

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE



RECAP

- ▶ "Few things are as hollow as a relationship intended for passion that instead is marked by mere duty."

PHILIPPIANS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 60-61 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Joy**
- ▶ Paul thanks the Philippian Christians for their **generosity** and shares how they are all called to imitate Jesus' self-giving love.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Philippians 2:12-13 | Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- ▶ Philippians is the most unique letter Paul wrote to any church. Instead of writing to correct doctrinal matters, he writes a "**thank you**" letter to the church at Philippi that had been so generous in supporting him over the years.
- ▶ Philippians has four chapters, & each chapter has a major theme, & each theme has a specific text: Chapter 1 (Christ is our Life >> 1:21), Chapter 2 (Christ is our Example >> 2:5), Chapter 3 (Christ is our Hope >> 3:7), Christ is our Strength & Source of Supply >> 4:13).

TITUS

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul in 63 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Works**
- ▶ Paul commissions Titus to show how the good news of Jesus and the power of the Spirit can transform Cretan **culture** from within.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> Titus 3:3-6 | ...But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- ▶ To "act the Cretan" became an idiom meaning "to play the **liar**."

1 PETER

Genre: Epistle • Written by Peter between 64 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Persecuted**

- ▶ Peter offers hope to persecuted Christians and guides them with practical instruction on living **life** consistent with following Jesus.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 1 Peter 2:21 | For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.
- ▶ The basic theme of 1 Peter is a Christian's proper response to Christian **suffering**.
- ▶ According to Peter, Jesus is man's source of hope and redeemer (chapter 1), the chief cornerstone and sin-bearer (chapter 2), the Lord (chapter 3), the one who suffers for mankind (chapter 4), and the Chief Shepherd (chapter 5).

2 PETER

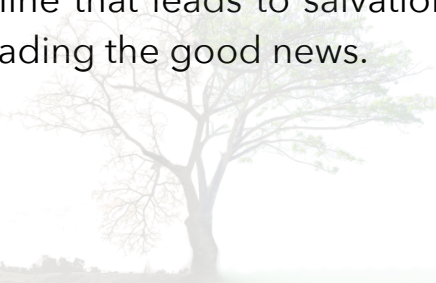
Genre: Epistle • Written by Peter around 64 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Patience**
- ▶ Peter calls for **faithfulness** and confronts corrupt teachers who distorted the message about Jesus and lead others astray.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Peter 1:3-4 | His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...
- ▶ According to tradition, Peter was **crucified** upside down in Rome prior to Nero's death in 68 A.D. This book was written not long before Peter's death.
- ▶ Peter identifies 8 virtues every Christian should have in his or her life: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. These are equivalent to Paul's fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

2 TIMOTHY

Genre: Epistle • Written by Paul around 67 AD

- ▶ God is the God of **Endurance**
- ▶ Paul is near execution and offers a personal challenge to Timothy to keep **following** Jesus no matter the sacrifice and risk.
- ▶ Summary Verse >> 2 Timothy 4:1-2 | I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- ▶ The letter reminds Timothy to maintain faith and hope in Jesus' resurrection and to raise faithful leaders who will teach the good news about Jesus. They must focus on the Scriptures' **unified** story line that leads to salvation in Jesus and helps believers achieve their purpose of spreading the good news.



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