

New Testament

Structure, Authors and Themes (*Epistles*)



Lesson 12

Presentation (take notes on Wednesday's class below. **NOTE:** Some of the info presented will help you answer the questions below so pay attention to those questions below during the presentation.)

NOTE: the word "epistle" means "letter". Therefore, these "books of the Bible" are actually letters, not "books" like the four gospels are. Yet people often use the phrase "books of the Bible" in a generic way to reference the entire collection of books and letters. READ p. 1311 to gain more info.

- 1) Two kinds of Epistles: (see p. 1311 FASB)
 - a. _____ Epistles (written by St. Paul; Romans through Philemon)
 - b. _____ Epistles (written by others; Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation)

- 2) Two interesting facts about the epistles of St. Paul:
 - a. Written often like a sermon, with Law and Gospel content to warn and correct the believer who was falling away from the faith while offering forgiveness and joy for those who repented.
 - b. St. Paul's epistles were collected very early as the New Testament Church was developing (~200 A.D.) and used in worship services.

- 3) What about ACTS? Is that an Epistle or a Gospel?
 - a. It's not a specific account of the life of Jesus, thus not a Gospel.
 - b. It's not a letter, but a book, the 2nd volume of Luke's Gospel.

- 4) Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. This letter is called _____.

- 5) In what country is Rome? _____

- 6) Paul wrote two letters to the Christians in Corinth. These letters are called _____

- 7) In what country is Corinth? _____
- 8) Paul wrote letters to Christians in other cities. Get a general sense of these cities but you don't need to memorize where they are. Yet, Rome and Corinth are good to know. 😊
- 9) Paul wrote 3 letters to pastors. What were their names?

- 10) Which epistle was written to a slave owner who also hosted a church in his house? _____
- 11) True or False Martin Luther had a difficult time with the epistle of James.
- 12) The last book of the New Testament is _____
- 13) Who wrote that book? _____
- 14) Where was he when he wrote that book? _____

Homework

1. Read "The Letters and You" section on p. 1311 (FASB) and answer the following question: *By reading St. Paul's letters, what did the early church learn to love?*

2. Find the cities of Rome and Corinth on the map on p. 1519-1520 (FASB). Take notice of other cities you recognize that epistles were sent to.

MEMORIZE: All the Epistles (*practice writing them here; use Pastor's video on website to help.* 😊)

Write down one question and its answer based on your study of the Epistles that you can ask your table group on Sunday.

Q1. _____

A1. _____