

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Harrisburg Institute Track (HIT)

Wednesday at 6:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The New Testament proclaims Jesus Christ: the true King who gave himself for us, calls us to worship him, and leads us to live holy lives in his Kingdom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By participating in discussion and completing the assigned readings, participants will:

- Discover tools to aid in their teaching of the New Testament
- Know the general context for the New Testament writings
- Be able to summarize the key themes and theology of New Testament authors

MAJOR THEMES OF THE COURSE

- *The Kingship of Christ*
- *The Redemptive Work of Christ*
- *The Gathering of Believers*
- *The Response of the Believers: Worship + Holy Lives*

A NOTE ON READINGS

Each week we will have a specific theme or group of books to cover (detailed below). There are key readings from the Scripture that we will talk through and that are important to major themes in that week's focus. Additionally, there are supplemental (**OPTIONAL**) readings to help provide you with great context and introduce some of the questions or frameworks that can be helpful as you are teaching. Finally, there is a reading schedule attached to the end of this syllabus which will take you through the entire New Testament over the course of semester. The readings match the themes for the week. Thus, the opening weeks where we cover longer (and more) books have a heavier reading load each day.

When choosing which reading to complete for the class, I would recommend the following:

1. **Key Readings:** Read these each week so that you will have spent time in the Word and have familiarity with some of the sections we will discuss in class.
2. **New Testament Reading Plan:** If you have time after the key readings, then I would move to the readings for the day. More important than you reading what Carson or Gladd or Mounce have to say about books of the New Testament is reading what Paul, Peter, and James have to say about Christ. The more time you spend in the Word, the better you are able to teach it.

3. **Supplemental Reading:** These are primarily meant to introduce you to resources that could be helpful if you were teaching in the future. I will occasionally reference them or themes from the articles, but the focus will be on the text more than scholarly debates about the text.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

WEEK 1 (9/3) – INTRODUCTION & HERMENEUTICS

Book(s) Covered: N/A

Key Readings: N/A

Supplemental Readings: Benjamin L. Merkle, "[Introduction to the New Testament](#)," Craig Blomberg, "[The Reliability of the New Testament](#)"

WEEK 2 (9/10) – THE SYNOPTICS

Book(s) Covered: Matthew, Mark, and Luke

Key Readings: Matthew 5-7; Mark 8; Luke 15

Supplemental Readings: Craig Blomberg and Julie N. Dykes, "[Jesus's View of the Old Testament](#)," Bible Project, "[Jesus and Genealogies](#)"

WEEK 3 (9/17) – THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Book(s) Covered: John

Key Readings: John 1; John 3; John 20

Supplemental Readings: Andrew David Naselli, "[Harmony of the Gospels](#);"

WEEK 4 (9/24) – ACTS

Book(s) Covered: Acts

Key Readings: Acts 1-2; Acts 9; Acts 15

Supplemental Readings: Charles L. Quarles, "[Introduction to the Gospels and Acts](#)"

WEEK 5 (10/1) – PAUL'S LETTERS (PT. 1)

Book(s) Covered: Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians

Key Readings: Romans 3-8; 1st Corinthians 12-13

Supplemental Readings: Benjamin L. Merkle, "[Introduction to the Epistles and Revelation](#)"

WEEK 6 (10/8) – PAUL'S LETTERS (PT. 2)

Book(s) Covered: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Key Readings: Galatians 2-3; Ephesians 2-4

Supplemental Readings: Don Carson, "[Reading the Letters](#)"

WEEK 7 (10/15) – PAUL'S LETTERS (PT. 3)

Book(s) Covered: 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus, and Philemon

Key Readings: 1st Timothy 3; 2nd Timothy 2-4; Titus 2

Supplemental Readings: Tom Schreiner, “[Yes the Bible Allows for Women Deacons](#)” and Alex Strauch, “[No, the Bible Does Not Allow for Women Deacons](#)”

WEEK 8 (10/22) – HEBREWS

Book(s) Covered: Hebrews

Key Readings: Hebrews 1-4

Supplemental Readings: Justin Dillehay, “[The Gospel According to Hebrews](#),” Bible Project, “[Abraham, Melchizedek, and Jesus](#)”

WEEK 9 (10/29) – GENERAL EPISTLES

Book(s) Covered: James, 1st and 2nd Peter, and Jude

Key Readings: James 1-2; 1st Peter 1-2

Supplemental Readings: Miroslav Volf, “[Soft Difference: Theological Reflections on the Relation Between Church and Culture in 1 Peter](#)”

WEEK 10 (11/5) – JOHANNINE EPISTLES

Book(s) Covered: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John

Key Readings: 1st John

Supplemental Readings: Don Carson, “[The Johannine Letters](#)”

WEEK 11 (11/12) – REVELATION (PT. 1)

Book(s) Covered: Revelation

Key Readings: Revelation 1-3

Supplemental Readings: Benjamin L. Merkle, “[Introduction to the Epistles and Revelation](#)”

WEEK 12 (11/19) – REVELATION (PT. 2)

Book(s) Covered: Revelation

Key Readings: Revelation 21-22

Supplemental Readings: Justin Dillehay, “[A Field Guide to the Beast of Revelation 13](#),” Benjamin L. Gladd, “[Why We Won’t Spend Eternity in Heaven](#)”

Additional Resources

- [The Carson Center for Theological Renewal](#) has great resources on theological topics, as well as sermons and introductions to many of the books of the New Testament
- [The Gospel Coalition Bible Commentary](#) contains commentary outlines for each book of the Bible, as well as introductions to the various genres (Gospels, Epistles, Apocalypse, etc.)
- [The Bible Project](#) has excellent videos (5-7 minutes) which give overviews of the major sections of every book of the Bible.
- [For the Church](#) at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has great preaching/teaching guides for many of the books of the Bible, along with recommendations of other resources and commentaries.

NEW TESTAMENT READING PLAN

Week 1: Introduction + Hermeneutics	Wednesday	Matthew 1-5	☐
	Thursday	Matthew 6-10	☐
	Friday	Matthew 11-15	☐
	Saturday	Matthew 16-20	☐
	Sunday	Matthew 21-25	☐
	Monday	Matthew 26-28	☐
	Tuesday	Mark 1-5	☐
Week 2: The Synoptics	Wednesday	Mark 6-10	☐
	Thursday	Mark 11-16	☐
	Friday	Luke 1-5	☐
	Saturday	Luke 6-10	☐
	Sunday	Luke 11-15	☐
	Monday	Luke 16-20	☐
	Tuesday	Luke 21-24	☐
Week 3: The Gospel of John	Wednesday	John 1-3	☐
	Thursday	John 4-6	☐
	Friday	John 7-9	☐
	Saturday	John 10-12	☐
	Sunday	John 13-15	☐
	Monday	John 16-18	☐
	Tuesday	John 19-21	☐
Week 4: Acts	Wednesday	Acts 1-4	☐
	Thursday	Acts 5-8	☐
	Friday	Acts 9-12	☐
	Saturday	Acts 13-16	☐
	Sunday	Acts 17-20	☐
	Monday	Acts 21-24	☐
	Tuesday	Acts 25-28	☐
Week 5: Pauline Epistles (Pt. 1)	Wednesday	Romans 1-4	☐
	Thursday	Romans 5-9	☐
	Friday	Romans 10-16	☐
	Saturday	1 Corinthians 1-4	☐
	Sunday	1 Corinthians 5-8	☐
	Monday	1 Corinthians 9-12	☐
	Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13-16	☐
Week 6: Pauline Epistles (Pt. 2)	Wednesday	2 nd Corinthians 1-4	☐
	Thursday	2 nd Corinthians 5-9	☐
	Friday	2 nd Corinthians 10-13	☐
	Saturday	Galatians 1-6	☐
	Sunday	Ephesians 1-6	☐
	Monday	Philippians 1-4	☐
	Tuesday	Colossians 1-4	☐
	Wednesday	1 st Thessalonians 1-3	☐

Week 7: Pauling Epistles (Pt. 3)	Thursday	1 st Thessalonians 4-6	☐
	Friday	2 nd Thessalonians 1-3	☐
	Saturday	1 st Timothy 1-3	☐
	Sunday	1 st Timothy 4-6	☐
	Monday	2 nd Timothy 4-6	☐
	Tuesday	Titus 1-3 + Philemon	☐
Week 8: Hebrews	Wednesday	Hebrews 1-2	☐
	Thursday	Hebrews 3-4	☐
	Friday	Hebrews 5-6	☐
	Saturday	Hebrews 7-8	☐
	Sunday	Hebrews 9-10	☐
	Monday	Hebrews 11-12	☐
	Tuesday	Hebrews 13	☐
Week 9: General Epistles	Wednesday	James 1-2	☐
	Thursday	James 3-4	☐
	Friday	James 5	☐
	Saturday	1 st Peter 1-2	☐
	Sunday	1 st Peter 3-5	☐
	Monday	2 nd Peter 1-3	☐
	Tuesday	Jude	☐
Week 10: Johannine Letters (Pt. 1)	Wednesday	1 st John 1	☐
	Thursday	1 st John 2	☐
	Friday	1 st John 3	☐
	Saturday	1 st John 4	☐
	Sunday	1 st John 5	☐
	Monday	2 nd John	☐
	Tuesday	3 rd John	☐
Week 11: Johannine Letters (Pt. 2)	Wednesday	Revelation 1	☐
	Thursday	Revelation 2-3	☐
	Friday	Revelation 4-5	☐
	Saturday	Revelation 6-7	☐
	Sunday	Revelation 8-9	☐
	Monday	Revelation 10-11	☐
	Tuesday	Revelation 12-13	☐
Week 12: Johannine Letters (Pt. 3)	Wednesday	Revelation 14-15	☐
	Thursday	Revelation 16	☐
	Friday	Revelation 17	☐
	Saturday	Revelation 18	☐
	Sunday	Revelation 19	☐
	Monday	Revelation 20	☐
	Tuesday	Revelation 21-22	☐