



Epistles

THE INTERPRETATION OF CHRIST

A survey through the Bible 8 Week Study

- ▶ Purpose:

- ▶ An 8-week survey through the eight major sections of Scripture, revealing God's salvific plan in Christ as the central theme. Luke 24:26-27 Jesus explains how He can be revealed in the OT.

- ▶ Goals:

- ▶ Reveal God's plan through each section of Scripture
- ▶ Encourage a habit of Bible reading, as the continuity and chronology come into focus
- ▶ Allow personal understanding of the Word result in sharing His gospel

Epistles



- ▶ Timeline of writing: 49-95AD
- ▶ Timeline of events: 1st century of New Testament Church

Galatians	Written after his first missionary journey 49/55 AD
1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	Written during his second missionary journey 51 AD
Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians	Written during his third missionary journey 56-57 AD
Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon	Written during his first Roman imprisonment 60-62 AD
1 Timothy Titus	Written after his release from prison 63-64 AD
2 Timothy	Written during his second Roman imprisonment 66 AD
James	Written within a decade of Christ 40-42 AD
Hebrews	Written prior to destruction of Temple Pre 70 AD
1 Peter 2 Peter Jude	Written during Nero's reign and persecution 64 - 67 AD
1, 2, 3 John	John writes after his Gospel 85-95 AD

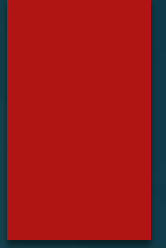
Theological significance:

- ▶ The Epistles are a genre unlike any other in the Bible.
- ▶ Since they are personal letters written to churches or individuals, they are not necessarily narrative, poetry, or prophecy.
- ▶ When the content for these letters is analyzed, it helps prove the veracity of the Gospel accounts.
- ▶ Dozens of Gospel account details are mentioned in these letters, some of which were written prior to the Gospels.
- ▶ Where the Gospels tell the story of Christ, the Epistles help interpret the details.

God's plan revealed in the Epistles:

- ▶ God's salvific plan in Christ is systematically laid out by addressing the issues of the church in real time.
- ▶ As the first century church applies the teaching of Christ in the real world, several challenges are encountered including persecution, fundamentalism, sin in the church, misunderstandings of grace, misunderstandings of judgement, etc.
- ▶ The epistles to the churches explain how the gospel interacts with real world situations.
- ▶ The hope of Christ is expressed, in the midst of suffering and persecution.
- ▶ A plea to endure suffering while being on the watch for false teaching is given.
- ▶ The future hope and destiny for the believer is discussed.

How to Interpret:



- ▶ Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - ▶ Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- ▶ Use these books to develop or sharpen your view of God, man, sin, salvation, etc.
- ▶ Recognize the genre, these letters were meant to be read in their entirety
 - ▶ There is a form used in nearly all Epistles:
 - ▶ Introduction, purpose, main teaching, closing
 - ▶ Identify the main purpose and interpret the letter through that lens
- ▶ Keep track of the audience, the author, and their relationship
- ▶ Remember the chapters are not independent of one another.
- ▶ How can the passage apply to you today, you are not just reading letters

Analyze and apply a passage:

▶ Titus 1:1-5; 3:12-14

- ▶ Who are the author and recipient?
- ▶ What is their relationship?
- ▶ What is the occasion/purpose for the letter?
- ▶ How is letter relevant and practical to us now?
- ▶ Who takes the letter to Titus?
- ▶ How does the last command connect with the purpose of the letter?



Epistles

THE INTERPRETATION OF CHRIST