

Session 6

God Speaks to Us

Summary of The Contents of the New Testament

THE NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)

A. The Gospels (4)

1. **Matthew** - Written for the Jews to show that Jesus was the promised coming Messiah-King
2. **Mark** - Written for the Romans to show Jesus as a man of action with miracle working power
3. **Luke** - Written for the Gentiles emphasizing Jesus' humanity, His love and care for people
4. **John** - Written later than the others to show Jesus' divine nature as the Savior for all people

Major divisions of Jesus' life and ministry:

5. Birth to baptism
6. Early Judean Ministry (Mostly in John's Gospel)
7. Great Galilean Ministry
8. Late Judean Ministry
9. Perea Ministry
10. Final Public Ministry in Jerusalem
11. Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension

B. The Acts of the Apostles (1 book)

The spread of the church from Jerusalem to Rome following the pattern of Acts 1:8

C. The Epistles of Paul (13)

by groups:

The early epistles:	1 & 2 Thessalonians and Galatians
The doctrinal epistles:	Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians
The prison epistles:	Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon
The pastoral epistles:	1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy

Paul's epistles are arranged from the longest to the shortest

1. **Romans** - Written from Corinth to introduce himself and his message: The Gospel of Grace. The most comprehensive explanation of the Christian faith
2. **1 Corinthians** - Written from Ephesus to the church in Corinth primarily to deal with problems in the church. Chapter 15 is very valuable on the resurrection.
3. **2 Corinthians** - Written from Macedonia to the church in Corinth to defend Paul's actions from the criticism of his opponents. Valuable for its insights into the spiritual nature of the Christian life and for understanding Paul's spirit.
4. **Galatians** - Written from Antioch in Syria to the churches of the area of Galatia which Paul established on his first missionary journey to warn them of the dangers of the teaching that believers should become Jews first before they could become Christians. Paul defends the Gospel of Grace.
5. **Ephesians** - Written from Rome to the church in Ephesus and nearby churches to emphasize that the church is the body of Christ. Practical Christian living.
6. **Colossians** - Written from Rome to the church at Colossae to correct errors and emphasize that Christ is the head of the church. Highest Christology in the Bible.
7. **Philippians** - Written from Rome to the church at Philippi to thank them for their help and to teach important spiritual truths. Key word: Joy, rejoice!
8. **1 Thessalonians** - Written from Corinth to the church in Thessalonica to congratulate them on their faithfulness and to encourage them concerning the glorious future of those who have died as believers in Christ.
9. **2 Thessalonians** - Written from Corinth to correct misunderstandings about the second coming of Christ; stay busy until He comes.
10. **1 Timothy** - Written from Rome. Advice to a young pastor in Ephesus. Qualifications for church leaders.
11. **2 Timothy** - From Rome. Paul's farewell with further advice for the young pastor. Some predictions about the future.
12. **Titus** - From Rome. Advice for church organization on the island of Crete and warnings against false teaching
13. **Philemon** - From Rome. Instructions for the master of a runaway slave, now a believer; teaching on forgiveness

D. The General Epistles (8)

1. **Hebrews** - Christ is better than Judaism; warnings against returning to Judaism. Explanation of the Christian symbolism of Jewish rituals.
2. **James** - A very early letter to new believers from Jewish backgrounds.

Instructions for practical Christian living.

3. **1 Peter** - On salvation and suffering
 4. **2 Peter** - A defense of orthodox doctrine (teaching)
 5. **1 John** - Assurance of salvation; the necessity of love
 6. **2 John** - Personal love letter to a young church
 7. **3 John** - Personal letter to a friend
 8. **Jude** - Strong words against false teachers
- E. Prophecy (1)**
- Revelation** - God's final victory over all opposition including Satan and all evil.
Final judgment and final destiny of all people.

CONCLUSION:

Our common devotion to our common Lord and Savior, Jesus, should unite all who have experienced the new birth in the body of Christ, which is His church. Our common devotion to our Lord should result in a common devotion to the Bible through which he is revealed to us. Our common devotion to the Bible should unite us in the body of Christ to fulfill His will and His command that we take His word of salvation to the whole world. When 35 million people are dying of starvation every year, most without any knowledge of Christ; when 1 billion 404 million people in our world have never once heard of Jesus; when false religions and false doctrines and hellish practices are sweeping our world like a fire-storm, it is time that we put aside our differences of opinion about the Bible and our interpretations of it and put our emphasis on its purpose and function.

We may differ on our view of the nature of scripture and still cooperate for the salvation of the lost. The real center of our unity is JESUS. As we grow into His likeness and are united in Him in spite of our differences and diversity, we can then effectively speak of the nature of salvation and why it is necessary and what it means to be saved and born again and to be a new kind of person in Christ and to walk with God in fellowship and obedience, practicing being crucified with Christ and being filled with His spirit of humility and love and service.

May God give us the grace to UNITE around Him and His Word and to use the Bible with full authority and all its reliability to lead others all around the world in a great sweeping, Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered revival which will not only bring millions into God's kingdom but also change the lives of millions to get rid of the putrid moral corruption, the pride and selfishness and greed, which threatens to destroy us all.