

# BIBLE 101 – Lesson Five

## New Testament Overview and Focus on Some Women

### Quick Overview of the Books of the New Testament (Christian Bible)

Book	Purpose
<b>Gospels</b>	
Matthew	To convince readers that Jesus was the promised Messiah in fulfillment of prophesy
Mark	Emphasis on the servanthood of Jesus yet as a man of action
Luke	1 <sup>st</sup> part of 2-part history written to Theopholis about Jesus' humanity and ministry, especially to women and the marginalized
John	Evangelistic, in that the focus is for the reader to come to believe Jesus was truly "God-among-us" (Emmanuel)
<b>History</b>	
Acts	2 <sup>nd</sup> part of 2-part history written by Luke to Theopholis. The story of the beginnings and early days of the church and evangelistic journeys and efforts of Peter, Paul and others. Paul's persecution of "The Way," dramatic conversion and ministry to Gentiles. Paul's appeal to the Jerusalem church on behalf of Gentile believers.
<b>Letters (Epistles) from Paul</b>	
Romans	Letter to Christians in Rome. Emphasis on the gospel. No one is righteous, we all fall short, thus the need for grace through faith. Many discussions of what faith and life in the spirit looks like. Salvation of the Gentiles and place of law. Rules for exercising our spiritual gifts and living the Christian life.
1 & 2 Corinthians	Letters to a struggling church in Corinth, influenced by the "world" to provide counsel on a number of issues. 1 <sup>st</sup> Cor: immorality, law suits, marriage, eating food sacrificed to idols, need for forgiveness, new covenant, and to bring understanding to the issues of marriage and divorce, liberty and responsibility, the exercising of spiritual gifts in the church, and the doctrine of resurrection. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cor: Defense of Paul's own apostleship and message and addressing heretical ideas of false teachers.
Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians	Letter to the churches in these cities to clarify understanding on various issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gal: law versus grace, legalism versus faith, grace and justification by faith, liberty versus license, living by the fruit of the Spirit.</li> <li>• Eph: Love, oneness in Christ, relationships in Christ (husbands/wives, children, etc.)</li> <li>• Phil: Giving thanks to this church for their gift while he is in prison, but also to address issues of rivalry and personal ambition</li> <li>• Col: Mostly to address Gnostic heresy and not falling for human deception, encouragement to set minds on higher things, request for prayers while in prison</li> </ul>
1 & 2 Thessalonians	Both letters are to Christians in this area. Refuting of false accusations against him, correcting false understanding of what the coming of the Lord is about and how to act. Warning against idleness.
1 & 2 Timothy	Both letters are to a specific person, Timothy, Paul's "spiritual" son who stayed in Ephesus to help w/churches there. Instructions about church order and structure. Warnings about false doctrines and disobedience in last days. Instructions for husbands, wives, elders and deacons, widows, slaves. Second letter written from prison with encouragement to contend for the faith.
Titus & Philemon	Letter specifically to Titus (a gentile convert and associate) includes instructions about elders. Titus stayed in Crete to help w/churches there. Letter specifically to Philemon about Philemon's slave, Onesimus, and welcoming (a slave) as a brother.

Book	Purpose
<b>Non-Paul Letters (Epistles)</b>	
Hebrews	Author unknown but widely believed to be Paul. Much emphasis on the law/Levitical system. Jesus as High Priest. Encouragement to Christian Jews who might be returning to Jewish-only faith. God's promise to Abraham. The New Covenant fulfilled in the church.
James	Written by James (Jesus' brother?) as encouragement to disbursed Jews. Perseverance in trial. Instructions against favoritism, guarding the tongue, faith and works, submission to God.
1 & 2 Peter	Written by Peter to persecuted Christians encouraging endurance. Instructions related to submission (to authorities, rulers, husbands, parents, masters), living in harmony, importance of hospitality, elders and young men, what to add to faith. 2 <sup>nd</sup> letter about end times, warnings against false prophets, being on guard, new heaven & earth.
1, 2 & 3 John	1 <sup>st</sup> Jn: Written by John to church at large. Practical instructions for walking in the light. Sacrifice for sin. Love/God is love. Warning against teaching that Jesus did not come in the flesh (Gnosticism). 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jn: written to a church personified as "the chosen lady" with members called "her children." 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jn. Is a letter specifically to Gaius commending him for his faithfulness and hospitality, as opposed to Diotrephes' inhospitality.
Jude	Written by Jude (brother of James/Jesus?). Warnings about the evils of immorality, apostasy and encouragement to contend for the faith.
Revelation	Written by John to 7 specific churches. Begins with "letters" to the "7 churches in Asia" then moves into visions apocalyptic in nature and prophetic scenes of heaven.

### Paul's Journeys

Journey	Reference	Description
First	Acts 13:4 to 15:35	Start and end in Syrian Antioch. Paul & Barnabas
Second	Acts 15:36 to 18:22	Start and end in Syrian Antioch. Paul & Barnabas to Antioch, then the big split. Paul & Silas to Asia Minor & Greece while Barnabas & John-Mark to to Cyprus. Timothy, Lydia, Aquila and Priscilla.
Third	Acts 18:23 to 21:17	Starts in Antioch and ends in Jerusalem
Last	Acts 27:1 to 28:16	Jerusalem to Rome. Imprisonment

### Women in the Gospels:

- The many Marys
- Women supporting Jesus' ministry (Jn. 19:25)
  - Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and many other women (Lk 8:1-3)
  - Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome, and many other women (Mk 15:40-41)
- The women at Jesus' death and immediately following (see table below)

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>At the Cross</b>			
Many women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee 27:55–56	Women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome 15:40	Women 23:49	His mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene 19:25
<b>At the tomb just after the burial</b>			
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary 27:61	Mary Magdalene and Mary of Joseph 15:47	Women 23:55	
<b>At the tomb on first day of week</b>			
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary 28:1	Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome 16:1	Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women 24:10	Mary Magdalene 20:1

### Women in Gospels

- Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38–42; John 11:1-45)
- Bent-over woman (Lk. 13:10-17)
- Woman at well/Woman of Samaria (John 4:1-42)
- Woman taken in Adultery John 8:1-11

### Women in Acts:

- Women in Upper Room and on Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14,15; 2:1-4; 17-18)
- Phillip's 4 daughters (Acts 21:8-9)
- Dorcas/Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42)
- Devout, Honorable and Chief Women: (Acts 13:50; 17:4, 12)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14–15)
- Priscilla (Acts 18:2, 18-19, 26; Romans 16:3-4; I Corinthians 16:19; II Timothy 4:19)
- Drusilla (Acts 24:24)

### Women in Epistles

- 10 women mentioned by Paul (Romans 16:1-15)
- Lois (II Timothy 1:5)

These are not all of the women in the New Testament, but a small representation for discussion.

Audio and Handouts are posted on church web site here: <http://www.southernhillschristian.org/wordpress/bible-101/>

# New Testament Books Chronological Order

