

An Introduction to the Bible: New Testament  
Study Guide  
By M. Todd Hall

**Module 1: Introduction**

- 1) What is the *purpose* of the Bible?
- 2) What is it that makes the Bible “authoritative”? What two “pillars” explain how the Bible functions as the church’s book?
- 3) What do we mean by the word “revelation” when referring to the Bible?
- 4) What are the (broadly speaking) two different kinds of revelation?
- 5) How do Psalm 19:1–6 and Romans 1:18–20 address “general” revelation?
- 6) What is “universal” revelation? What is “special” revelation?
- 7) What does “inspiration” *at least* mean?
- 8) Why might we refer to the Bible as a library?
- 9) Why might we refer to the Bible as a book?

**Module 2: The Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and John**

- 1) What genre best describes the New Testament Gospels?
- 2) What are the “Synoptic Gospels”?
- 3) What is the message that Jesus preaches in Mark’s Gospel?
- 4) What response does Jesus’ preaching call for from his hearers?
- 5) How does Jesus contrast his mission with the expectations of those to whom he preached?
- 6) What is the meaning of Jesus’ cursing of the fig tree regarding the Temple?
- 7) What does the tearing of the Temple veil signify in Mark?
- 8) How does Matthew’s genealogy differ from Luke’s, and what does it illustrate?
- 9) What is the major organization of Matthew’s Gospel, and how does it fit in with the Old Testament’s organization? What is Matthew showing?

- 10) List some ways that John differs from the Synoptic Gospels.
- 11) How is the prologue of John organized to reflect the 7 days of creation?
- 12) List some theological themes of the Gospel of John.
- 13) How does Jesus' restoration of Peter reflect Christian growth?

### **Module 3: The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles**

- 1) How are Luke and Acts related?
- 2) How is the birth of John the Baptist, as recorded in Luke, similar to the birth of Samuel in the Old Testament?
- 3) What is the "theme" of the Gospel of Luke?
- 4) What is the turning point in Luke? How does this contrast with the movement of the Gospel in Acts?
- 5) What is the difference in Luke's genealogy when compared to Matthew's? And what difference does it make?
- 6) What are some major themes in Luke/Acts?
- 7) What is the outline of the spread of the gospel in Acts (see Acts 1:6–8)?
- 8) How does the story of Cornelius show God's movement among the Gentiles?
- 9) What is the practical effect for the spread of the gospel of Stephen's martyrdom?
- 10) What is the basic itinerary of Paul's missionary journeys (1<sup>st</sup>: Acts 12:25–16:5; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Acts 16:6–19:41)?

### **Module 4: The life of Paul:**

- 1) In what ways is Paul a "multicultural person"?
- 2) How does Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus mirror Moses' encounter with the burning bush in Exodus?
- 3) What, in the history of Israel, might account for Saul's zealous persecution of Christians?
- 4) What are the two "stages" of Paul's life as a Christian?

- 5) What did we suggest Paul did during his so-called “silent years”?
- 6) What did Paul believe regarding his mission and the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, especially Isaiah 66:18–23?
- 7) Why does Paul go to the specific nations that he visits to preach the gospel? How does it interact with Isaiah 66, and with God’s over-arching plan of salvation?
- 8) What is Paul’s special mission?
- 9) Why does Paul consider himself to be among the Apostles?
- 10) What are the elements of God’s promise to Abraham? And what role do these play in what we suggested is the “theme” of the Pentateuch?

### **Module 5: Paul’s letter to the Galatians**

- 1) What is the “one gospel” that Paul preached, and what was the primary question in the churches of Galatia that Paul deals with in Galatians?
- 2) What is the primary question that Galatians is answering?
- 3) How does Paul show himself to be an Apostle (like Peter and the others)?
- 4) What are the major beliefs in Paul’s teaching regarding faith in the atonement (ransom, etc)?
- 5) What is the importance of Paul’s teaching regarding “new creation”?
- 6) How is Galatians different (in its greeting) from Paul’s other letters? What does this suggest?
- 7) What is the primary question of the early church, as seen in Galatians 3:1–5:15?
- 8) What does Paul suggest is the defining characteristic of Abraham’s “seed,” and how is it seen in Abraham himself?
- 9) How does the fact that “seed” is both singular and plural speak to the coming of Christ and his church?
- 10) What is the role of the law (*Torah*) in God’s plan, according to Paul (see 3:23–25)?
- 11) How does Galatians present the relevance of the Old Testament? What is the relationship between the Christian and the Law?
- 12) What “one word” does Paul suggest sums up the whole Law?

### **Module 6: 1 and 2 Thessalonians**

- 1) How does 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 present how Paul preaches the gospel to Gentiles?
- 2) What does “*kerygma*” mean, and what are the 5 points of this that Paul preached?
- 3) How does Paul present “faith, hope, and love” as functioning in the Christian life in 1 Thessalonians?
- 4) How does Paul contrast himself with teachers of his day (especially the Cynics)?
- 5) How does Paul’s behavior toward the Thessalonians speak to ways we engage in ministry?
- 6) Contrast the way Paul preaches to Gentiles as he does with those familiar with Jewish Law and customs?
- 7) Why does Paul teach about the “end times” in 1 Thessalonians? What issue in the church is he addressing?
- 8) What happened that led to the writing and sending of 2 Thessalonians?
- 9) How does the teaching that “Jesus is Lord” challenge the culture of the Thessalonians? How does it challenge ours?
- 10) What is the warning of Paul’s teaching regarding the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians?
- 11) What are the elements and who are the players in the division of the Kingdom of Israel into North Israel and Judah?
- 12) How does Chronicles differ from Samuel/Kings, and how does the context for each book help us understand them?

### **Module 7: The Corinthian Letters and beginning of Romans**

- 1) What are some of the problems that arose in the church in Corinth as Paul was away? What is the primary problem?
- 2) What is the “new reality” of the world for those who believe the gospel?
- 3) What are some illustrations of the divisions of the Corinthian church?
- 4) How were the Corinthians thinking wrongly about the “freedom” they have in Christ?
- 5) What is the freedom that Christians have in Christ, according to Paul?

- 6) What is the central teaching of the church that some of the Corinthians are denying (see 1 Corinthians 15)?
- 7) What are a couple of possibilities regarding the change in tone of 2 Corinthians 10–13?
- 8) What are the reasons for Paul's writing Romans?

### **Episode 8: Romans, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon**

- 1) How does Romans 1:16–18 serve as the theme statement of Romans?
- 2) What does Paul see as the “heart” of sin?
- 3) Why does God “give over” humanity?
- 4) What is it that Paul says led to Abraham's being “justified”?
- 5) What is the end of Adam's story? And how does Paul suggest that God ushers in a new story?
- 6) How does the Holy Spirit offer a completely different way of changing behavior than law alone?
- 7) What “word,” according to Paul in Romans 13, sums up the entirety of the law?
- 8) What is Paul's exhortation to Jews and Gentiles in their relationship to one another (Romans 14)?
- 9) What is the problem looming in the church in Philippi? How does Paul address it?
- 10) How does Paul address the situation between Philemon and Onesimus in a “cruciform” way?
- 11) What is the primary message of Colossians regarding the gospel of Christ?

### **Episode 9: Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, General Letters, and Revelation**

- 1) What is Paul's primary concern in Ephesians?
- 2) In what way does the church bear witness to the “principalities and powers” to God's wisdom?
- 3) Why does Paul write the “pastoral” letters (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus)? What is he hoping to accomplish?
- 4) What is the focus of Hebrews?
- 5) What kind of Old Testament literature does James reflect?

- 6) What is the primary concern of James?
- 7) What does Peter call the church to do as they await Jesus' return?
- 8) What does John call the church to do? What is his primary exhortation?
- 9) What is the purpose of the letter of Jude?
- 10) What is the popular understanding of the book of Revelation?
- 11) Why, do you think, there's such an interest in Revelation and the "end times"?
- 12) Who is promised a "blessing" in the beginning of the book of Revelation?
- 13) What does the word "revelation" (apocalypse) mean?
- 14) How does Revelation intend to speak to human beings? Why is it different than the letters of the New Testament?
- 15) What is the purpose of Revelation? Why is it written, and what is it calling for?
- 16) What are the dangers we presented regarding the common interpretation of Revelation (dispensational premillennialism)?
- 17) What are the common traits of apocalyptic literature? Give some examples from Revelation.
- 18) What does the fact that John sees, primarily, a throne, say to the original audience of Revelation?
- 19) What are some of the different interpretive traditions of Revelation? Where do you find yourself in these interpretations?
- 20) What is the primary exhortation of the book of Revelation?