



N.T. Survey Course

Dates: March 12th, 19th & 26th

Time: 6:30-8 p.m. **Location:** RLC

Teacher: James Seiler, Guests

Course Goals: Provide you with a high-level flyover of the N.T., painting a clear picture of why the N.T. was written, what the Father wanted to communicate to us and how we can apply it's truths to our lives.

Everyone has a different picture of why the N.T. was written. Would you agree?

Why do you believe that the N.T. was written? It is a text
book for life - manual. To show us where
we came from, where we are going and
to build a relationship with us.

"But with Christ, we have access in a one-to-one relationship, for, as in the Old Testament, it was more one of worship and awe, a vertical relationship. The New Testament, on the other hand, we look across at a Jesus who looks familiar, horizontal. The combination is what makes the Cross." - Bono

The Old Testament paints a picture of God who is sovereign, directs
the affairs of man and clearly articulating what is right in his eyes and
what is missing the mark. Would you agree?

So, what is the New Testament? A picture of _____ for his
children, displaying His commitment (and love) to pay for their mistakes, be close
to us and _____ with us through-out life.

What is vitally important – You can't have one portion of _____
without the other. It doesn't make sense! In all of it, it paints a picture of God's
desire to _____ his children!

How many years separates the O.T. & N.T.?

400 years

Is this a big deal?

How was it written?

Divine inspiration

Divine Inspiration of the New Testament Canon:

- Inspiration was determined by the book's apostolic authorship,
 - It's orthodox (context/content) doctrine.
 - And it's universal divine acceptance by the early church as apostolic and authoritative!
- were you there? Does it make sense?

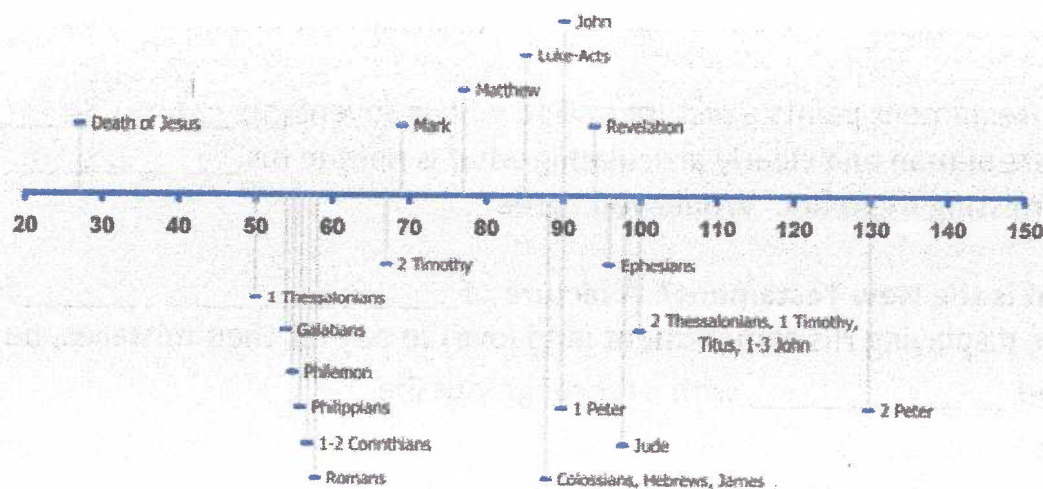
"It is the simple truth to say that the New Testament books became canonical because no one could stop them doing so". - William Barclay

How is the New Testament divided up:

- History Books: Matthew through Acts!
- The Epistles: Romans through Jude!
- Prophecy: Revelation

A simple timeline of the NT:

Composition of the New Testament Books



What do you notice about this timeline?

A total of about

100 years to write

How does the gospel of Matthew start? _____

Why is that important? _____

A Simple Review of the Synoptic Gospels:

- Matthew wrote to a Jewish audience.
He emphasized that Jesus is the Messiah, king of the Jews!
- Mark wrote to a Roman audience.
He emphasized Jesus as the Servant of the Lord, busy working.
- Luke wrote to a Greek audience.
He emphasized that Jesus is the Son of man, the perfect human.

What made the gospel of John different?

Unlike the three synoptic gospels, John's purpose is not to present a chronological narrative of the life of Christ but to display His divinity. John sought to strengthen the faith of second-generation believers and bring about faith in others, but he also sought to correct a false teaching that was spreading in the first century. John emphasized Jesus Christ as "the Son of God," fully God and fully man, contrary to a false doctrine that taught the "Christ-spirit" came upon the human Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the crucifixion.

What are the five purposes of the book of Acts?

- To serve as a bridge between the gospel and Paul's letters.
- To trace the growth of the church.
- To explain and defend the church.
- To guide faith and practice.
- To emphasize infilling of the Spirit as a key to being a witness.

"We can glimpse it in the book of Acts: the method of the kingdom will match the message of the kingdom. The kingdom...goes out into the world vulnerable, suffering, praising, praying, misunderstood, misjudged, vindicated, celebrating: always – as Paul puts it in one of his letters – bearing in the body the dying of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed." — N.T. Wright

Outline of the book of Acts

Key verse: Acts 1:8, what does it say?

- Witnessing in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)
- Witnessing in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12)
- Witnessing to the ends of the earth (Acts 13-28)

If the book was divided into two sections, who were the two key players? _____

Who wrote the book of Romans? Paul

What was the purpose of the book?

The Book of Romans is primarily a work of doctrine and can be divided into four sections: righteousness needed, 1:18–3:20; righteousness provided, 3:21–8:39; righteousness vindicated, 9:1–11:36; righteousness practiced, 12:1–15:13. The main theme of this letter is obvious of course—righteousness. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Paul first condemns all men of their sinfulness. He expresses his desire to preach the truth of God's Word to those in Rome. It was his hope to have assurance they were staying on the right path. He strongly points out that he is not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16) because it is the power by which everyone is saved.

"any time the gospel is preached accurately and passionately, it will bring conflict, and since people flee from conflict, every generation will tend to water down or hide the gospel, allowing it to be eclipsed by darkness as it had been for centuries before the Reformation."

— R.C. Sproul, Romans

What is the purpose of the book of Galatians?

The churches in Galatia were comprised of both Jewish and Gentile converts. Paul's purpose in writing to these churches was to confirm them in the faith, especially concerning justification by faith alone, apart from the works of law.

Galatians was written because the churches of that region were facing a theological crisis. The essential truth of justification by faith rather than by human

works was being denied by the Judaizers - legalistic Jews who insisted that Christians must keep the Mosaic Law. In particular, the Judaizers insisted on Circumcision as a requirement for Gentiles who wished to be saved.

In other words, convert to Judaism *first*, and then you are eligible to become a Christian. When Paul learned that this heresy was being taught to the Galatian churches, he composed an personal letter to emphasize our liberty in Christ and to counter the perversion of the gospel that the Judaizers promoted.

Source: www.gotquestions.org

What is an epistle? a purposeful letter

The marks of Jesus are imprisonment, chains, beatings, blows and stoning in bearing testimony to the Gospel. Galatians 6:17 - 17 Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

- John Calvin

A final challenge for you today... do people know what you believe?
Who wants to pray?

Organizing the Books of the New Testament

The New Testament		
Group	Book Title	Book Subgroup
Historical Books (5)	Matthew	Synoptic Gospels
	Mark	
	Luke	
	John	dates places
	Acts	
Paul's Epistles (13)	Romans 3:23	Salvation Epistles
	1 Corinthians	
	2 Corinthians	
	Galatians	
	Ephesians	Prison Epistles
	Philippians	
	Colossians	
	Philemon	
	1 Thessalonians	Epistles about the Future
	2 Thess	
	1 Timothy	Pastoral Epistles
	2 Timothy	
	Titus	
Hebrews and the General Epistles (8)	Hebrews	Epistles to Suffering Believers
	James	
	1 Peter	
	2 Peter	Epistles to Correct False Teachings
	1 John	
	2 John	
	3 John	
	Jude	
Apocalyptic	Revelations	The NT's Prophetic Book