

BREAKING BREAD

Lesson 12:

New Testament Survey pt2

“Acts & The Church Epistles”

“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Paul the apostle (Acts 20:20-21)

Section 2. Church History

1 Book of Church History: Acts (Covers from A.D. 30-60)

5. Acts

Written around A.D. 65

This book shows the history of the early church during the time of the apostles after Jesus Christ went back to heaven. It shows the beginning, the blessings, the growth, the trials, and the sacrifices of the church led by the Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8 gives the outline of the movement of the gospel throughout the book. It primarily focuses on Peter's ministry through the 1st half of the book as the gospel goes to the Jews only, and then it focuses on Paul's ministry through the 2nd half as the gospel goes to both Jew and Gentile. This is a great book that shows the real Holy Ghost working through the real apostles of Jesus Christ to preach the pure gospel and build the true church of Christ. This book is foundational to understand the roots and spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the earth.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- Paul the apostle (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Section 3. The Epistles

21 Books of Epistles or Letters

Quick Overview:

- The epistles are letters written by different apostles either to specific churches, individuals or people groups.
- They are predominately written to New Testament born-again believers in Jesus Christ.
- They are wonderful books to learn the New Testament doctrines of faith, grace, love, mercy, humility, service, charity, and many other topics.
- They are comprehensive in the instruction for the NT believer to live a godly life in Christ Jesus according to the word, will, and Spirit of God in fellowship with the church and the Lord.
- They all point continually back to Christ's work and example, and forward to his return.

Survey of the Epistles:

Paul's Epistles (14 Epistles, Romans - Hebrews)

i) 9 Church Epistles (Romans – 2 Thessalonians)

6. Romans

Written around A.D. 58-60

Shows the full gospel of God: creation, mankind, the law, all under sin, Christ's atonement, justification by faith, victorious Christian living, and the past, present, and future of Israel. A thorough declaration of the gospel and the righteousness of God unto obedience of the faith.

7. 1 Corinthians

Written around A.D. 56

The Corinthian church was a young carnal church filled with strife, divisions, impurity, selfishness, disorder, pride, and misuse of spiritual gifts. Paul rebukes and instructs accordingly regarding church unity, focus, discipline, conduct, giftings, boundaries, and the resurrection.

8. 2 Corinthians

Written around A.D. 57

The 2nd letter to the church. Most of the church received the rebuke and instruction of Paul and have therefore grown; here Paul opens up some wonderful NT truths and defends his apostleship.

Survey of the Epistles:

9. Galatians

Written around A.D. 58

Here Paul is correcting a church that is slipping back into the bondage of the OT law. He contrasts the law & grace, works & faith, the OT & NT, the works of the flesh & the fruit of the Spirit, the bondage of religion & the liberty of Christ, and the glory of man & the glory of the cross of Christ.

10. Ephesians

Written around A.D. 62

Paul is showing the riches of Christ to a good, obedient church. He is stressing the unity in the church with Jews and Gentiles being made one in Christ and the need to cast off the old life and resist the devil in order to maintain unity.

11. Philippians

Written around A.D. 62

Written to a mature church. Paul shows God's ways are not our ways. His imprisonment led to freedom for the gospel; Christ's humility & death led to his exaltation & life; Paul's loss of his old life led to his gain in Christ; and in instability he had contentment!

Survey of the Epistles:

12. Colossians

Written around A.D. 64

Paul shows that Christ is the head, completion and fulness. He is the fulness of creation and head of the church. He is the fulfilment of all the OT. We are complete in him alone. Thus, any other teaching or philosophy is not after Christ. But we must mortify the flesh and put on Christ.

13. 1 Thessalonians

Written around A.D. 51-52

A great letter to a great young church about how to take care of the young ones in the faith, how to stay pure, and how to look for and prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

14. 2 Thessalonians

Written around A.D. 53-54

The 2nd letter to show the signs, purpose and prerequisites of the coming of Christ. Paul reveals details about the Antichrist and deception of the last days so we will not be ignorant; and he admonishes all men to work as they wait for Christ.