19, 21

Brief Summary:

1. Some consider Luke to be the most beautiful book ever written.
2. It begins by telling us about Jesus' parents; the birth of His cousin (John the Baptist); His birth in a manger in Bethlehem; and His genealogy through Mary.
3. Jesus' public ministry reveals His compassion and forgiveness through the stories of the prodigal son, the rich man and Lazarus, and the Good Samaritan.

TVC STUDY NOTES

4. While many believe in Jesus and this unprejudiced love that surpasses all human limits, many others—especially the religious leaders—oppose Jesus.
5. Christ encourages His followers to count the cost of discipleship, while His enemies seek His death on the cross.
6. Finally, Jesus is betrayed, tried, sentenced and crucified. But the grave cannot hold Him! By His resurrection He conquers death and offers to those who believe the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven.

Practical Application:

1. Luke gives us a beautiful portrait of our compassionate Savior. Jesus did not turn away from the poor and the needy; in fact, they were a primary focus of His ministry. In Jesus' day there were many who were poor, weak and downtrodden; they were powerless to improve their lot and eagerly received Jesus' message that "the kingdom of God is near you." Luke 10:9

JOHN – Lesson 7

Author: John 21:20-24 describes the author as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," understood to be _____, one of the sons of Zebedee. Luke 5:10

Date of Writing: It is unclear but it was certainly written by A.D. 85-90.

Purpose of Writing: John himself tells us his purpose for writing: "... that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:31

1. John's Gospel is _____. Unlike the three synoptic Gospels, John's purpose is not to present a chronological narrative of the life of Christ, but to display His deity.

Key Verses:

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1,14

TVC STUDY NOTES

2.

John 3:16

3. "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

4. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25-26

5. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

6. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" John 14:6

Brief Summary:

1. The Gospel of John selects only seven miracles as signs to demonstrate the deity of Christ and to illustrate His ministry.

2. His is the most theological of the four gospels and often gives the reason behind events mentioned in the other gospels.

3. He shares much about the approaching ministry of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension.

4. There are certain words or phrases that John frequently uses that show the repeating themes of his Gospel: believe, witness, Comforter, life - death, light - darkness, I am...

(as in Jesus is the "I Am"), and love.

5. John's gospel introduces Christ, not from His human birth, but from "the beginning" as "the Word" (Logos) who, as Deity, is involved in every aspect of creation (1:1-3) and who later becomes flesh (1:14) in order that He might take away our sins as the spotless, sacrificial Lamb (John 1:29).

ACTS – Lesson 8

Author and Date of Writing: As noted in the lesson on the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles was very likely written by _____, probably between 61-64 A.D.

TVC STUDY NOTES

Purpose of Writing:

1. The Book of Acts was written to provide a _____.
2. The emphasis of the book is the importance of the day of Pentecost and of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ.
3. Acts records the apostles being Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the rest of the surrounding world.
4. The book sheds light on the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers, guides, teaches, and serves as our Counselor.
5. Reading the book of Acts, we are enlightened and encouraged by the many miracles that were being performed during this time by the disciples Peter, John, and Paul.
6. The book of Acts emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's Word and the transformation that occurs as a result of knowing Christ.

Key Verses:

1. _____."
 _____ **Acts 1:8**
2. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
3. "So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.'" Acts 16:31

Brief Summary:

1. The book of Acts gives the history of the Christian church and the spread of the good news of Jesus Christ, as well as the mounting opposition to it.
2. Although many faithful servants were used to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, was the most influential.
3. The disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in Jerusalem (chapters 1–8:3), Judea and Samaria (chapters 8:4–12:25), and to the ends of the earth (chapters 13:1–28).

TVC STUDY NOTES

4. Included in the last section are Paul's three missionary journeys (13:1–21:16), his trials in Jerusalem and Caesarea (21:17–26:32) and his final journey to Rome (27:1–28:31).

1. The Book of Acts presents wonderful teaching about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of His children: a. Until the Day of Pentecost the role of the Holy Spirit had been the external "anointing" of a few On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Spirit came to live in the very hearts of all His children. The indwelling Spirit is the gift of God to those who come to Him in faith.

Practical Application:

God can do amazing things through ordinary people when He fills and empowers them through His Spirit.

ROMANS – 9

Author and Date of Writing: Romans 1:1 identifies the author as Paul. The Book of Romans was likely written from A.D. 56-58.

Purpose of Writing:

1. Paul's purpose in writing was to proclaim the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ by teaching doctrine and to edify and encourage the believers who would receive his letter.
2. Of particular concern to Paul were those to whom this letter was written—those in Rome who were "loved by God and called to be saints." Romans 1:7
3. Because he himself was a Roman citizen, he had a unique passion for those in the assembly of believers in Rome. Since he had not, to this point, visited the church in Rome, this letter also served as his introduction to them.

Key Verses: Of all the books in the Bible, Romans has the most fully-developed doctrinal statements. Paul beautifully explains the doctrines as faith and grace, giving us many verses worth memorizing and understanding.

1. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1:16

TVC STUDY NOTES

2. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
3. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
4. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23
5. "You however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." Romans 8:9
6. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28
7. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39
8. _____

Romans 10:9-10

Brief Summary:

1. Paul was excited about being able to minister at last in this church, and everyone was well aware of that fact. Romans 1:8-15
2. The letter was written from Corinth just prior to Paul's trip to Jerusalem to deliver the contributions that had been given for the believers there.
3. Paul had intended to go to Rome (Romans 15:24), but his plans were interrupted when he was arrested in Jerusalem. (In Acts 28:16 we read that he would eventually go to Rome as a prisoner.) The Book of Romans is primarily a work of doctrine. Its main theme is _____.