

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ The majority of the literature in the New Testament is letters to churches. Why? Because the church is on mission against the darkness.
- ▶ We cannot act as if the church is a static **institution** that we are fighting to preserve, but rather a body in motion fueled by truth to advance the kingdom of God.
- ▶ Thus far, the books & letters we have discussed answer two crucial questions: Who is Christ? What is a Christ-follower?
 - ▶ Acts >> A Christian is someone filled with the Spirit and seeking to advance the kingdom.
 - ▶ Galatians >> A Christian is someone saved by faith alone and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.
 - ▶ James >> A Christian is someone who has a living wisdom flowing through them, revealing a genuine faith that endures, seeks to bless, and love others.
 - ▶ Jude >> A Christian is someone who contends for the faith and is concerned with the purity of the Gospel.

1 THESSALONIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 51 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Encouragement**
- ▶ Paul directs the persecuted Thessalonian Christians to **hope** in the future of King Jesus' return who will make all things right.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 1 Thessalonians 5:21| but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- ▶ Paul established the congregation at Thessalonica during his **2nd** missionary journey & remained there for about 1 month (Acts 17).
- ▶ In writing to the church at Thessalonica, Paul deals with the subject of the **return of Christ**. 1 out of every 21 verses in the New Testament touches on the subject of the Lord's return.

2 THESSALONIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 51 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Admonishment**

- ▶ Paul clarified his earlier teachings about Jesus' future return & rebukes the Christians who were disrupting the **community**.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Thessalonians 3:13 | As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.
- ▶ The Thessalonians were worried they had missed Jesus' return, Paul clarifies that they should not fuel apocalyptic **speculation** but recall Jesus' words in Mark 13 about the public and obvious events leading up to His return.

1 CORINTHIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul between 57 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Holiness**
- ▶ Paul writes a disciplinary letter to a **fractured** church in Corinth, & answers some questions that they've had about how Christians should behave.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 1 Corinthians 10:31 | So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- ▶ Paul established the church in Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17). He stayed there alongside Priscilla and Aquila for over **18** months.
- ▶ How Paul approached **problems** in the church:
 - ▶ Paul addresses the problem
 - ▶ Paul responds to the problem with some part of the story of the **Gospel**
 - ▶ Paul shows how they are not living out what they say they believe
 - ▶ The Point? The Cross transforms everything >> 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

2 CORINTHIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 57 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Weakness**
- ▶ Paul resolves his conflict with the Corinthians by showing how the scandal of the **crucifixion** turns our value systems upside-down.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Corinthians 13:11 | Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- ▶ Many rejected Paul's advice from his first letter. Therefore, he followed up with a **painful visit** and then sent them 2 Corinthians, a letter that assured them he forgave and loved them. After reading the letter, many church members repented and embraced the letter's message.
- ▶ In the Cross, we see the God values truth, justice & holiness (1 Corinthians). But the Cross also shows us that God values humility & weakness (2 Corinthians). Jesus' example of **submission** to the will of His Father even when it involved vulnerability, suffering, and death are the pathway to Resurrection life flowing to us.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ The majority of the literature in the New Testament is letters to churches. Why? Because the church is on mission against the darkness.
- ▶ We cannot act as if the church is a static _____ that we are fighting to preserve, but rather a body in motion fueled by truth to advance the kingdom of God.
- ▶ Thus far, the books & letters we have discussed answer two crucial questions: Who is Christ? What is a Christ-follower?
 - ▶ Acts >> A Christian is someone filled with the Spirit and seeking to advance the kingdom.
 - ▶ Galatians >> A Christian is someone saved by faith alone and bearing the fruit of the Spirit.
 - ▶ James >> A Christian is someone who has a living wisdom flowing through them, revealing a genuine faith that endures, seeks to bless, and love others.
 - ▶ Jude >> A Christian is someone who contends for the faith and is concerned with the purity of the Gospel.

1 THESSALONIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 51 AD

- ▶ God is the God of _____
- ▶ Paul directs the persecuted Thessalonian Christians to _____ in the future of King Jesus' return who will make all things right.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 1 Thessalonians 5:21| but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- ▶ Paul established the congregation at Thessalonica during his _____ missionary journey & remained there for about 1 month (Acts 17).
- ▶ In writing to the church at Thessalonica, Paul deals with the subject of the _____. 1 out of every 21 verses in the New Testament touches on the subject of the Lord's return.

2 THESSALONIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 51 AD

- ▶ God is the God of _____

- ▶ Paul clarified his earlier teachings about Jesus' future return & rebukes the Christians who were disrupting the _____.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Thessalonians 3:13 | As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.
- ▶ The Thessalonians were worried they had missed Jesus' return, Paul clarifies that they should not fuel apocalyptic _____ but recall Jesus' words in Mark 13 about the public and obvious events leading up to His return.

1 CORINTHIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul between 57 AD

- ▶ God is the God of _____
- ▶ Paul writes a disciplinary letter to a _____ church in Corinth, & answers some questions that they've had about how Christians should behave.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 1 Corinthians 10:31 | So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- ▶ Paul established the church in Corinth on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17). He stayed there alongside Priscilla and Aquila for over _____ months.
- ▶ How Paul approached _____ in the church:
 - ▶ Paul addresses the problem
 - ▶ Paul responds to the problem with some part of the story of the _____
 - ▶ Paul shows how they are not living out what they say they believe
 - ▶ The Point? The Cross transforms everything >> 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

2 CORINTHIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 57 AD

- ▶ God is the God of _____
- ▶ Paul resolves his conflict with the Corinthians by showing how the scandal of the _____ turns our value systems upside-down.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Corinthians 13:11 | Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- ▶ Many rejected Paul's advice from his first letter. Therefore, he followed up with a _____ and then sent them 2 Corinthians, a letter that assured them he forgave and loved them. After reading the letter, many church members repented and embraced the letter's message.
- ▶ In the Cross, we see the God values truth, justice & holiness (1 Corinthians). But the Cross also shows us that God values humility & weakness (2 Corinthians). Jesus' example of _____ to the will of His Father even when it involved vulnerability, suffering, and death are the pathway to Resurrection life flowing to us.