

Mount Pisgah A.M.E Church

Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor

Bible Study, Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Survey of the Bible

Lesson 69: New Testament Overview

The Life of Jesus Christ

In Christ, God personally revealed Godself in human flesh. To see him is to see God. (John 12:45, 14:9). To know him is to know God (John 8:19). To receive Him is to receive God (Mark 9:37). To Honor Him is to honor God (John 5:23). To reject Him is to reject God (Luke 10:16). He is the vine, the source of life; we are the branches, the channels of life. It is only as we draw our life from Him that we bear lasting fruit.

The Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Probable Date	A.D. 58-68	A. D. 55-65	A.D. 60-65	A. D. 80-90
Original Audience	Primarily Jewish	Primarily Roman	Primarily Greek	Universal
Jesus Depicted As	Messiah	Servant	The Perfect Man	God the Son
Symbol (Rev. 4:7)	Lion (of Judah)	Bull/Ox	Man	Eagle
Teaching Emphasis	Ethical/Practical	Ethical Practical	Ethical Practical	Christological
Teaching Method	Parables	Parables	Parables	Allegories
Relationship to Other Gospels	Complimentary	Complimentary	Complimentary	Supplementary

The History of the Early Church

The book of Acts records the spread of the gospel from the city of Jerusalem to the whole province of Judaea and Samaria, and ultimately through the Roman Empire and beyond. These first-century Christians were sold out for the cause of Christ and transformed their world as their lives become living epistles for the Good News of Jesus. God has called us to a lifestyle of evangelism in which we build relationships with non-Christians. These friendships in turn become natural bridges for communicating the gospel.

The Book of Acts

Chapters	Acts 1-7	Acts 8-12	Acts 13-28
The Spread of the Church	The Church in Jerusalem	In Judaea and Samaria	To the ends of the earth
Geography	In the city	In the provinces	The World
Theme	Power and progress of the church	Expansion of the church	Paul's Journeys
People Addressed	Jews (Hebraic and Grecian)	Samaritans	Gentiles
Time	A.D. 33-35	A.D 35-48	A. D. 45-62

The Writings of The Early Church

Paul, Peter, James, John, and other apostles learned the secret of developing an eternal perspective in the midst of earthly problems. They were able to live above their circumstances and rejoice even while being persecuted because of their firm grasp on who they were in Christ and where they were going. In spite of his imprisonment, Paul could write, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21) They also had the clarity and the passion for truth to counteract teachings that would ultimately be damaging to the church

and lead people away from the True and Living Christ. Thus Paul could write, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The writings of the early church were intended to (1) remind believers of what they had been taught, (2) encourage them amid persecution, (3) teach them to discern truth from error, and (4) help them to live victorious and exemplary lives as they awaited Jesus’ promised return.

Letters of Encouragement to Churches

Book	Written	Key Phrase	Theme
Romans	A. D. 57	Doctrine	Portrays the gospel from condemnation to justification to sanctification to glorification. Presents God’s program for Jews and Gentiles, and practical advice for believers
I Corinthians	A.D. 56	Overcoming Carnal Living	Corrects the problems of factions, immorality, lawsuits, and the abuse of the Lord’s Supper. Replies to questions concerning marriage, food offered to idols, public worship, and the Resurrection
2 Corinthians	A.D. 56	Character of a Leader	Paul defends his apostolic character, call and credentials. Describes the character and beliefs of a Christian leader
Galatians	A.D. 49	Freedom from The Law	Refutes the error of legalism that had ensnared the churches of Galatia. Demonstrates the superiority of grace over laws, and magnifies the life of liberty over both legalism and license.
Ephesians	A.D. 60	Building the Body of Christ	Lifts up the believer’s position in Christ, and exhorts the believers to maintain a spiritual walk that is based on their spiritual wealth
Philippians	A.D. 62	To Live Is Christ	Urges the reader toward a lifestyle of unity humility, and godly trust, in spite of hardship
Colossians	A.D.60-62	The Preeminence of Christ	Demonstrates Christ as the head of the church in creation, redemption and the relationships of life. The Christian is complete in Christ. Our outlook ought to reflect that
1 Thessalonians	A.D. 51	Holiness in Light of Christ’s Return	Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faith and reminds them of his motives and concerns on their behalf. He encourages them toward purity of life and teaches them about the coming of the Lord
2 Thessalonians	A.D. 52	Understanding the Day of The Lord	Paul corrects false conclusions about the day of the Lord, explains what must precede this event, and encourages his readers to remain trusting and diligent

Pastoral Letters

1 Timothy	A.D 62-63	Leadership Manual for The Church	Paul counsels Timothy on the problems of false teachers, public prayer, the family, and the requirements for church leaders
2 Timothy	A.D. 67	Endurance in Ministry	A combat manual designed to build up and encourage Timothy to boldness and steadfastness in view of the hardships of spiritual warfare
Titus	A.D. 63	Conduct Manual for Churches	Lists the requirements for church leadership and instructs Titus in his duties relative to the various groups in churches
Philemon	A.D. 60-62	Freedom from Slavery	Paul appeals to Philemon to forgive Onesimus and to regard him no longer as a slave but as a brother in Christ

General Epistles

Hebrews	A.D. 60-64	Superiority of Christ	Demonstrates the superiority of Christ's person, priesthood, and power over all that preceded Him to encourage the readers to continue on their path toward maturity and to become stable in their faith
James	A.D. 46-49	Faith that Works	A practical catalogue of the characteristics of true faith written to exhort James' Hebrew-Christian readers to examine the reality of their own faith
1 Peter	A.D. 64	Suffering for Christ	Comfort and counsel to those who were being maligned for their faith in Christ. They are encouraged to develop an attitude of submission in view of their suffering
2 Peter	A.D. 64-66	Guard against Phonies	Copes with internal opposition in the form of false teachers who were enticing believers into their errors of belief and conduct. Appeals for growth in the true knowledge of Christ.
1 John	A.D. 85-95	Fellowship with God	Explores the dimensions of fellowship between redeemed people and God, and exposes fraud. Believers must walk in God's light, manifest God's love, and abide in God's life.
2 John	A.D. 85-95	Avoid Fellowship with False Teachers	John commends his readers for remaining steadfast in apostolic truth and reminds them to walk in love and avoid false teachers
3 John	A.D. 85-95	Enjoy Fellowship with Believers	John thanks Gaius for his support of traveling teachers of the truth, in contrast to Diotrephes, who rejected them and told others to do the same.
Jude	A.D. 60-65	Contend for The Faith	This expose' of false teachers reveals their conduct and character and predicts their judgment. Jude encourages his readers to build themselves up in the truth and contend earnestly for the faith

Christian Prophecy/ Escatology (The Study of Last Things)

Revelation	A.D. 96	The Culmination of all things and the Return of Christ	The glorified Christ gives seven messages to the churches of Asia Minor (and the church universal). Visions of unparalleled judgment upon rebellious humankind revealed, along with the Second Advent of Christ. This apocalypse concludes with a description of the new heaven and new earth and the marvels of the new Jerusalem.
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Remember the Word of God is written for our growth and edification:

- Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is *God-breathed* and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man (person) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- 2 Peter 1:20,21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation, For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

God's Word is given for our growth, it is our source of strength. We should daily ingest its nourishment and embrace its truths.