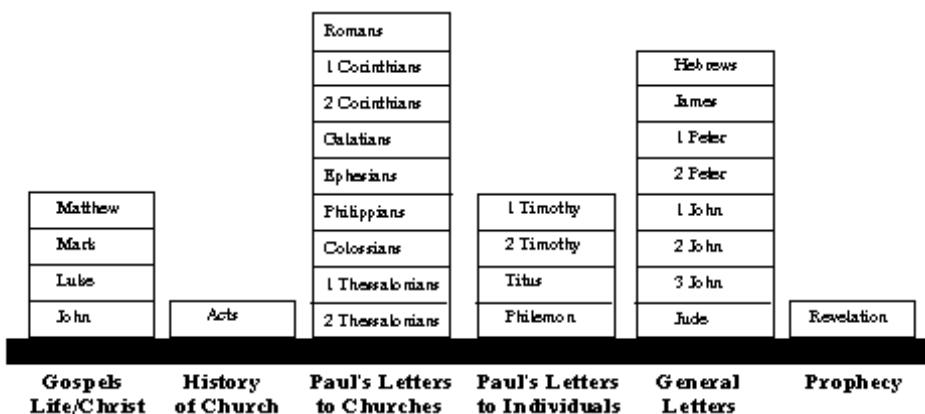




NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS PART 1

1. Introduction



- All scripture is the inspired Word of God – 2 Tim 3:16

2. MATTHEW

Matthew records the life of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Jew. Detail is given to prove his legal heirship to the throne of King David. The emphasis of the events in the life of Christ and their selection are meant to emphasize that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and King fulfilling the Old Testament Scriptures. He came to His own people first, but was rejected.

3. MARK

Mark is written to record the life of Christ primarily to a non-Jewish audience. Mark portrays Jesus as the servant coming to serve all humanity and provide for eternal salvation.

4. LUKE

Luke, by his own introduction, claims to present the most chronological ordering of the events in the Life of Christ. Luke, as the beloved physician, emphasizes the humanity of Christ in that he was hungry, he thirsted, and was tired. The birth account is most complete in Luke. God would become a man (Jesus) to secure for us eternal salvation.

5. JOHN

John is written and organized to proclaim the Deity of Jesus Christ. He is Very God - the Son of God - having taken upon Himself humanity in order to become our Savior. John presents more of the miracles of Christ and those words which would clearly show forth His Deity.

6. ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The early history of the church is set forth in the book of Acts. From the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit, its history of growth in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the rest of the Roman empire is presented. The ministry in Jerusalem begins with the Holy Spirit empowered messages of Peter and John. The growth extends into Samaria as Philip the Evangelist presents the message of Christ. The remainder of the book takes up the three missionary journeys of Paul, his trials and triumphs as the gospel message is taken throughout the empire.

7. ROMANS

Romans has been called the Magna-Carta of the Christian Faith in that all the major teachings of Christianity are presented in Romans. The first three chapters presents the lost nature of the human race who are divided into being heathen, self-righteous, or religious. All human action is rejected. The solution is Jesus Christ. He is presented as the sole source of man's salvation. His sacrifice on the cross paid God's penalty for the sins of the human race. Faith in Christ brings eternal salvation to man (Chapters 4-5).

The Christian Life is to be one of gradual victory over individual sins (Chapter 6-7) and the sinful nature we possess. Furthermore, the enablement of the Holy Spirit (Chapter 8) empowers the life of the believer. The relationship between the foundation of Judaism and the capstone of Christianity is presented in Chapters 9-11.

Finally, details on the day to day living of the Christian life are presented in the remainder of Romans.

8. 1 CORINTHIANS

The churches of the city of Corinth faced many practical problems as they were growing in their conversion to Jesus Christ. This first letter was written to address problems developing by ongoing sins, believer and unbeliever marriages, court cases, and other important areas. It was also written to address several questions that members of the Corinthian churches had raised in regards to the faith. The letter is blunt, to the point, and sometimes rather harsh. Because of this, it was sent amidst much prayer with great concern as to how it would be accepted and implemented.

9. 2 CORINTHIANS

After news of a very positive response to the earlier letter of 1 Corinthians is received, 2 Corinthians is written. It was written to provide understanding and background into the very heart of those who minister the gospel as they seek to set forth truth to which there will either be acceptance or reaction. Paul, the human author, bears his heart as he seeks to minister to the Corinthian Churches and guide them away from false teachers and unto a foundation of correct Christian doctrine.

10. GALATIANS

Probably the earliest written New Testament book, the subject is the perversion of the gospel. The book is written to the churches of Galatia. Some were teaching of the need for good works to be a necessary part of gaining eternal salvation. This is characterized as a false gospel. God's salvation was totally provided by grace in which all that was needed was provided by Him. Man's part is to simply accept the "gift" as provided by the Lord in simple faith or trust. Once salvation is gained by simple faith alone, the life changing provisions given by the Lord normally motivate the believer, now empowered by the Holy Spirit, to want to serve and obey the Lord under the umbrella of liberty in Christ. Service, good works, and obedience are based upon the believer's thankfulness and gratitude towards the Lord and His awesome gift of salvation.

11. EPHESIANS

Ephesians is written to the churches of the city of Ephesus. The book presents some of the most basic doctrines and practical applications for the new Christian. Early chapters teach how mankind is born spiritually dead and through faith in Christ is removed from spiritual death and immersed into a new life in Christ. The practical implications of this conversion is to be a gradual separation from the old life called the "old man" and immersion into the new aspects of the Christian Life called the "new man" which is built on the new principles presented in the Scriptures. This results in husbands loving wives, children obeying parents, and numerous other practical results set forth in Ephesians.

12. PHILIPPIANS

Philippians was written as the human author, Paul, was imprisoned in the city of Rome for preaching the gospel of Christ. It is written to the churches of the city of Philippi. The subject is Christian Joy. Despite ones circumstances in life - good or bad - the Christian has the inner resources to be joyful and experience the peace of God.

13. COLOSSIANS

Colossians is written to the churches of the city of Colosse. The book presents some of the most basic doctrines and practical applications for the new Christian. Early chapters teach how mankind is born spiritually dead and through faith in Christ is removed from spiritual death and immersed into a new life in Christ. Jesus Christ is not only presented as the Savior, but also as the Creator God. The practical implications of this conversion is to be a gradual separation from the old life called the "old man" and immersion into the new aspects of the Christian Life called the "new man" which is built on the new principles presented in the Scriptures. This results in husbands loving wives, children obeying parents, and numerous other practical results set forth in Colossians. It is a companion book to Ephesians.

14.1 THESSALONIANS

This letter was written to the churches of Thessalonica. The church was founded amidst much persecution. As the church grew and time advanced, some of the older believers died. The ones left behind had growing questions as to how eternal life and resurrection would affect those having died. 1 Thessalonians would answer this prophetic question proclaiming how, at the return of Christ, the dead would rise first and then be followed by the living into the presence of the Lord. Other practical questions on Christian living are also addressed in this book.

15.2 THESSALONIANS

This second letter was written to the churches of Thessalonica after a false letter was received by them. The letter proclaimed that the persecution they were experiencing was the Great Tribulation and they were going to have to live through it to be delivered. The Lord would inspire Paul to lay down details as to the order of events preceding the Great Tribulation. It had not yet occurred. Other matters of faith and practice are also presented in some detail in 2 Thessalonians.

16. Summary

Understand the context to help understand the Word