

# New Testament Survey

## The Gospel of Matthew

Gal. 4:4-5, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

Hebrews 9:13-17, "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

A few notes before we get to Matt.

The Gospels: Written by Different Men for Different Audiences at Different Times from Different Perspectives

\* **Matt/Mk/Lk** – Called Synoptic gospels (for similarities)

\* **John** – called Autoptic (different emphasis than other three)

\* **Matt. Mk. Luke**

Mostly in Galilee

Emph. Christ's WORKS

Emph. On Christ's PARABLES

**John**

Mostly in Judea

Emph. Christ's words

Only parable mentioned is in Jn. 10

\*Between Mal. / Matt – 400 Silent Yrs.

\*No New Revelation

\*We come to Matthew with Palestine under the rule of Rome!

\*Some important definition

1. **Scribes** – Jews revered them as interpreters/ teachers of scripture – Neh. 8:1,8 – Ezra the Scribe. But eventually their traditions took precedence over scripture – Matt. 15:1-6. 66 times in gospels.
2. **Pharisees** – Zealous Jewish sect who set themselves up as guardians of the law; conservatives in belief accepting the supernatural (Matt. 5:20). 100 times in gospels.

3. **The Sadducees** – Liberals of their day - \*Denied the resurrection – See Acts 23:6-8 \* Primarily the influential, wealthy class of Jews.
4. **Herodians** – While the others are a religious group, these are political.
5. **Sanhedrin** - (This word is not in the Bible.) “N.T. Supreme Court” for the Jews, with the high priest as “president”. Rome gave them power to try cases, but not to execute. Matt. 5:22 the council – 26:59 Acts 5:17-21
6. **Synagogue** – place of worship due to NO TEMPLE during Babylonian captivity.

**OUR APPROACH** – 2 Tim. 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

## Matthew

**Author** – Matthew – one of the 12 – Also called Levi – Matt. 9:9, Mark 2:14. He was a publican which was a tax collector. Matt. 10:3

Romans 3:1-2 – Jews gave us the BIBLE.

**MATTHEW** – Jew writing primarily to JEWS Presents Jesus as king. So he addresses things JEWS would inquire about:

1. Could Jesus trace ancestry back to David, to prove his right to be King?
2. What about Jesus’ relationship to the law/prophets.
3. Did he uphold the law and fulfill Old Testament prophecies.

**MARK** – written primarily to a Roman context; so he goes to great pains explaining Jewish customs. Presents Jesus as servant.

**LUKE** – The Physician, friend to Paul, written especially for Greeks. Presents Jesus as a Man (Son of Man).

**JOHN** – “The disciple whom Jesus loved”. Written later and especially for believers. Presents Jesus as God (Son of God).

Context of Matt. – Gal. 4:4-5

In Summary –

Matthew – The King

Mark – The Servant

Luke – The Son of Man

John – The Son of God

Now if Matthew presents Christ as KING, what would be the THEME – The Kingdom!

He’s “son of man” – 32 times in Matthew – to trace to David.

“son of God” – 8 times in Matthew

Kingdom of Heaven – 32 times in the Bible – All in Matthew.

Kingdom of God – 54 times in the gospels – only 5 in Matthew.

Kingdom of God – Spiritual – Rom. 14:17

Kingdom of Heaven – Physical – Matt. 22

So what does Matthew present? – Matt. 10:1-7

There are other “glaring” clues

“Our Father” – as a prayer in Matt/Lk – Not John

“son of David” – 10 in Matt.; 3 in Mk.; 3 in Luke; NOT in John

“that which was spoken” – 3 in Matt. 0 in John

“which was spoken of” – 2

“which was spoken by” – 9 in Matt.

Point? – Matthews’s goal is to convince Jews, Jesus was the Promised Messiah.

### **Outline:**

#### **I. The Revealing of the King** – Chapter 1 – 2:12

a. His background 1:1-17

b. His birth 1:18, 2:12

#### **II. The Resisting of the King** – Chapter 2:13-23

#### **III. The Reactions of the King** – Chapter 3-4

a. His Ambassador – Ch. 3

b. His Adversary – 4:1-11

c. His Allies – 4:12-25

#### **IV. The “Rule” of the King** – 5-9

a. Chapter 5-7 His “rule” in words.

b. Chapter 8-9 His “rule” in deeds.

#### **V. The Rejection of the King** – 10-27

#### **VI. The Resurrection of the King** – 28

# The Gospel of Mark

(Begin with Acts 12:12)

\*Brief review as it is crucial to remember the context and theme of each gospel.

**Matthew:** The King

**Mark:** The Servant                      Synoptic Gospels – Matthew clearly the most Jewish

**Luke:** The Son of Man

**John:** The Son of God – Probably written after other 3 are dead.

About John Mark

Acts 12:12 – Son of the Mary who lived in Jerusalem and whose home was one of the meeting places of the early church.

Went with Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey and later deserted.

Look at Acts 12:25, 13:5,13, 15:37-39, Col. 4:10-11, 2 Tim. 4:11

So you can imagine Paul's influence.

Look at 1 Peter 5:13. Some believe he was one of Peter's converts and some go so far as to say "It's the gospel of Peter, thru Mark."

As a key verse consider Mark 10:45.

Thus in Mark, you'll see emphasized over and over the Lord's tender, genuine concern and compassion for people.

The gospels help us to explain with Job. "I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee!" Job 42:5

Consider the "progression" of the gospels.

Matthew – King – Jewish appeal, "Levi" – publican Luke 5:27

Mark – Servant – Jew/Gentile – John, Jewish – Mark, Greek/Roman

Luke – Son of Man – More Gentile. Luke may very well have been a Gentile and converted to Judaism!

John – Son of God – Probably written after other 3 were already dead.

Matching the book of Acts The Gospel first to the Jews, then Samaritans, then Gentiles.

Mark, more than any other paints the Lord as a Servant.

Consider "Lord" Matt. 76 times, Luke 103 and John 46. Yet in Mark only 19 times.

Mark shows us Jesus at work, Matt. more of his "words", as if to say, "What Jesus did, proves who he was." Mark – shortest of the 4 gospels, less of the Lord's discourses. J.S.B. – Mark is the "camera man" of the 4 gospel writers. In the first chapter alone we find the people "astonished" at his doctrine and "amazed" at his

authority and his “fame” is spread “throughout all the region: and his “blazed abroad.” Out of 16 chapters 12 begin with “and”; 2:1- 6:1, 9:1-13:1, 15:1, 16:1 Mark is a rapid secession of the Lord’s works. Paul said he took upon himself the form of a “servant”. The Gospel of “Mark” is that portrait. No genealogy, no Eastern Star, no worship of shepherds, no mention of Bethlehem or Nazareth, no mention of his pre-existence, or being the Eternal Word, all of this and more leaving the clear picture of a servant. May we say a servant is known more by his works than his words?

Also missing in Mark is the

Denunciation of Galilean Cities – Matt. 11

Condemnation of Scribes and Pharisees – Matt. 23

Divine Judgment pronounced on Jesus – Matt. 23

“WOES” of Matthew

Through Mark – Immediately, Straightway, Forthwith

Pointing to the Prompt, Tireless, Busy, character of a SERVANT! And if that’s not enough notice the awesome end of the book. Mark 16:20 After resurrection “working with them”!

### **The RECEPTION of the SERVANT 1-8:30**

His Sanctification 1:1-13

His Service 1:14-8:30 (The Great Divide 8:31)

### **The REJECTION of the SERVANT 8:31-15**

The Sacrifice 8:31

The Skeptics 9:14, 14:1

### **The RESURRECTION of the SERVANT 16**

Everything builds to a point. Public acclaim reaches its peak. You would expect them to carry them on their shoulders to the throne in Jerusalem, but suddenly, seemingly without warning we come to 8:31. Called the “Great Divide” in Mark.

Spiritual Lessons on the Gospel of Mark or The Gospel of a SERVANT according to Saint Mark.

#### **Chapter One – Lessons of a Servant**

1. Vs. 9 Separation – From one thing to another; the old to the new.
2. Vs. 10 Anointing
3. Vs. 11 The Assuring
4. Vs. 12-13 The Testing
5. Vs. 136 The Enabling
6. Vs. 14 The Going

They were ASTONISHED at his doctrine (1:22) and they were all AMAZED (1:27). His fame SPREAD ABROAD (1:28)... They came to him FROM EVERY QUARTER (1:45). Many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them (2:2). They were all AMAZED... We never saw it on this fashion (2:12). All the MULTITUDES resorted unto him (2:13). A great MULTITUDE followed him... When

they heard what great things he did (3:7-8). And unclean spirits...fell down before him (3:11)...And there was gathered unto Him a great multitude (4:1). What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him (4:41). Much people gathered unto him (5:21). They were astonished with a great astonishment (5:42). And were beyond measure astonished, saying HE HATH DONE ALL THINGS WELL (7:37).

## The Gospel according to Saint LUKE

We intentionally repeat the emphasis of the Gospels:

**Matt.** – Jesus as KING (Sovereign)

**Mark** – Jesus as SERVANT

**Luke** – Jesus as Son of Man

**John** – Jesus as Son of God

The Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke show a movement from Jew to both to Gentiles by:

1. The theme or emphasis of each book
2. The author of each book
3. The recipients of each book (ex. Luke to Theophiles – Gentile)

We'll amplify that point as we begin our study of Luke with Jesus Christ presented primarily as the "Son of Man".

Keep in mind Matthew presents Jesus as King of the Jews and deals with Kingdom theology. Luke presents Jesus as "Son of Man" with a ministry that goes beyond Jewish lines. Look at Matt. 1 and Luke 3 and compare.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>Matt. 1:2ff</u><br>begat, begat, etc... | <u>Luke 3:23-24ff</u><br>son of, son of, etc...(no "begats")                                  |
| 2. <u>Matt. 1:16</u><br>Jacob begat Joseph    | <u>Luke 3:23</u><br>Joseph...son of Heli?! Heli is Mary's father<br>(Son can mean son-in-law) |

A hint at Matthew dealing with a king who will inherit the throne while Luke presents a "man" who will die as a Sacrifice and Substitute for ALL MEN!

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3. <u>Matt. 1:2</u><br>Jesus' lineage taken back to<br>Abraham the first Jew. | <u>Luke 3:38</u><br>Jesus' lineage traced back to<br>Adam the first man. |
|---|--|

Interesting note:

\*The word "Saviour" shows up for the first time in the New Testament in Luke. Luke 1:47;2:11. The word is not in Matthew or Mark.

\*The word "Salvation" in Luke 1:69.

\*The word "Grace" in Luke 2:40.

\*The word "Redemption" in Luke 2:38.

4. Matt.

Begins with lineage in Ch. 1

Luke

Begins with human interests connected to the Lord's birth and gets to lineage in Ch. 3.

Luke is a slap in the face of EVOLUTION! He shows the History of Man from Adam. Christ, the perfect man, hasn't been improved in 2000 years!

More comparisons of Great Significance!

1. Luke 2:10 – To all people
2. Luke 2:30-32 – Gentiles
3. Consider – Isa. 40:3-5 – vs. 5 All flesh. Matt. 3:3 – vs. 5 not quoted from Isa. 40 (nor in Mark). But Luke 3:4-6 – vs. 6 all flesh!
4. In. Matt. most of the parables begin with "The Kingdom of heaven is like..." But in Luke "A certain man" or "What man of you" or something similar.
5. Consider Matt. 10:5-6 (not in Luke) Luke 21:24 (not in Matthew).
6. Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:3-6 with Sermon on the Plain(6:17), Luke 6:20 Study and examine in Matthew the spiritually poor inherit physical blessing. In Luke the physically poor inherit spiritual blessing! But clearer, Luke deals much more with the humanity of Christ and his concern for the poor, widows, sick, etc. Thus the beginning of his ministry he states Luke 4:18.

Another example of his humanity:

Luke 3:21 – He's praying, not in Matt. 3:16

Luke 5:16 – Not in Matt.

Luke 6:12 – Not in Matt. 10

Luke 9:18 – Not in Matt. 16:13

Luke 9:28 – Praying, not in Matt. 17:1

Luke 11:1 – Not in Matt. 6:9

Over and over again Luke gives us a close up view of the Lord's Humanity. His interest in the poor, sick, lame, etc. His need to pray and His reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Just a few thoughts on Luke himself. If Mark was influenced mostly by Peter, Luke was influenced mostly by Paul. See Col. 4:14 – "beloved", 2 Tim. 4:9-11. Only Luke!!!LOYALTY

OUTLINE:

**I. Down to the Ground 1:1-4:13**

- a) His Birth – 1:5 – 2:39 (Bethlehem)
- b) His Boyhood – 2:40-52 (Nazareth)
- c) His Baptism – 3:1-22 (Jordan River)
- d) His Background – 3:23-38
- e) His Battle – 4:1-13

- II. **Driven into Galilee** – 4:14-9:50
- III. **Destined for Golgotha** – (Jerusalem)-9:51-23-56
- IV. **Delivered to Glory** – Ch. 24

## The Gospel of John

We've said

**Matthew** – The King...Who he will be

**Mark** – The Servant...Who he was

**Luke** – The Son of Man...Who he became

**John** – The Son of God...Who he is! God!

The first chapter and the first verse in the Bible states this fact. "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God." John begins his gospel with this fact and his purpose in doing so is made clear. See John 20:30:31. It's as if the first three gospels aim at securing the facts, and finally John aims at securing a verdict! We might could say the synoptics tell us WHAT He was while John tells us WHO He is! The first three seem to point to His humanity, John His divinity. The first three point to his lineage on Earth, John His lineage in Heaven. The first three focus on His Galilean ministry, John His Judaen ministry. In John there is no record of His birth, temptation or agonizing in the garden. Try to find a parable in John. Maybe in John 10:6.

On the other hand – The words "I am".

63 in John – Though not all refer to Christ.

24 in Matthew

10 in Mark

20 in Luke

John 6:35 – I am the bread of life

6:41 – I am the bread of life (6:48)

6:51 – I am the living bread

8:12 – I am the light of the world

8:23 – I am from above

8:58 – Before Abraham was, I am

10:7 – I am the door of the sheep

10:11 – I am the good shepherd

10:36 – I am the Son of God

11:25-26 – I am the resurrection and the life

14:6 – I am the way, the truth, and the life

15:1 – I am the true vine

Why are all these in John? John is trying to tell us about Jesus Christ. He is "I AM"! It's in John we're told, "Ye must be born again" "8", number of a new beginning, 8 miracles recorded in John (miracles by Christ).

I AM:

Bread of life

Light of the world

Over of the sheep

The good shepherd

EIGHT!!!

Son of God

Resurrection of life

Way, truth and life

True vine

John 8: Woman in adultery – Go and sin no more. Vs. 36 – If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Maybe I'm making too much of it but it's interesting to me!

Important to note: John often gives information not found in the synoptics. For example: In Matt. 4:18-22 it appears to be first time he ever saw them. But in John 1:40-43 and 2:11 indicates they were "His disciples" before He started preaching in Galilee and therefore the "follow me" of Matt. is a calling to "deeper" commitment of "full-time" service if you will?

We suggested earlier that John is written to present Jesus Christ as God. And while that may be the theme, we must again emphasize the purpose of John's emphasis. Look at 20:31. The purpose, goal or motive that we might receive eternal life through faith or "believing".

I looked at the word believe, believes, believeth. All forms of this word.

Matt. 11

Mark 17

Luke 11

John 101

Follow with me and read: John 1:7, 12, 3:15-18, 3:36, 5:24, 6:28-29, 6:35, 6:40, 47, 7:38, 39, 8:24, 11;25-26, 12:46, 20:27-29

J. Sidlow Baxter points out a parallel between the Tabernacle Furniture and Christ in John

1. Brazen Altar...Atonement thru sacrifice...Ch. 1 - Behold the lamb
2. Brazen Laver...Spiritual cleansing... Ch. 3 – "Born of the spirit"
3. Table of Showbread...Spiritual sustenance...Ch. 4-6 – Living water, bread of life

4. Candlestand...Illumination...Ch. 8-9 – I am the light of the world. Ch. 14-15 – Taught about Holy Spirit
5. Altar of Incense...Prayer...Ch. 17 – Jesus prays
6. The Ark...Access to His presence                      The blood is “spilled”. Ch. 20 – I
7. The Mercy Seat...The Grace of God                      ascend to my God and your God.

If “Eternal Life through Faith” is the thrust of the book what does it teach us about Eternal life?

1. It makes us the sons of God – John 1:12
2. It is a “Spiritual” life – 3:5-8
3. It is an “Inner Life” – 4:14
4. It delivers from Condemnation – 5:24
5. It promises a resurrection body – 6:40
6. It makes possible freedom from sin, self, society - 8:32-36
7. It is preserved by God Himself – 10:25-30
8. It defeats death – 11:25-26
9. It leads to Heavenly Glorification with Christ – Ch. 17

The great thing, as stated earlier, about John’s gospel, is not what Jesus came to do, but Who HE Is!

He didn’t come to merely  
 Preach the Gospel – He is the Gospel  
 Give bread – He is the bread  
 Shed light – He is the light  
 Open the door – He is the door  
 Name a shepherd – He is the shepherd  
 Point the way – He is the way  
 Plant a vine – He is the vine

In chapter one alone He is the Word (vs. 1), the Life (vs. 4), the Light (vs. 4-7), the Lamb (vs. 29, Son of God (vs. 49), the King (vs. 49), the Messiah (vs. 41) and the Son of Man (vs. 51).

If you read Ph. 2:5-8 you’ll see it in the Gospel of John. The first miracle of John’s gospel is at a wedding, the last at a funeral. Over and over John is the “disciple whom the Lord loved.” If you want the most intimate look at Jesus Christ you’ll find it in John.

## OUTLINE

**Public ministry of Christ to the Jews** – 1:1-12 - His Signs

**Private ministry of Christ to the Disciples** – 13-17 - His Sayings

# The Book of Acts or The Acts of the Apostles

\*Acts – A transitional book – thus, look again at Hebrews 9:15-17

The Book of Acts is:

1. A **BRIDGE** from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
2. A **BACKGROUND** of History of the Early Church.
3. A **BECKONING** or Last Call to Israel.
4. A **“BREAKING”** or breaking away from Law to Grace and Jew to Gentile.

It would be difficult to find a key vs. any more appropriate than Acts 1:8 – which see.  
Chapter 2-7 – The witness is in Jerusalem  
Chapter 8-12 – It’s in Judea and Samaria  
Chapter 13-end – The uttermost part of the earth.

If there was a verse to compete with Acts 1:8 for the key vs. I’d have to consider Acts 13:46, “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”

With this in mind, it is interesting to compare two parts of the book of Acts.

Chapter 1-12

- \*Jerusalem as center
- \*Peter the Chief figure
- \*Reaching out to Samaria
- \*Peter imprisoned
- \*Judgment on Herod

Chapter 13-28

- Antioch as center
- Paul the Chief figure
- Reaching out to Rome
- Paul imprisoned
- Judgment on Jews

Also interesting is a comparison of Peter and Paul.

## Peter

Ch. 2 First sermon  
Ch. 3 Lame man healed  
Ch. 8 Deals with Simon the sorcerer  
Ch. 5 Power of his shadow  
Ch. 8 Laying on of hands by Peter;  
Holy Spirit given  
Ch. 10 Peter worshipped  
Ch. 9 Tabitha raised from the dead  
Ch. 12 Peter imprisoned

## Paul

Ch. 13 First sermon  
Ch. 14 Lame man healed  
Ch. 13 Deals with Elymas the sorcerer  
Ch. 14 Power of the handkerchief  
Ch. 19 Laying on of hands by Paul;  
Holy Spirit given  
Ch. 14 Paul worshipped  
Ch. 20 Eutychus raised from the dead  
Ch. 28 Paul imprisoned (like house  
arrest)

We also mentioned earlier the movement of the work of the Holy Spirit in the church from Jerusalem to Antioch. Study in the Bible the negative connotation with Alexandria, Rome and the positive connotation with Antioch! The new bibles are based on Alexandrian manuscripts.

Acts 1:6-7, "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

"Kingdom" here is physical and what we actually have in Acts 1-7 is God's "renewed offer" of the Kingdom of Heaven to Israel. Perhaps with the resurrection being the ultimate sign. Notice in Acts 3:17-21, clearly aimed at Israel and legitimate offer which probably if accepted would usher in second advent!

As an example of Peter's offer to Israel, notice the emphasis in his message in Acts 2.

Vs. 22 - a man...miracles, wonder, signs

Vs. 25 - Lord (as in God)

Vs. 32 - This Jesus

Vs. 34 - The Lord... to my Lord

Vs. 36 - end of vs. - both Lord - God and King and Christ - Messiah, Anointed

Once they rejected the offer there are no less than three turning points in the book.

1. Outrage against Stephen - 7:54-60
2. Outcry against Paul - 22:22
3. Outreach to the Gentiles - see 28:28 for confirmation.

We touched on Antioch earlier - see 11:19,26. Antioch has become by Acts 11 the center of Christian activity. Barnabas and Saul (Paul) go out from Antioch. Disciples first called Christians at Antioch. Antioch now sends relief to Jesus and Judea. Notice the "the Kingdom of God" is in Acts seven times; 1:3, 8:12, 14:22, 19:8, 20:25, 28:23, 28:31.

## OUTLINE

**The Beginning** - Ch. 1-6

Main character - Peter - God's Messenger  
**The Beckoning** - Ch. 7-12  
 Main character - Stephen - God's Martyr  
**The Broadening** - Ch. 13-28  
 Main character - Paul - God's Missionary

Holy Ghost - 42 times in 41 verses  
 Holy Spirit - 0  
Spirit (with capitals) - 11 times.

## Romans

Martin Luther called Romans "The masterpiece of the New Testament".

Before looking at Romans we need to get at least a broad view of the New Testament as a whole. Let's begin with 2 Tim. 3:16.

All scripture is written for us and is profitable to us but not all scripture is written to us or about us! After the gospels and Acts we come to the Epistles.

Consider - Nine Church Epistles (Rom. - 2 Thess.), Four Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim. - Philemon), Nine Jewish Epistles (If you call Revelations an Epistle) Jewish may mean Hebrew Christians.

An obvious fact among churches today is the doctrinal ignorance. At least one reason is an over-emphasis on the church epistles. Epistles are "in form" a personal letter to the churches. Had we been given impersonal theological treatises or discourses, we'd lose the passion and personal touch of the Pauline Epistle. Interestingly Paul writes to seven churches, as does the Lord in Revelations. Thus the complete teaching for the church in this age.

The church epistles can be broken into three groups.

- I. Roman-Galatians - Emphasis on Christ and the Cross
- II. Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians - Emphasis on Christ and the Church
- III. I and II Thessalonians - Emphasis on Christ and His coming

Consider several things about these nine letters:

	<u>How Christ is Best Presented</u>	<u>What we Find in Christ</u>
Romans	As the Power of God	JUSTIFICATION
1 Cor.	As the Wisdom of God	SANCTIFICATION
2 Cor.	As the Comfort of God	CONSOLATION
Gal.	As the Righteousness of God	LIBERATION
Eph.	As the Riches of God	EXHALTATION
Phil.	As the Sufficiency of God	JUBILATION
Col.	As the Fullness of God	COMPLETION

1 Thess. As the Promise of God  
2 Thess. As the Reward of God

TRANSLATION  
COMPENSATION

The Book of Romans was written around 58 A.D. After Rome had heard the gospel for about 25 years with no doubt various Christian groups already formed. Let's look at Romans in three main parts.

- I. Chapter 1-8 – DOCTRINAL – The gospel related to Conversion or Exposition
- II. Chapter 9-11 – NATIONAL – The gospel related to a Country (Israel) or Explanation
- III. Chapter 12-16 – PRACTICAL – The gospel related to Character or Application

Interesting note:

The word “sin” in Romans 1-4 is only found three times and in Romans 5-8 is found 41 times. It would appear first at salvation, our sins (acts) are forgiven then through the spirit our sin is dealt with. That is, our sin nature. Paul asks a question in Ch. 7:24 after the statement of vs. 23. Romans 7:23-24, “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Then after the question the answer is given in Ch. 8. There are 19 references to the Holy Spirit!

Could it be possible:

The “soul” is redeemed at the cross

The “spirit” (old nature) is delivered through commitment

The body is redeemed through His coming

Whatever the case Paul shows us that our sins are dealt with at Calvary and we get victory over sin through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. That's the “meat” of Romans 1-8. The gospel related to conversion.

Romans 9-11 and the Gospel related to Israel

The doctrinal problems come because Bible students try to apply passage to individuals rather than nations and to salvation rather than service. Whatever you conclude from Rom. 9-11 don't miss this:

1. God is NOT through with Israel.
2. Individuals in this age are saved the same way.
3. God will keep His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Concerning God's dealing with Jews/Gentiles concerning salvation and service just keep in mind Romans 11:33, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

Romans 12-16 and the Gospel related to Character or Conduct.

Ch. 12 – Social duty

Ch. 13 – Civil duty

Ch. 14-16 – Christian duty

For fun, notice 15:33, 16:20, 16:24, 16:27. It seems like all preachers, Paul has a difficult time closing his message!

Let's close with another look at what is possibly the most important truth of the book.

Rom. 4:1-8 So by Faith – Righteousness IMPUTED – Salvation  
Ch. 8 Righteousness IMPARTED

Thus, Judicial Righteousness at the Cross

Practical Righteousness thru the Holy Spirit

So, 3 deaths:

To sin – 6:11

To the law – 7:4

To the flesh 8:13

# 1 Corinthians

Originally I planned to cover 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians together but decided that's cutting too much out. So here's an overview of 1 Corinthians.

2 Timothy 3:16 says scripture is given for DOCTRINE, REPROOF, CORRECTION and INSTRUCTION in righteousness.

It has been suggested that of these we find:

Doctrine especially in Romans

Reproof especially in Corinthians

Correction especially in Galatians

Reproof, as a rule, deals with wrong PRACTICE.

Correction, as a rule, deals with wrong DOCTRINE.

However that does not mean one excludes the other, for often, WRONG DOCTRINE leads to WRONG PRACTICE! Unlike our studies to this point, I want to begin with a very general outline then look at some of the material. Keep in mind that much of Corinthians is written by Paul as a response to questions and concerns voiced to him via letters. (See 7:1).

- I. Paul DENOUNCES the SCHISMS at Corinth – Ch. 1-4
- II. Paul DEMANDS SEPARATION – Ch. 5
- III. Paul DISCOURAGES SELFISHNESS – Ch. 6
- IV. Paul DEALS with SOCIETAL concerns – Ch. 7-11
- V. Paul DISCUSSES SPIRITUAL GIFTS – Ch. 12-14
- VI. Paul DEBATES THE SKEPTICS – Ch. 15
- VII. Paul DIRECTS/DETAILS SUPPORT – Ch. 16

Consider a key verse in Ch. 1 – 1:30. Listed are four things we need, four things Christ supplies and perhaps the four answers to the problems at Corinth.

1. Paul – This crowd possibly emphasized Christian Liberty and supported Paul as their founder.

2. Apollos – This crowd probably liked intellectualism and eloquence.
3. Cephas – This crowd was probably committed to Judaism and Jerusalem’s roots.
4. Christ – These could be those who knew the Lord personally or simply chose to use His name to “lord” over the others.

Cliques, crowds and camps can come from:

- \*Personality preferences
- \*Economic status
- \*Educational background
- \*Social status, etc...

What does Paul teach this church?

- \*Salvation by the cross eliminates human wisdom altogether.
- \*Wisdom comes through the Holy Spirit, not man!
- \*Men are only stewards, God is the source.
- \*“Glorying” is a mockery. Especially while ignoring personal sin and the sins of others. (Ch. 5-6).

Paul writes four chapters to deal with **factions, schisms, divisions**.

He <u>puts down</u> MAN	and	<u>lifts up</u> God
3:5 we’re ministers (servants)		It is the Lord that gives
3:6 we’re “gardeners”		God gives the increase
3:10-15 we’re builders		Christ is the foundation
4:1 we’re stewards		Christ is the owner

But with this problem of schisms the problem was not Paul or Apollos. See 16:12 with 3:8-9. Paul says we, including Cephas, Apollos, etc.

J. Sidlow Baxter said, “God save us from being carried away by congregational applause! God save us from being jealous of another’s gifts! Immoderate adulation of such ministers is a mark of spiritual immaturity.” The key...Learn to love and appreciate God’s men with loyalty and honor without idolizing them! 1 Cor. 4:6, God’s “leaders” were meant to be learned from, not leaned on!

There is a clear and obvious “change” when we come to chapter 7. Notice 7:1, Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me.... Thus we could give a two-part outline – Ch. 1-6 – Reproof and Ch. 7-16 – Replies.

7:1 begins with now; so look also at:

- 8:1 Now
- 11:2 Now
- 12:1 Now
- 16:1 Now

Thus Paul is carefully responding to their questions.

We must look at 2:1-4 especially for the preachers. Notice verse 2, “I determined”. What made Paul so great? He acknowledged and practiced.

The message was vital, not the messenger (2:1-2). It is “The testimony of God” that gets the job done. Anything we do that diminishes the gospel and draws men to our ability, style etc...is “dangerous”.

The power comes from the Spirit not self! (2:3-4).

We need the right Message – The testimony of God.

The right Method – The Spirit of God

The right Motive – Vs. 5 The Saints of God

In 1 Corinthians we learn from Paul’s personal example.

1. Self-humiliation – Ch. 1-3
2. Self-responsibility – Ch. 4-6
3. Self-restraint – Ch. 7-8
4. Self – discipline – Ch. 9

A brief word about Spiritual Gifts. More specifically tongues.

Romans, Revelation and 1 Cor. 12-14 is the only place it’s discussed.

The church which emphasizes tongues is the most carnal and has Paul say, “Ye are yet carnal” and “babes in Christ”.

All listings (3) of gifts has tongues at the end (12:8-10, 12:28, 12:29-30). 12:30 clearly implies tongues are not for all. Unlike those who believe all should seek it. Every passage on tongues compares it unfavorably with prophecy or attaches a word of caution.

Finally we get Paul’s Gospel – 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and a great chapter on the resurrected body 15:35-52.

## 2 Corinthians

If ever the Apostle Paul poured out his heart he did so in 2 Cor. Notice the words of 2 Cor. 2:13, "I had no rest in my spirit..." With various problems already facing him, Paul was greatly troubled as he writes this book.

Look at 2 Cor. 1:8-9, 7:5, 4:7-11 and 16. We might consider as a key verse, 1:3.

Titus did eventually reach Paul in Macedonia, 7:6, and brought great comfort.

An interesting lesson in this book is not exactly "spelled out". Paul was clearly criticized and falsely accused often and from numerous opponents. Paul obviously had no problem with "ego". Especially compared to most. He obviously had no desire to magnify himself. However, the criticism reaches a point to where self-defense becomes a duty and necessity.

When does it reach that point?

\*When to ignore them could clearly hinder the work of God.

\*When to ignore them could create doubt/skepticism in new converts.

\*When to ignore them could destroy personal testimony?

So, that happens with Paul and an interesting word pops up often that you wouldn't expect from Paul. Let's look at that word. See if you can find it. 2 Cor. 7:14, 10:8, 13, 15, 16, 11:10, 16, 17. The appearance of 2 Cor. Is that Paul dealt primarily with opposition from the Judaistic crowd. "I am of Cephas". We can see what was probably some of their criticisms:

\*10:1-2 He was too bold.

\*10:10 His appearance /speech was contemptible.

\*10:12 Compared with themselves, he was inferior.

\*11:5 He was not a true apostle (12:11).

It might be had they not been so critical we may have never heard of his "trip" to the third heaven! One man called 2 Corinthians "the impassioned self-defense of a wounded spirit to erring and ungrateful children."

OUTLINE

- I. Paul ADDRESSES his CALLING – Ch. 1-5 – The Motive 1-2, The Message 3-5
- II. Paul ADVISES his CONVERTS – Ch. 6-9
- III. Paul ANSWERS his CRITICS – Ch. 10-13

**OR**

- I. Paul as MINISTER - Explanation 1-5
- II. Paul as FATHER – Exhortation 6-9
- III. Paul as APOSTLE – Vindication 10-13

Look at some of the great statements in 2 Corinthians.

- 1. 2:11 – We need to “study the enemy”.
- 2. 2:14 – We are to live triumphant lives.
- 3. 2:17 – Corruption was taking place in Paul’s day.
- 4. Chapter 3 – Great chapter on Old Covenant verses the new, see vs. 17-18.
- 5. 4:17!
- 6. 5:1-8 – Our Heavenly Hope and Eternal Body
- 7. 5:10 – WE....ALL

and it goes on and on:

6:14, 7:1, 8:9, 9:8, 15, 10:4-5, 10:12, 11:14, 12!!! Esp. vs. 9

Thus when Paul the Apostle “spills his heart” it is rich, full, comforting and challenging.

See how Paul views everything from a spiritual and eternal standpoint – 5:16.  
4:16-18, 5:1-2

A word about the benediction, 13:11-14. Notice the Trinity in 13:14.  
Verse with you all, Those who hated Paul criticized Paul, lied about Paul etc.

# Galatians

Galatians 2:20-21, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

Someone said:

Read Romans to be GROUNDED

Read Corinthians to be GUIDED

Read Galatians to be GUARDED

From Acts 16:6 and 18:23 it appears Paul may have been to Galatia twice, prior to writing this letter. Also his first visit was evidently during a time of PHYSICAL ILLNESS, see Gal. 4:13. This sickness was evidently such that some would be "turned off" by his appearance, though not the Galatia church, 4:14! Could it be that this "illness" included serious EYE TROUBLE, or is 4:15 just an illustration? Paul's thorn in the flesh? They evidently were very RECEPTIVE at Paul's first visit, but not so the second time. Thus the words of 4:15-16. So what happened? See 1:6-7. Paul was amazed, shocked, surprised, and angered by their failure! Listening to the wrong crowd led them to:

1. Confuse the Gospel of Grace
2. Seek Justification thru the law – 5:4
3. Revert back to Ritualism and Legalism – 4:9-10
4. Holding on to Judaistic teachings – 6:12
5. Trying to "Supplement" the Holy Spirit – 3:3
6. Choosing the Law of Moses (4:21) over Liberty thru Christ

The “trouble” seems to have come from outside the body of believers in Galatia, 3:1. As was the case in Jerusalem, 2:4 false brethren, 2:12 of the circumcision.

Consider a few unique aspects of this epistle:

1. 6:11 – Paul did the actual writing which was not normally the case.
2. It’s not addressed to a church, but “churches” (1:2). Unlike 1 Cor.1:2, 2 Cor.1:1, 1Thess. 1:1, 2Thess. 1:1.
3. No one addressed is referred to as a “saint” (Eph. 1:1) or as being “in God”, 1Thess. 1:1 or “of God” 1Cor. 1:2.

With that said, some verses in Galatians may very well apply to lost people, 3:4, 5:4 etc...

## OUTLINE

### I. A Personal Defense, 1-2 - Personal Explanation

- a. Paul defends his ministry, ch. 1
- b. Paul defends his message, ch. 2

### II. A Powerful Discourse, 3-4 - Doctrinal Exposition

- a. The power of faith, ch. 3
- b. The privileges of faith, ch. 4

### III. A Practical Deduction, 5-6 - Practical Application

- a. The freedom of the spirit, 5:1-15
- b. The fruit of the spirit, 5:16-26
- c. The fortitude (fervor) of the spirit, 6

I called chapter 3-4 “A powerful discourse”. In these chapters Paul illustrates the superiority of the Gospel over the law!or:

The FAITH over WORKS 3:2

The SPIRIT over the FLESH 3:3

BLESSING over CURSING 3:9-10

JUSTIFICATION over FRUSTRATION 3:11-12, 2:21

SONSHIP over SERVANTHOOD 4:5-7

LIBERTY over BONDAGE 4:8, 5:1

Today the “bondage” is still obvious in different “forms”. Rome Catholicism, observing sabbaths, pagan holidays; tradition! And in part what caused Paul to confront Peter, 2:11-16.

Some places we can’t overlook:

1:8-9, 2:16, 2:20, 3:23-24, 4:16, 5:16, 6:7-8, 6:10

We must consider 4:21-31. Who bought and sold Joseph. Ishmaelites! Slave Business

Ishmael

Isaac

Born of flesh - Lack of faith  
Connected to Bondage

Born of Promise - Faith  
Connected to Freedom

Isaac found freedom after willingly laying down at Mt. Moriah and then replaced by a substitute sacrifice!

Close with 6:17 – Paul’s emphatic “I”!

## Ephesians

Ephesians is one four epistles (Eph., Phil., Col., Philemon) known as “prison epistles”. See 3:1, 4:1 – “prisoner”

In spite of 1:1 and 3:1 (which see) some of the “scholars” actually question who the author of this epistle is. I mention that only to remind you there are plenty of educated, influential, polished, articulate “authorities” out there who are more interested in their authority than God’s!

You can read about Paul’s ministry in Ephesus in Acts 18-20, which took place before the epistle was written.

Ephesus was certainly a cosmopolitan city in the time of Paul, one of the great cities of the Roman Empire. It had one of the largest theatres in Asia Minor promoted to be able to seat 50,000 people. Most all bible students know of the famous temple dedicated to the goddess Diana (Acts 19-23-28). This temple was 425 ft. long and 220 ft. wide. It was supported by 127 columns and each was almost 60 ft. high.

Perhaps the theme verse for Ephesians should be 1:3. Two things to emphasize here:

1. These are the words of Paul the Apostle, from a prison cell!
2. They lay the groundwork or foundation for the book which focuses on Spiritual Blessing in Heavenly places.

Consider use of the words:

- “rich” 1:7, 1:18, 2:4, 2:7, 3:8, 3:16
- “heavenly places” 1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10
- “fullness” 1:23, 3:19, 4:13

We’ll give a full outline before we’re thru but the book could easily be broken into two halves:

- I. Chapters 1-3 – Doctrinal – Our WEALTH in Christ
- II. Chapters 4-6 – Practical – Our WALK in Christ

For just a brief glance at the doctrinal, consider the subject of:

- 1. Election 1:4
- 2. Predestination 1:5
- 3. Revelation 1:9
- 4. Redemption 1:7
- 5. Dispensation 1:10
- 6. Preservation 1:13
- 7. Illumination 1:17-18

Perhaps we should pay close attention to the content of Paul’s prayers! See 1:15-19 and 3:14-21.

One crucial subject in Ephesians is “Christ and the Church”.

- 1. 1:22-23 The church, His body
- 2. 2:13,16,18-19 By the blood and the Holy Spirit, His household
- 3. 3:21 It’s where Christ gets the glory
- 4. 4:4 Only one
- 5. 5:23-32 It’s a marriage!

So we learn some simple truths:

\*The church is the one body of born again believers

\*Christ is the head

\*It does not require water or the wafer!

By the way, the word “one” in Eph. 20 times in 15 verses, “together” 7 times in 6 verses.

## OUTLINE

- I. Our wealth in Christ – Ch. 1-3
  - a. Paul DISCUSSES the BLESSINGS – Ch. 1
    - i. Election vs. 4
    - ii. Predestination vs. 5
    - iii. Acceptation vs. 6
    - iv. Redemption vs. 7
    - v. Revelation vs. 8-9
    - vi. Preservation vs. 13
    - vii. Illumination vs. 18

- b. Paul DESCRIBES the BUILDING – Ch. 2
  - i. In Eph. The Church is likened to: A BODY Ch. 1&4, A BUILDING Ch. 2, and A BRIDE Ch. 5.
- c. Paul DECLARES a BURDEN (DESIRE) - Ch. 3
  - i. Clearly his desire was for all to understand and enjoy the deeper Christian life!

## II. Our WALK in CHRIST - Ch. 4-6

- a. As SAINTS in the BODY – Ch. 4
- b. As SERVANTS in the BRIDE - Ch. 5
- c. As SOLDIERS in the BATTLE – Ch. 6

Unfortunately there are two major false doctrines misuse the book of Ephesians.

1. Hyper Calvinism – Ch. 1
2. Hyper Dispensationalism – Ch. 3

A brief explanation:

1. Chapter 1:4-5 – If we're IN HIM , then we're chosen to be PREDESTINED to be His children. See the word "ye" in 1:13.
2. Chapter 3 – Some go way too far in explaining Paul's statement about "other ages," etc... and especially 3:2.

# Philippians

Consider as you study Philippians that you are reading a "letter" written to the FIRST Christian church in Europe!

Paul's visit to the Macedonian city was inspired by a vision (Acts 16:10). After a few evangelistic meetings, Paul's ministry of Praying, Preaching and Praising led to a beating and then he and his evangelistic team (Silas), were thrown into prison!

Many agree that Philippians is the most "informed" of all Paul's writings, with no major doctrinal issues or controversial subjects addressed. This, it is a most practical letter.

Philippians is also written from Rome. See 1:13, 4:22.

Philippi was a Roman colony (Acts 16:12, 21) considered to be a miniature Rome in itself.

Interesting Note (Acts 16)

1. 16:13: women praying
2. 16:14-15: First convert there is a woman (Lydia)
3. 16:16-18: The ONLY recorded miracle dealt with a woman and yet Paul is called a male chauvinist! The apostle Paul liberated women.

It appears as though Paul's relationship with the church at Philippi went beyond that of the other churches. Notice:

1. 1:5: unbroken support
2. 1:7: unconditional support
3. 4:14-15: unselfish support

Just look at the depth of his words to them in 4:1- "my brethren," "dearly beloved," "longed for," "my joy and crown."

Their gift was evidently hand delivered by Epaphroditus (see 4:18) who evidently became very sick on his journey to Rome (see 2:25-28).

- I. Is it possible they sent Epaphroditus with the "riches of many" and got in return the "riches of the word of God?" (This is assuming Paul sent this epistle by the hand of Epaphroditus on his return trip!)

A few themes in the book:

1. Joy and Rejoicing: 1:4, 1:18, 1:25, 2:16-18, 2:28, 3:1, 3:3, 4:1, 4:4
2. Gain in Christ: 1:21, 1:23, 3:7-8

Consider the preeminence of Jesus Christ in Paul's ministry revealed in this book:

- I. As Paul's motive: 1:21
- II. As Paul's mind: 2:2-5
- III. As Paul's mission: 3:8-10
- IV. As Paul's ministry: 4:13

Thus, we can learn in our own walk w/God:

1. Christ is our LIFE-CH. 1
2. Christ is our EXAMPLE of humility-CH. 2
3. Christ is our GOAL-CH. 3
4. Christ is our STRENGTH-CH. 4

Consider in Chapter 1- OUR LIFE:

1. We have the feeling/affections of Jesus Christ-vs. 8
2. We have the selflessness of Christ-vs. 12
3. We have the Spirit of Christ-vs. 19
4. We have the determination of Christ-vs. 20
5. We have the desire of heaven-vs. 23
6. Conduct-vs. 27

J. Sidlow Baxter said, "When our hearts are held and swayed by the indwelling Son of God our personalities become His living pulpits and our lives incarnate sermons."

7. Attitude toward others-vs. 28

Consider in Chapter 2- He is our EXAMPLE of humility:

- Vss. 1-2: Exhortation
- Vss. 3-4: Exhibition
- Vss. 5-8: Exposition
- Vss. 12-15: Application
- Vss. 19-30: Illustrations of Timothy (vss. 20-22) and Epaphroditus (vss. 25-30).

Consider in Chapter 3-He is our GOAL: (\*Don't forget 3:3!)\*

- Vs. 9: Christ is the goal of our faith
- Vs. 10: Christ is the goal of our love
- Vs. 11: Christ is the goal of our hope

Consider in Chapter 4-He is our Strength

Why do right?-4:5

Lessons from Phillippians:

The Praising Man is the Prevailing Man!

The Selfless Man is the Satisfied Man!

The Giving Church is the Grateful Church!

The Lowly Man is the Lifted Man! (The way up is down!)

The Pure Heart is the Peaceful Heart!

# Colossians

Written between 62-64 A.D. from Rome during Paul's first imprisonment.

Keep in mind:

\*John wrote to seven churches – Laod. Being the seventh.

\*Paul wrote to seven churches – Rome, Cor., Gal., Eph., Ph., Col., Thess.

And in Colossians you find the word “Laodicea” five times (2:1, 4:13, 4:15, 4:16 twice). The word is in the Bible a total of seven times! The other two are in Rev. 1:11 and 3:14. And of course the references in Colossians are just before the book of 1 Thess. Where we find the rapture in 1 Thess. 4. On top of all this Paul tells them to read this letter in the church of the Laodiceans (see Col. 4:16). So it is clearly a crucial book for the church during the Last Days, and as such, gives a **STRONG WARNING AGAINST: Philosophy, Deceit, Tradition and Rudiments of the World.**

Colossians and Ephesians are very similar. So much so, E.W. Bullinger says 78 out of the 95 verses in Colossians have a marked resemblance to verses in Ephesians.

Paul was not the founder of the church at Colosse and may have never visited the city (see 2:1). However, one of Paul's converts (Epaphras – 1:7, 4:12) had probably evangelized the area.

However, the work of Epaphras in Colosse is probably just an extension of Paul's work in other places. Take a look at Acts 19:6-10 (vs. 10 – all they which dwelt in Asia). Also Acts 19:26. Colosse is in the Western area of Asia Minor.

In Colossians the first two chapters are DOCTRINAL, the last two are PRACTICAL. Like Galatians, Colossians was written to help correct FALSE DOCTRINE. Remember, a book especially for the last days! According to most conservative commentaries, the false doctrine being dealt with are:

1. Ebionites – Emphasized “Following the example” or “Imitating Christ”. A good idea carried too far results in false doctrine. Perhaps the reason for 2:16-17.
2. Essenes – “Working to heaven” thru mortifying the deeds of the body – extreme asceticism; self-mutilation. Perhaps the reason for 2:20-23.
3. Judaizer – Sought to bring them back under the law. Thus 2:13-14.
4. Philosophus – Thus 2:8

The strange promotion of these false doctrines came from an unusual mixture of Jewish Traditionalism and Greek Philosophy. Like today's mix of “religion” and “psychology”.

As we said the first two chapters are doctrinal then the last two are practical. Thus Paul's words in verse 9-10:

Verse 9 – to deal with the Doctrinal

Verse 10 – to deal with the Practical

Balance!!

#### OUTLINE:

- I. The Preeminence of Christ – Ch. 1
  - a. At Creation – 1:16-17
  - b. In the Church – 1:18-19
  - c. At the Cross – 1:20-22
- II. The Problems at Colosse – Ch. 2
  - a. Heady Reasoning – vs. 8-15
  - b. Heretical Rituals – vs. 16-17
  - c. “Higher” Revelations – vs. 18-19
  - d. Horrendous Regulations – vs. 20-23
- III. The Path of the Christian – Ch. 3-4
  - a. What you SEEK
  - b. How you SERVE
  - c. What you SAY

#### Great Passages:

1:12-18, 1:26-27, 2:8-10, 3:1-4 (How you live is determined by what you believe!)  
16-17

Consider Co. 9 and the names and what Paul says about them in verses 7-14. Who knows their names? The Apostle Paul? God?

One last thing about our SALVATION:

1:12 – Inheritance

1:13 – Deliverance

1:13 – Translation

1:14 – Redemption

1:14 – Forgiveness

1:21 – Reconciliation

1:22 – Ultimate Glorification!

## 1 & 2 Thessalonians

1 & 2 Thessalonians are among the EARLIEST WRITTEN books of the New Testament. Probably written around 53 A.D. The background for 1 & 2 Thess. is found in Acts 17:1-14. Things had gone well in Thessalonica but Paul had to leave due to violent unbelieving Jews. He later sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to follow up and report. (See 1 Thess. 3:1-6).

Reminder of Earlier Comments:

\*Rom; 1&2 Cor; Gal. – Christ and His Cross

\*Eph; Ph; Col. – Christ and His Church

\*1&2 Thess. – Christ and His Coming

The clear theme of 1&2 Thess. is the second coming! Notice the end of each chapter in 1 Thess. 1:9-10, 2:19-20, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:23. In some churches they get upset if you preach a lot of doctrine. Especially on future events. They say they

want something practical. \*Doctrine is Practical. \*The doctrine of the second advent is extremely practical and is a great motivator for practical Christian living!

OUTLINE:

- I. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – A Motivation for Salvation (1:9-10) – Ch. 1
- II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – A Message for Soul-winners (2:19) – Ch. 2
- III. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – A Mandate for Stability (3:12-13) – Ch. 3
- IV. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – A Medicine for Sorrow (4:13) – Ch. 4
- V. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent – A Means for Separation – Ch. 5

Notice 1:3

\*work of faith

\*labour of love

\*patience of hope

1:9-10

turn to God from idols

to serve the living and true God

and to wait for his son from heaven

A few passages we can't overlook:

1Thess. 2:13

3:12-13

4:14-17

5:9

5:19

5:24

## 2Thessalonians

Probably written very shortly after 1 Thess. Possibly only a few months. The primary reason for the second letter is very possibly due to some MISUNDERSTANDING about the second Advent. Thus the words of 2:1-3. Paul writes to clarify and offers a few more details to the second coming.

OUTLINE:

Ch. 1 – Comforting words

Ch. 2 – Correcting words

Ch. 3 – Commanding words (See 3:4, 6, 10, 12)

Perhaps we should study 1 Thess. with the Rapture in mind and 2 Thess. with the second advent (Revelation) in mind.

Some clear FACTS about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent:  
Involves vengeance and punishment – 1:8-9  
Involves worship of our King – 1:10  
Involves devils and deception – 2:8-10  
Involves working while waiting – 3:5, 11-12

## 1 & 2 Timothy

After looking at nine books known as the “Church Epistles”, we now come to those books called the Pastoral Epistles. So we have Paul’s “counsel” for the ministry but never forget while we are to rightly divide all scripture is profitable.

In other words, The Pastoral Epistles, are not just for Pastors!

- Want to know about the last days?
- Want to know how to deal with false doctrine?
- Want to know God’s view of the local church?
- Want to know about future rewards?
- Want to know about the role of man/women?

-Want to know how to deal with heretics?  
You need the Pastoral Epistles for these answers!

Let me give you one great example of how it could help the local churches if church members would read these books! Read 1 Tim. 5:17-19!

Just a little bit of info on Timothy that will be helpful as you study.

\*His mother was a Jewess, father a Greek – See Acts 16:1

\*Circumcised for Testimony's sake – Acts 16:3

\*He's Paul's "son" in the faith – 1 Tim. 1:2 (Principle of 1 Cor. 4:15)

\*Paul seemed to greatly desire to see him before he died – See 2 Tim. 4:21

\*He evidently pastored the church in Ephesus – 1 Tim. 1:3

Let me offer an OUTLINE of both books and then look at some of the "more obvious" lessons from each.

### 1 Timothy –

- I. Challenging the BODY of believers – Ch. 1-3
  - a. Timothy and his teaching – Ch. 1
  - b. Saints and their submission – Ch. 2
  - c. Bishops and their behavior – Ch. 3
- II. Challenging the BELIEVERS of the body – Ch. 4-6
  - a. Devils, duty and doctrine – Ch. 4
  - b. Widows, woman, wages and wine – Ch. 5
  - c. Servants and satisfaction – Ch. 6
    - i. The DANGER of riches – vs. 8-10
    - ii. The DENIAL of riches – vs. 11-14
    - iii. The DISTRIBUTION of riches – vs. 15-19

### 2 Timothy –

- I. The Preacher's challenges for today – Ch. 1-2
  - a. Timothy's personal responsibilities – Ch. 1 – Salvation by faith
  - b. Timothy's pastoral responsibilities – Ch. 2 – Serving by faith
- II. The preacher's challenges for tomorrow – Ch. 3-4
  - a. The Last Days of Peril – Ch. 3
  - b. The Last Days of Paul – Ch. 4

As we said some of the more obvious lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy:

1. Emphasis on doctrine: 1 Tim. 1:3,10, 4:6, 13,16, 5:17, 6:1-3, 2 Tim. 3:10, 16, 4:2,3
2. Charges from Paul – 1:3, 18, 5:7, 21, 6:13, 17
3. 1:11-12 Does God still call and commission preachers?
4. 1 Tim. 2:12-15
  - a. Doesn't say she can't teach
  - b. Has nothing to do with salvation! I'd say if women would adhere to 2:9-12 they'd be less deceived.
5. 3:1-7 - I DO NOT believe the passage says a divorced man can't pastor!
6. Chapter 5 – Rules for widows. Those to be taken care of by the local church!
  - a. If she has relatives, they're to take care of her – vs. 4.

- b. She lives by faith and trusts God – vs. 5
- c. Verse 6 is a loose-living widow! Enjoying her liberty.
- d. The widow must be at least 60 – vs. 9
- e. Had a good reputation of faithful labor to family and others – vs. 10

Notice vs. 13-14. A married woman is to avoid the mistake of verse 13.

## 2 Timothy

1:7 – An abiding spirit of fear is not from God!

1:12 - Eternal security

2:4 – The preacher more than any other cannot be so bogged down with this world!

2:12-13 – Denial of Reign

2:15 – Key to Bible. Only command to study!

3:16 – Great statement about scripture

4 – The last words of Paul

Before getting to Titus we need to complete our comments on 2 Tim. We gave the outline:

### I. The Preacher's challenges for today – Ch. 1-2

a. Timothy's personal responsibilities

b. Timothy's pastoral responsibilities

### II. The preacher's challenges for tomorrow – Ch. 3-4

a. The Last Days of Peril

b. The Last Days of Paul

A very brief look at a few passages in 2 Tim.

1:7 – An abiding spirit of fear is not from God!

1:12 – Eternal security – the key – He is able!

2:4 – The preacher, more than any other, cannot be so bogged down with this world!

2:12-13 – Touched on last week, it's referring to a denial of reigning.

2:15 – Key to bible and the only command to study. It's taken out of many new bible versions.

3:16 – Famous passage about scripture. The words are God-breathed; inspiration spirit.

Chapter 4 – The last recorded words of Paul.

Famous last speeches:

John 13-17 Jesus with disciples

Gen. 49 Jacob to sons

Deut. 32-33 – Moses to Israel

Josh. 24 – Joshua to Israel

2 Sam. 23:1-7 – David to the world

Acts 7 – Stephen to Sanhedrin

# Titus

Probably another of Paul's converts (See 1:4)

Begin with Titus 1:5, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

Paul had left Titus in Crete. Crete is a large island off the North coast of Africa. Cretians are from Ham. They're probably the "Cherethites" of various passages: 1 Sam. 30:14, Ezek. 25:16, Zeph. 2:5. Paul had spent some time in Crete (Acts 27:7-9. He was obviously very fond of Titus (See 2 Cor. 2:13, 2 Cor. 7:6, Gal. 2:1 ). So,

Titus is written in order to help Timothy do his job, thereby helping churches in Crete to be sound, settled and serious. While Titus has some emphasis on Doctrine it seems to promote not just the right beliefs, but to go farther and encourage the right behaviour. In other words from Titus we find that:

DOCTRINE must be accompanied by DOING  
The WORD must be followed by the WORKS  
The PREACHING must effect the PRACTICE

What goes in the head gets in the heart and should move our feet! The hearer must be a doer! Thus a good theme verse might be 3:8, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." And Paul gets in one last jab in 3:14.

## OUTLINE

Ch. 1 – Pastoral discipline

Ch. 2 – Practical doctrine

Ch. 3 – Personal duty

The skeptics of bible critics make much to do over the different style of writing in Timothy and Titus and thereby question the authorship of Paul. Here are several simple answers:

1. You write differently to individuals than groups.
2. There's probably over 10 years between the writings. Don't you know your style of writing has changed in 10 years!
3. I'd say you'd write differently when older and facing a guillotine!

The bible doesn't exactly "spell-out" the "formula" for starting churches and maintaining churches. However, a few facts should be remembered:

1. There's not scriptural basis for what we have today. Hierarchy type setup –Roman Catholic, United Methodist, etc... Churches and preachers "controlled" by denominational heads.
2. Each church is its own "governmental" authority called "autonomy of the local church"
3. There's no scriptural basis for a church adopting a "democratic" form of gov't. (majority rules).
4. Paul the Apostle appointed elders in his churches or appointed others to appoint elders!

A few passages to consider:

1:9-11 – Strong words for a tolerant nation as ours!

2:1-5 – This advice is sound doctrine!

Vs. 3-5 – A forgotten Ministry – aged women teaching

A forgotten Message – holiness, keepers at home

A forgotten Motive – that the word of God be not blasphemed

2:11 – Salvations Past – vs. 11: Present – vs. 12: Future – vs. 13

3:5 – Notice “renewing of the Holy Ghost” – thus the Holy Ghost renews, “washing of regeneration” – it’s regeneration that washes.

## **Philemon**

Philemon was evidently a close friend of Paul’s (vs. 1). He possibly pastored the church in his house (vs. 2). He was very possibly one of Paul’s converts (vss. 19-20). It is assumed this letter to Philemon was written along with Colossians and sent at the same time (see Col. 4:8-9). Philemon was evidently well-to-do and a slave

owner. One of his slaves ran away (Onesimus) and ended up in Rome. In Rome he met Paul and Paul led him to the Lord (vs. 10)! Onesimus was a real blessing to Paul and Paul wanted to keep him but knew he belonged to Philemon (vss. 10-15). Paul writes this letter to ask Philemon to receive Onesimus back into his service without punishment and free of charge! Sound familiar? The picture: God is the owner (Philemon). We're the run-away slave (Onesimus). Jesus is the friend to both (Paul). He reconciles us back to the Father, pays the debt and says if he's done anything wrong charge it to my account (vs. 18)!

1-7 – The loving sovereign

8-18 – The longing servant

19-25 – The lodging saints (esp. vs. 22)

## Hebrews

Hebrews is one of the most controversial books of the Bible.

2 Reasons:

1. Debate over authorship (we'll not get into this one).
2. Doctrinal content (we must discuss).

When I first got saved the two passages which “gave me fits” were Acts 2:38 and Hebrews 6:4-6. If you are not a very serious, sincere and scrutinizing student of the Bible and if you are more influenced by men than the Holy Spirit, there are several places in the bible where you are most likely to get confused or trapped by “misplaced doctrine”. Those places are in particular: Matthew, Acts and Hebrews. Since Hebrews 6 gets so much attention I think we need to cover that subject before looking at an overview of the book. We must never lose sight of 2 Tim. 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Let's illustrate the “problem”. Contrast:

1. Acts 2:38 with 10:44-48
2. Rom. 8:35, John 10:15-20 and Eph. 1:13 with Hebrews 6:4-6
3. Eph. 2:8-9 and Rom. 4:5, 11:6 with James 2:24

We could spend hours discussing all this. Our purpose in this book is to get an overview of the book so we must limit our discussion. I'll give you a few facts.

- I. All scripture is written for you, but not to you. Eph. 5:22 “Wives...” Eph. 5:25 “Husbands...” So Hebrews to Hebrews!
- II. Doctrine before the death, burial and resurrection is clearly not the same as after the death, burial and resurrection.
- III. The work of the Holy Spirit is clearly not the same in all ages. If Rev. is after rapture could Hebrews be as well?
- IV. All prophecy is not in the Old Testament.

So it's clear, my belief is “dispensational” and as a rule dispensationalist place the book of Hebrews in a tribulation context. Perhaps one other view is worthy of consideration. Acts deals with Jews and Israel and in particular the early church. In that context Jews who made up much of the early church were being “weaned” from Judaism, the Law, the Levitical priesthood, etc... As we move from Acts to Romans the “Jewish” aspect of the church, is for the most part, left behind. Now after the 13 books to Christians and churches we come back to that subject and “Hebrews” begins again to convince the Jews that Christ and only Christ is the way. If this is the correct view, you'd explain Hebrews 6:4-6 with examples from earlier parts of Acts. Where Old Testament Saints and “unconverted” Saints (Like Peter Lk. 22:32) might fit the description of Hebrews 6:4-6.

I strongly favor the dispensational/tribulation view!

The real point is this. You must rightly divide and “doctrine” is not the same for each age! For a bit of interesting info:

“Church or any form (churches) – Rom. – Philemon – 62 times (in 61 verses). Hebrews-3 John – 7 times. “Churches” – Rom. – Philemon 20 times. Hebrews-3 John – 0. For more verification consider Matt. 10:6, “house of Israel – Acts. 2:36, He. 3:6,8 in the wilderness! Israel

Whatever we determine from the facts one thing is abundantly clear; Rom. –Philemon are from Paul to churches and preachers. Hebrews marks an obvious change.

Consider as a theme verse for the book – 11:40.

Hebrews establishes the facts:

Jesus is better

Grace is better

The cross is better

Heaven is better

Do you want to guess the key word of Hebrews?

Look closer:

1:4 – Jesus is better than the angels

3:3 – Jesus is better than Moses

7:11 – Jesus is better than Aaron

7:19 – We have a better hope

7:22 – We have a better testament

8:6 – Better promises

9:23 – Better sacrifices

10:34 – Better substance

11:16 – Better country

11:35 – Better resurrection

11:40 – Some better thing

Another word of “contrast” to consider; 7:27, 9:12, 9:26,28, 10:10 – Doesn’t that sound great? Once for all!

Because Jesus Christ is better and gave Himself once for all consider:

4:1 – Let us fear

4:11 – Let us labour

4:14 – Let us hold fast our profession

4:16 – Let us therefore come boldly unto...

6:1 – Let us go on unto perfection

10:22 – Let us draw near

10:23 – Let us hold fast the prof. of our faith

10:24 – Let us consider one another

12:1 – Lay aside every weight...run with patience

12:8 – Let us have grace...

13:13 – Let us go forth therefore unto him

13:15 – ...offer the sacrifice of praise

## OUTLINE

A better priest – Ch. 1-7 – the Christ

A better provision – Ch. 8-10 – the Cross

A better practice – Ch. 11-13 – the Consequences

## **James/ 1&2 Peter**

Last time about Hebrews. I must again emphasize what must be understood in order to understand the Bible. I was too vague last week.

1. Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles and writes to churches. Thus there has to be a certain amount of emphasis placed on those books, Romans through Philemon. See Gal. 2:7-8 and Eph. 3:1-2.
2. We are clearly told to Rightly Divide the word of God! 2 Tim. 2:15.
3. Just as the Bible as a whole is Divided into 2 testaments each testament has divisions. Jesus Divided the Old Testament into the Law, prophets, and Psalms (Luke 24:44). All Doctrine is not for EVERY DISPENSATION! If so, we'd worship on Saturday. Just as the Old Testament is divided the New Testament is as well. Most of Matthew through John is written before the death, burial, resurrection! The New Testament doctrine is not in force – Hebrews 9:16-17. Acts is a transition book and is the Acts of Apostles. They did things as signs for Jews – 1 Cor. 1:22; 2 Cor. 12:12. Romans through Philemon – Paul to the churches in Dispensation of Grace. Hebrews clearly marks a change and from He-Rev. we must be careful not to misplace the doctrine!

Now for a few “proof texts” as to the Jewish flavor: (Starting with the title)

\*Hebrews 3:5-6 – “And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

Hebrews 3:14 – “For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;” Sound like Matthew 24:13.

\*Consider 2 Tim. 3:1 last days....shall come

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days

\*Constant references to priests, sacrifices, etc.

\*8:10-12

With some understanding of rightly dividing with the realization that some New Testament books are prophetic we may have a “headstart” as we look at James. However, James definitely offers some good practical, devotional, spiritual material. Just be careful doctrinally! Again the Jewish flavor is clear from 1:1.

I. The WAVERING Man – Ch. 1

II. The WORKING Man – Ch. 2

III. The WILD Man – Ch. 3 (See 3:7-8) or WORLDLY, WEAK

IV. The WARRING Man – Ch. 4

V. The WICKED Man – Ch. 5

For the practical outline from the same emphasis above.

Ch. 1 – If you LISTEN right you should LIVE right.

Ch. 2 – If you BELIEVE right you should BEHAVE right.

Ch. 3 – If you have the right WISDOM you'll have the right WALK. Ch. 3 contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom.

Ch. 4 – The right DESIRES leads to the right DISCIPLINE.

Ch. 5 – The right ATTITUDE toward the SAVIOR leads to the right ATTITUDE towards SINNERS and SAINTS!

For some evidence of future references and possible tribulation context:

1:27 – Faith in Christ? By the way, “Jesus Christ” only in James twice – 1:1;2:1

Ch. 2 – Law and Works emphasized

5:3 – last days

5:11 – Job – Type of tribulation saint

5:17 – Elijah – comes back with Moses (Also interesting 3 ½ yrs. of no rain.)

The real “hangup” is 2:17-26 compared to Romans 5:1; Gal. 3:24.

# 1&2 Peter and 1, 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> John

Once again, we come to a book (or books) where the Jewish flavor is immediately obvious. Notice – 1<sup>st</sup> word – “Peter...” – The apostle to the circumcision (Jews). Then 1:2 – “elect” – Often refers to Jews as in Matthew 24:31. See also Isa. 45:4 and 65:9 “sprinkling of blood”. But “elect” is not always Jews, Rom. 8:33. However, unlike Hebrews and James, Peter along with 1, 2 & 3 John as well as Jude is much more difficult to nail down. I’m talking about DOCTRINE & DISPENSATION! For this particular study remember this is an overview. We’ll just remind you for now – Christian doctrine in the Dispensation of Grace is found PRIMARILY in the Pauline Epistles. From Hebrews to Revelations - Be careful!

OUTLINE: (1 Peter)

Ch. 1 – The Born-Again Christian – vs. 23

Ch. 2 – The Baby Christian – vs. 2

Ch. 3 – The Behaving Christian – vss. 8-9

Ch. 4 – The Battling Christian – vs. 1,12

Ch. 5 – The Blessed Christian – vs. 4,6

Verses for comment

1:18-19

1:23 Incorruptible seed

2:7-8 Living and written word

3:1-4 Godly women

3:7 Godly men

3:21 Not water Baptism

4:6 with 3:19 – Old Testament Saints

5:6-7 Don't worry

## 2 Peter

The scholars argue over authorship due to a clear difference in “tone” between 1&2 Peter. There is a clear difference, but I’ll take the words of the 1<sup>st</sup> verse over all the scholars. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter like 1<sup>st</sup> Peter there is much practical advice. However, this 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle adds the great motivation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent.

OUTLINE:

Chapter

The Compliments of Faith – vs. 5-7 – Character

The Conflict of Faith – 2:1-2 – Corruption

The Climax of Faith – 3:14 – Consummation

Verses for comment:

1:18-19 Discussed last week

2:20-22 ever saved? I think not – vs. 1 false prophets, vs. 17 wells without water

3:5-7 A flood before Noah's flood 3:12-14!

# The Epistles of John – I, II & III John

We're looking at three epistles written by John in his old age. Written between 85 & 95 A. D. among the last books to be written. One of the great attributes of these writings is that John tells us why he wrote: See 1:4, 2:1, 12-14, 21, 5:13. Words that seem to permeate John's writing are: Light, Life, and Love. He obviously wants us to see a strong connection between Jesus Christ and the Scripture, beginning his gospel and this 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle by referring to the Word.

## OUTLINE of 1 John

- I. Walking in His Light – Ch. 1-2
- II. Working in His Love – Ch. 3-4
- III. Witnessing in His Life – Ch. 5

Consider John's test of salvation – 3:1-10  
The word "know" appears in 1 John over 30 times.

## 2 John

Written to "The Elect Lady". Guesses – A local church? The church in general? A particular lady – possibly a widow?

### OUTLINE:

- Vs. 1-4 – A Compliment
- Vs. 5-8 – A Command
- Vs. 9-13 – A Caution

## 3 John

Written to Gaius?

1. Gaius of Corinth – Rom. 16:23, 1 Cor. 1:14
2. Gaius of Macedonia – Acts 19:29
3. Gaius of Derbe – Acts 20:4-5 or some other Gaius?

3 John deals with three men: Gaius, Diotrophes, Demetrius.

### OUTLINE:

- A truthful man – vs. 1-9 – Gaius
- A troubled man (or trouble-making, treasonous, treacherous) – vs. 10-11- Diotrophes
- A trusted man – vs. 12-14

Great verses for discussion are verse 4 and verse 10 “...if I come”! See comparison with Paul – 2 Cor. 13:2. Notice verse 9-11. Especially verse 11 Paul used Diotrophes as a “public” example of how not to act!

# Jude and Revelation

From last week I, II, III John words that seem to permeate John's writings: Light, Life, and Love. As for 1 John 3 remember there is a difference between standing and state and the new man and the old. As for 3 John verse 10- "...if I come" compare to 2 Cor. 13:2. Notice verse 9-11. Paul uses Diotrophes as a "public" example of how not to act.

Jude (25 verses)

Jude was a "brother of James" possibly half-brother to Jesus! Matt. 13:55, Mark 6:3)

OUTLINE:

- I. The Fight – vs. 1-4 The Contenders Contending vs. 3
- II. The Fallen – vs. 5-13 The Condemned vs. 6
- III. The Future – vs. 14-19 The Conquerer vs. 14
- IV. The Faithful – vs. 20-25 The Compassionate vs. 22

Note verse 3 – Our job

Verse 9 – We should be no more presumptuous

Verse 14-15 – No reference of this prophecy (book of Enoch?)

# Revelation

A book of perplexities, promises and prophecy. See 1:3. Revelation deals primarily with Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week called the Great Tribulation. You can't study Daniel or Revelation without the other. I would approach the book as if the tribulation is underway. There are basically four approaches to Revelation which is a waste of time to discuss, especially here: Preterists, Historicists, Idealists and Futurists. We approach the book simply as we approach any book of the Bible. We believe it is what it claims to be:

A revelation or revealing – vs. 1

A Jewish context – vs. 1 – SIGNified angel

A prophecy – vs. 3

Revelation offers you a glimpse into Heaven and then shifts to earth. Back and forth thru the book. The key number which abounds in Revelation is the number seven. No less than 54 times. Seven churches, candlesticks, spirits, stars, seals, trumpets, thunders and vials. The main characters of Revelation are Jesus Christ and the anti-christ. See concerning Christ – 1:4-8.

Verse 4:

Was a prophet – God's Word

Is our Priest – God's Lamb

Will be our King – God's Lion

Ch. 1 – A VISION of Christ - The Vision of Christ

Ch. 2-3 – A VIEW of the Churches - The Voice of Christ

Ch. 4 – A VISIT to the Creator - The Visit to Christ

Ch. 5 – A VALIANT Christ - The Valiant

Ch. 6-12 – A VIOLENT Chastisement - The Vengeful

Ch. 13-18 – A VENEMOUS Craftsman - A Venemous anti-christ

Ch. 19 – A VAUNTED Church – The Vaunted Christ

Ch. 20 – A VANISHED Crown – The Vigilant Christ

Ch. 21-22 – A VICTORIOUS Climax – The Victorious

Ch. 1 – Looking at the Lord – esp. 12-17

Ch. 2-3 – Considering the churches

Ch. 4 – A glimpse of Glory

Ch. 5 – A battle for the book

Ch. 6-12 – A work of Wrath

Ch. 13-18 – Beholding the beast

Ch. 19 – The army of the Almighty

Ch. 20 – The defeat of the Devil

The last of the lost  
Ch. 21-22 – Back to the Beginning  
Entering Eternity

It is crucial to understand the difference between the Rapture (translation) and Revelation.

1:7 – Revelation (Compare to 1 Thess. 4 – Rapture)

Every passage has three applications – Historical, doctrinal, spiritual (devotional).

So in Revelation 2-3 – 7 churches

1. Historical – 7 actual churches in Asia (vs. 11)
2. Doctrinal – Prophetic context; Great Tribulation
3. Spiritual – Each church represents the “spiritual condition” of the Church from 33 A.D. to present time.