



New Testament

CHARACTERS



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NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE CHARACTERS

Importance: We can see the progression of God's plan and his work through individuals to accomplish that plan. As we progress through the Bible, we can move from major character to major character and these people will punctuate the unfolding drama of Gods' plan of redemption.

All of the Bible leads up to one character, Jesus Christ. All the Bible that follows the life and ministry of Jesus Christ tells us how we are to respond to the life of Jesus Christ. Without question, the most important person in history was the Son of God.

The New Testament Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

II Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament;

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

The New Testament is Jesus Christ. His blood, our purpose and his role in eternity. We cannot understand one character in the New Testament without viewing them through the looking glass of Jesus Christ.

JESUS - THE ESSENTIALS

Quite literally, the story of the life of Jesus Christ is so great that “*even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written*” (John 21:25). To understand the person of Jesus Christ we must understand the doctrine of Jesus Christ. The doctrine of Christ is essential because “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*” (II John 1:9).

DOCTRINE	TEXT	TRUTH
Deity	John 1:1, 14	Coexistent and eternal existent with God.
	Colossians 1:15-17	The image of the invisible God. By him and for him were all things created and all things consist.
	Colossians 2:9	He is the fullness of the God head bodily.
Humanity	John 1:14	The Word (God/Jesus) became flesh.
	Matthew 1:1	Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. <i>Showing his earthly lineage.</i>
	I Timothy 3:16	God was manifest in the flesh...received up.
	II John 1:7	Deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
	I John 1:1	That ... which 1) we have heard, which 2) we have seen with our eyes, which 3) we have looked upon, and 4) our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

JESUS - THE ESSENTIALS CONT.

DOCTRINE	TEXT	TRUTH
<u>VIRGIN BIRTH</u>	Matthew 1:18 Luke 1:34-35	Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. <u>Mary</u> : How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? The angel answered and said unto her, 1) The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and 2) The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: 3) That holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
<u>SINLESS LIFE</u>		
Prophesied	Isaiah 53:9-10	He made his grave with the wicked...because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.
Secular Court	Luke 23:4	<u>Pilate</u> : I find no fault in this man.
Public Court	Luke 23:39-41	<u>Malefactors</u> : This man hath done nothing amiss.
Believers	II Corinthians 5:21 Hebrews 4:15	He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin. In all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
Redemption	I Peter 1:19	He could redeem because he committed no sin.
An Example	II Peter 2:21-22	His sinlessness became our example to holy living.
His Purpose	I John 3:5	He was manifested to take away our sins...in him is no sin.
Our Plan	I John 3:6	Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.

JESUS - THE ESSENTIALS CONT.

DOCTRINE	TEXT	TRUTH
<u>SUBSTITUTIONARY</u>	Romans 5:8	God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
<u>DEATH</u>	I Peter 3:18	Christ also hath once suffered for sins ... that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh.
	I Peter 2:24	Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
	Isaiah 53:1-11	
Sacrifice	II Corinthians 5:21	For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;
<u>BODILY</u>	John 11:25	Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:
<u>RESURRECTION</u>		
Witnessed	John 20:19-31	He was seen alive by all eleven of his disciples.
	Acts 1:4-9	His disciples witnessed his bodily ascension to heaven.
	I Corinthians 15:4-8	Above 500 people could verify his bodily resurrection.
Essential	I Corinthians 15:14-23	The bodily resurrection of Christ is <i>essential</i> to salvation.
<u>MINISTRY OF</u>	Hebrews 7:25	Jesus everliveth to make intercession for us.
<u>INTERCESSION</u>	I John 2:1-2	<u>Christ</u> : Our advocate
	I Timothy 2:5	<u>Christ</u> : Our mediator between God and man.
	Hebrews 9:24	Christ... entered...into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

JESUS - HIS PREEMINENCE

Jesus Christ is without question, “*Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion*” and his position is “*not only in this world, but also in that which is to come*” (Ephesians 1:21). Of all the characters that will be studied from the Bible and history, no person has had a greater impact and no person deserves a higher position than Jesus Christ.

<u>PLACE OF CHRIST</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>PRINCIPLE</u>
The Head of the Church	Colossians 1:18 <u>Result:</u> <i>That in all things he might have the preeminence.</i>	And he is the head of the body, the church: Ephesians 1:22 The headship of Christ was given him by God.
The Head of Every Man	I Corinthians 11:3 <u>Result:</u> <i>The divine order is established.</i> <u>Order:</u> God - Christ - Man - Woman	The head of every man is Christ;
Our Standard	Ephesians 4:13 -15 <u>Goal:</u> <i>The measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:</i>	We...may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
Our Resurrection	I Corinthians 15:20	But now is Christ risen from the dead, and be come the firstfruits of them that slept.
The Right Hand of God	Mark 16:19 Ephesians 1:20	He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
The Head of All Things	Ephesians 1:21-22 Romans 13:1	God: Hath put all things under his feed and he is far above every other authority.

JESUS - A UNIQUE SAVIOUR

At the time of Christ, there were many who sought to claim the title of prophet or Messiah and many more were seeking to be a revolutionary force against the occupying Roman armies. Jesus was unique in comparison to all these leaders. Jesus was the “*only begotten*” (John 3:16) Son of God and “*the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature*” (Colossians 1:15).

UNIQUE CHARACTER TEXT

He Fulfilled Prophecy Matthew 1:22
2:15, 2:23, 4:14, 8:17, 12:17, 13:35,
21:4, 26:56, 27:35

He Performed John 2:11
Miracles John 11:47
John 12:37

Purpose of All Miracles: *To manifest the glory of God.*

He Passed the Test Acts 5:35-39
of Time

He Teaching was Matthew 7:28-29
Truly Unique John 7:46

PRINCIPLE

Jesus Christ was unique because only he fulfilled **ALL** the Old Testament prophecies pertaining to the Messiah.

The first miracle was performed in Cana. His performing of miracles was accepted but often the witnesses still did not believe.

Others arose but failed to pass the test of time. Because the work of Christ was truly of God, it ***has*** endured and ***will*** endure.

His teaching astonished all those who heard, because he taught with authority, “*and not as the scribes*”.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

At the very beginning of creation the Holy Spirit was present and moved “*upon the face of the waters*” (Genesis 1:2) but in the New Testament the Holy Spirit took on a very different role and became a major character in the story of the gospel and the New Testament Church. The Spirit would *empower, guide* and *comfort* the believers.

<u>HIS WORK</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>PRINCIPLE</u>
Introduction	John 14:15-18 John 16:17-15	The source of the Holy Spirit is the prayer of Jesus to the Father. In this passage the primary role of the Spirit is that of Comforter and guide.
<p><u>The Spirit Reproves:</u> 1) Of Sin; 2) Righteousness; and 3) Judgment</p> <p><i>* At this point the Spirit was promised but his presence was yet to be realized.</i></p>		
Realization	Acts 2:1-11	The Spirit finally became a real and present person in this passage and his function began to impact the church and culture.
<p><u>Baptism Promised:</u> Joel 2:28, Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:4</p> <p><u>Fulfilled:</u> Acts 2:1-4 - A sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. <i>Physical and Real</i></p>		
Purpose in Salvation	John 6:44 Acts 2:4-11	The Spirit does the drawing work in salvation. In his revelation, the Spirit did a work of evangelism by empowering believers to tell of Christ.
Purpose in Life	I John 2:27 I Corinthians 6:16	The Spirit insures that all can grow in Christ. The Spirit stakes God’s eternal claim upon us.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Though he was born to the priestly class and to a father who was a priest, John did not continue in the priesthood but was instead chosen to “*prepare the way*” (Malachi 3:1) for the coming Messiah. While John baptized for the “*remission of sins*” (Mark 1:4), he could not forgive sin but declared the Lamb who would take away the “*sins of the world*” (John 1:29).

Ministry Foretold	Isaiah 40:3 Malachi 3:1	The voice of one crying in the wilderness who came to prepare the way of the Lord.
His Birth Foretold	Luke 1:13-21	The angel Gabriel declared to Zachariah and Elisabeth that they would have a son. He was to be “ <i>great</i> ” and “ <i>filled with the Holy Ghost</i> ”.
His Purpose	John 1:6-9 Luke 1:68-78	Sent from God to bear witness of the Light. John was to give knowledge of salvation.
<u>Preaching</u>	Matthew 3:1-4 Matthew 3:7-12	Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He prepared the way with Israel’s leaders.
<u>Baptizing</u>	Mark 1:3-8	Baptism for, “ <i>the remission of sins</i> ”.
	Symbolic: <i>I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.</i> Mark 1:8	
His End	John 1:29 John 3:25-36	Behold the Lamb - <u>His preparation complete</u> . He must increase, but I must decrease.
Prison - Matthew	4:12, 11:1-14	Death - Matthew 14:1-10

PETER - THE FISHERMAN

Perhaps no other characters but Paul and Jesus have more of an influence on the New Testament and the early church than Simon Peter. Peter was, along with James and John, a part of the leadership of the early disciples. Peter was also quite often the most vocal, impulsive and aggressive of Jesus' disciples. He was the preacher on the day of Pentecost and a primary leader of the New Testament church until the ascension of Paul.

Called by Christ	Matthew 4:17-20	Early in his ministry Jesus, he met Peter's, brother, Andrew, who was fishing on Galilee.
He Forsook All To Follow Christ	Matthew 4:19-20	Jesus: <i>Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.</i> Peter: <i>Left their nets, and followed him.</i>
He Came to Know Christ	Matthew 16:15-18	Jesus: <i>Who say ye that I am?</i> Peter: <i>Thou art the Christ.</i>
He Denied Christ	Luke 22:54-61	Peter was shown to be weak in the flesh.
	Challenged: Luke 22:32 - When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.	
Commanded to Feed The Sheep	John 21:17-25 I Peter 5:2-3	Three times the Lord commanded Peter to feed his sheep— If Peter loved the Lord.
He Became a Leader	Acts 1:15 - 15:41	Naturally, Peter rose to lead the disciples.
Preacher on Pentecost	Acts 2:14-38	Filled with the Spirit. 3,000 were saved.
The Gospel of the Circumcision	Galatians 2:7	Peter's primary ministry was to the Jews and transitioned them from law to grace.

JOHN - THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

Among the early disciples, John was the antithesis of Peter. Even though he and his brother James were called Boanerges, "*The sons of thunder*" (Mark 3:17), he was very meek in his presentation in the Gospel Records. He was the last living apostle and the man to whom Jesus entrusted his mother, Mary.

His Calling	Matthew 4:17-22	He was called after Peter and Andrew and at the same time as his brother James. Partners The son of Zebedee and a family of fishermen.
Disciple Whom Jesus Loved	John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7,20,24	In his own gospel record, he never mentions himself by name but he spoke of himself as the " <i>disciple whom Jesus loved</i> ".
The Ward of Mary	John 19:26	While Jesus was on the cross, he entrusted his mother to the care of John.
A Bible Author	John, I John, II John III John, Revelation	After Paul, John was the most prolific New Testament writer.
A Pillar of the Church	Galatians 2:9	Along with James, and Cephas (Simon Peter).
A Prisoner on Patmos	Revelation 1:9	John was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos (Greece) for the gospel and there he received the Revelation.
He Saw Eternity	Revelation 4:1-22	He was taken out of time into eternity.
Protected Children	I John 2:12, III John 4	He spoke of early believers as his children.

THE DISCIPLES - WITH JESUS

Even though every believer down through the centuries that has been a follower of Jesus Christ is a disciple, there was a unique group during the time of Christ's earthly ministry that were his "*disciples*". These men would be sent forth to preach the gospel after they had been with Christ and witnessed the reality of his resurrection. In Acts 17:6, it was said that these early disciples, "*turned the world upside down*". Eleven of these men became Apostles.

The List	Matthew 10:2-4, Acts 1:13	7) Thomas
1) Simon - Peter also known as Cephas		8) Matthew - The Tax Collector
2) Andrew - Peter's brother		9) James (Son of Alphaeus)
3) James		10) Lebbaeus - Surnamed Thaddaeus
4) John	Sons of Zebedee	11) Simon the Canaanite
5) Philip		12) Judas Iscariot - Which betrayed Jesus
6) Bartholomew		

Given Power	Matthew 10:1	Jesus gave them power	1) Against unclean spirits
			2) To heal all manner of sickness and diseases.

Ordained to be With Him	Mark 3:14	Before they could go forth to preach, their first ministry was to simply be with Christ.
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The Ministry	Matthew 10:5-18	They were to go to the lost house of Israel. They were given power, warnings and provision.
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Foundations	Ephesians 2:20	We are built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.
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THE DISCIPLES - WITH JESUS CONTINUED

Foundations	Ephesians 2:20	We are built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.
	Revelation 21:14	Twelve foundations... the names of the twelve apostles.
Gifts from God	Ephesians 4:11	He (God) gave some apostles...prophets...evangelists...pastors and teachers.
Appointed to Death	I Corinthians 4:9	Apostles - Appointed unto death: for we are made a spectacle unto the 1) World, 2) Angels, 3) Men

WHAT ABOUT MATTHIAS?

After the death of Judas Iscariot and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come. In the waiting, Peter recalled Psalms 109:8, and stated the need to fill the position of Judas Iscariot and another “*would take his bishoprick (office)*”.

Conditions	Acts 1:21-22	1) Of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us. 2) From the baptism of John, unto that same day he was taken up from us.
Method	Acts 1:23	They appointed Joseph called Barsabas who was surnamed Justus and Matthias.
	They prayed - Acts 1:24	They Cast Their Lots - The lots determined Matthias
Concerns	Acts 1:4, 2:1-4	They decided without the leadership of the Spirit.
What About Paul? Romans 11:13, I Corinthians 9:1, II Corinthians 12:12		

PAUL - BORN OUT OF DUE TIME

The Apostle Paul is very likely, outside of Jesus Christ, the most influential person in Bible Christianity. An early persecutor of the church and the “*chief of sinners*”, he became the apostle to the Gentiles and brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to the western world. Paul was responsible for writing the majority of the New Testament, the direction and function of the church and the proper interpretation and application of the gospel.

Pharisee

Acts 23:6

I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee:

Philippians 3:5

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

By Birth

and

By Training

II Corinthians 11:22

Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

Acts 26:4-5

All the Jews - Which knew me from the beginning... the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Conversion

Acts 9:1-18

- 1) While he was “*breathing out threatening and slaughter*”
- 2) Letters to the Damascus to the synagogues - Authority
- 3) There shined a light from heaven.
- 4) Jesus: Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?
- 5) Conversion: What wilt thou have me to do?

Affirmation: Acts 9:10-17

Ananias answered the Lords’s call and knowing the testimony of Saul, called him “*Brother Saul*”.

PAUL - BORN OUT OF DUE TIME

Training in the Law Acts 22:3 Brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers.

In the Gospel Galatians 1:16-17 Taught of the Spirit in the desert of Arabia.
Galatians 1:14 Paul was not taught the gospel but rather he received it by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ministry Acts 9:20 **Immediate:** Straightway he preached Christ.
Acts 13:1-4 **Origin:** He was sent from the church at Antioch.
Heart: Already serving and teaching at Antioch.
Separated: By the Spirit to a special work.
Galatians 2:7 Paul: The gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

** Even though Paul's "desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1) and wherever he went he would always go first to the Synagogues, Paul's primary ministry was bringing the gospel to the Gentile world.*

Writing I Corinthians 16:21 Paul wrote with his own hand many of the letters
Galatians 6:11 of the New Testament. The balance of the letters
II Thessalonians 3:17 Paul would have another penman he dictated.

Books Written by Paul: Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews (Not directly but indirectly ascribed to Paul's writing).

PAUL - BORN OUT OF DUE TIME

IMPACT AND LEGACY

Who He Trained	II Timothy 2:2	And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
<u>His Investment in Timothy:</u> Thou hast fully known my 1) Doctrine, 2) Manner of life, 3) Purpose, 4) Faith, 5) Longsuffering, 6) Charity, 7) Patience, 8) Persecutions, 9) Afflictions - <i>II Timothy 3:10-11</i>		
Pure from the Blood Of all Men	Acts 20:26-27	I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel.
A Spiritual Father	I Corinthians 4:15	For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
A Spiritual Trailblazer	Romans 15:20	Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:
A Persecutor of the Church	Galatians 1:13 I Timothy 1:13	beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

TIMOTHY & TITUS - CALLING & MINISTRY

Timothy and Titus were representative of the next generation of the church. These men had the ministry of continuing the work of the Apostle Paul to “*commit to faithful men*” (II Timothy 2:2), “*set in order the things that are wanting*” and “*ordain elders in every city*” (Titus 1:5).

THEIR CALLING

II Timothy 1:9 Called us with a holy calling... according to his own purpose and grace.

THEIR MINISTRY

Principles for Bishops I Timothy 3:1-7

The Affirmative Statements

A bishop then ***must*** 1) Be blameless, 2) The husband of one wife, 3) Vigilant, 4) Sober, 5) Of good behaviour, 6) Given to hospitality, 7) Apt to teach; 8) Not given to wine, 9) No striker, 10) Not greedy of filthy lucre; 11) Patient, 12) Not a brawler, 13) Not covetous;

The Conditional Statements

- 14) One that ruleth well his own house, *having his children in subjection with all gravity;*
5 (*For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?*)
15) Not a novice, *lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
16) Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; *lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

These conditions were given to Timothy because he was given the responsibility of helping churches with leadership and guidance.

TIMOTHY & TITUS - PASTORS

A major portion of Paul's ministry in Titus and Timothy was teaching them to teach others. The church will endure through churches. It is in churches that doctrine can be preserved and a faithful defense of the gospel can be made.

Principles for Deacons I Timothy 3:8-12 - Closer to what we could call an assistant pastor.

The "Must" Statements

Likewise ***must*** the deacons: 1) Be grave, 2) not doubletongued, 3) not given to much wine, 4) not greedy of filthy lucre;

Enduring Purpose: *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*

From generation to generation and pastor to pastor.

5) let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon - "*being found blameless.*"

Conditions for Wives

Even so ***must*** their wives be 1) grave, 2) not slanderers, 3) sober, 4) faithful in all things.

The "Let" Statements

Let the deacons be 1) the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

Result: For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a *good degree*, and *great boldness in the faith* which is in Christ Jesus.

Purpose: Thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

TIMOTHY & TITUS - TRAINING

Order	Titus 1:5-9	1) Set in order the things that are wanting. 2) Ordain elders in every city.
Defense	Titus 1:10-16 II Timothy 3:13, 4:2-5	Not all in the work are for the work. One role of Titus and Timothy was to identify problem individuals and deal with them scripturally. Evil men and seducers will wax worse and worse and these men had the duty to: Exhort, Reprove, Rebuke and endure.
Example	I Timothy 4:12	These men were to live as an example to believers.

THEIR TRAINING

Personal Instruction	II Timothy 2:1-4	Paul made Timothy his greatest student.
		1) Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2) The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses - the same commit thou to faithful men - who shall be able to teach others also. 3) Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
	II Timothy 3:8-11	Timothy was to continue in what Paul had taught.
		Paul trained Timothy to fully know his: 1) Doctrine, 2) Manner of Life, 3) Purpose, 4) Faith, 5) Longsuffering, 6) Charity, 7) Patience, 8) Persecutions, 9) Afflictions

TIMOTHY & TITUS - ROLE

THEIR ROLE

Exhortation	I Timothy 4:16	Be thou an example of the believers, in 1) Word, 2) Conversation, 3) Charity, 4) Spirit, 5) Faith, 6) Purity.
	I Timothy 6:11-2	1) Follow after righteousness, 2) Godliness, 3) Faith, 4) Love, 5) Patience, 6) Meekness. 7) Fight the good fight of faith, 8) Lay hold on eternal life,
	II Timothy 4:1-5	I charge thee: 1) Preach the word; 2) Be instant in season, 3) Out of season; 4) Reprove, 5) Rebuke, 6) Exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Understanding - Problems

The time will come when: 1) They will not endure sound doctrine; 2) After their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 3) They shall turn away their ears from the truth, and 4) Shall be turned unto fables.

Understanding - Solutions

1) Watch thou in all things, 2) Endure afflictions, 3) Do the work of an evangelist, 4) Make full proof of thy ministry. *How to handle the situation mentioned in the previous verses.*

Speech	Titus 2:1	Speak thou the things that become sound doctrine.
Avoid	Titus 3:8-11	<u>Avoid:</u> 1) Foolish questions, 2) Genealogies, 3) Contentions, 4) Strivings about the law <i>Why? They are unprofitable and vain.</i>

THE THREE JAMES

There are three prominent men in the New Testament who went by the name James. These men were referred to as apostles and their influence guided the early church in its transition from a primarily Jewish body to include Gentiles as well.

James the Son of Zebedee - One of the Twelve

The Brother of John	Matthew 4:21	Surnamed " <i>Boanerges: The sons of thunder:</i> "
Early Disciple of Christ	Matthew 4:21-22	Called while fishing with his family.
Apostolic Leadership	Matthew 17:1	A group of three with Peter and John.
One of the First Martyrs	Acts 12:1-2	Killed with the sword by Herod.

James the Son of Alphaeus

An Apostle	Matthew 10:2-5	Few details are available about his life.
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James, The Lord's Brother - A Pillar of the Church (Galatians 2:9)

The Half Brother of Jesus	Matthew 13:55	Along with James, Joses, Simon and Judas along with sisters.
A Witness of a Resurrected Christ	I Corinthians 15:7	After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.
Leader at the Jerusalem Church	Galatians 1:18 Acts 15:13	One of the few to meet with Paul. When the matter of whether circumcision was necessary for salvation was being discussed, it was James who made the final determination.
A Bible Author	James 1:1	A writer with a primary ministry to the Jews.

THE TROUBLEMAKERS

The heretics and troublemakers in the New Testament were the reason that much of the New Testament was written. The Bible writers were forced to deal with matters under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We have a plan for order, discipline and function because these men chose to give their lives to inhibit the gospel work of the local church.

Hymenaeus and Philetus	II Timothy 2:16-17	Their words were like a canker and they were overthrowing the faith of some.
	Solution: II Timothy 2:19-26 - <i>Be a faithful minister; praying they can recover themselves.</i>	
Alexander the Coppersmith	II Timothy 4:14 Acts 19:33	He did Paul much harm and greatly withstood Paul's words.
	Solution: II Timothy 1:20 - <i>Paul delivered him to Satan so he would learn not to blaspheme.</i>	
Diotrophes	III John 1:9-11	He desired the preeminence and would not receive John and cast out others.
	Solution: III John 1:11 - <i>Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.</i>	
Apollos	Ac 18:24	A Jew of Alexandria who was eloquent and mighty in the scriptures, knowing only the baptism of John.
	Solution: I Corinthians 16:12,16 - <i>Paul subtly led the Corinthians to avoid Apollos.</i>	
The Pharisees and Scribes	* <i>A constant thorn in the side of Jesus and all those who followed him and continued his ministry.</i>	
False Prophets	Matthew 24:24	False Christs and false prophets - Deceiving the elect
	I Corinthians 11:13-14	These are not innocent but rather ministers of Satan.

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – The New Testament

Monday – Read Matthew 26:26-31, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20. According to this passage, what is the substance of the New Testament?

Is it possible for there to be a New Testament without Jesus Christ?

Tuesday – According to I Corinthians 11:23-30, what is the means by which we continue to observe the New Testament?

Why is it important to get our understanding of the New Testament right?

Wednesday – Upon reading II Corinthians 3:1-6, what have we been made able ministers of?

Thursday – Read Hebrew 9:1-15. Jesus Christ is the one mediator between God and man. What is Jesus a mediator of?

Friday – Read Matthew 10:1-4. Name the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ.

Saturday – Read Hebrews 10:1-22. What is the difference between the Old Testament system of the law and the New Testament system of grace?

Sunday – Compare I John 1:1-2 and I Timothy 3:16 and record how Jesus is described

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – Essentials and Preeminence

Monday – How does I John 1:1, teach us about the humanity of Jesus Christ? Compare this passage to I Timothy 3:16.

Tuesday – What does II John 1:7, teach us about the vital importance of Jesus being born in the flesh?

What does this passage teach us about those who teach that Jesus did not come in the flesh?

Wednesday – Read I Peter 1:19 and 2:21-22. What do these passages teach us about the sinlessness of Jesus Christ and the impact his life should have on ours?

Thursday – According to Hebrews 7:25 and I Timothy 2:5, what is the current ministry of Jesus Christ?

Friday – Read Ephesians 1:20-22. What position has Jesus Christ been placed in by God the Father?

Is there any authority that compares to the authority of Christ?

Saturday – How does Ephesians 4:13-15, teach us about the ultimate goal of the believer?

Sunday – According to Mark 16:19 and Ephesians 1:20, what is the current position of Jesus Christ?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –Preeminence and Unique

Monday – How does Ephesians 1:21-22, describe the authority of Jesus Christ?

What is the position of, “All Things”?

Tuesday – What does Romans 13:1, teach us about all authority on the earth?

Wednesday – What prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 1:22, 2:15, 2:23, and 4:14?

Thursday – What prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 8:17, 12:17, 13:35, 21:4, 26:56 and 27:35?

Friday – Why is it so important that Jesus Christ was able to fulfill all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah?

Saturday – According to John 2:11, what is the purpose of all miracles?

What was the first miracle that Jesus performed?

Sunday – According to Matthew 7:28-29 and John 7:46, what made the teaching of Jesus unique?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –The Holy Spirit

Monday – According to John 14:15-18, what is the source of the Holy Spirit?

How does the presence of the Holy Spirit show the commitment of Christ to us?

Tuesday – Read John 16:7-15. Describe the reproving work of the Holy Spirit?

How does the Spirit function as a guide to the believer?

Wednesday – Ephesians 5:18, commands us to be filled with the Spirit. Describe the affect of being “Spirit filled” in Acts 7:55.

Thursday – What did the disciples have to wait on before they could begin their ministry in Acts 1:-18?

What did the presence of the Spirit give the believers?

Friday – Read Acts 2:1-11. Describe the work of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Saturday – According to Romans 8:1-14, what are some of the things that define the spirit life?

Sunday – Read I Corinthians 6:19. What does this passage teach us about the Holy Ghost?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –John the Baptist

Monday – How do Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 point to the ministry of John the Baptist?

Tuesday – Read Luke 1:13-21. What was the name of the angel that declared to Zachariah that he would have a son?

How did the angel describe what John would become?

Wednesday – According to John 1:6-9, what was the ministry of John?

Why did the Bible separate the ministry of John and the Light?

Thursday – Read Luke 1:68-78. What was John to give knowledge of?

How was he going to do this?

Friday – Describe the content of John's preaching in Matthew 3:1-12.

Saturday – With what baptism did John Baptist in March 1:3-8?

Sunday – What conclusion did John come to in John 3:25-36?

What did this indicate about John's spirit?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –Peter

Monday – Describe the circumstances around Peter’s call to the ministry by the Lord in Matthew 4:17-20 and John 1:38-45.

Tuesday – What did the Lord tell Peter that he would make him if Peter would simply follow him?

What was Peter’s response?

Wednesday – Why is the conversation between Peter and Jesus so important in Matthew 16:15-18?

How does this show that understanding that the confession of Christ is so important?

Thursday – How does Luke 22:54-61, show that even the mighty Peter can be weak in the flesh?

What challenge was given to Peter by Christ in Luke 22:32?

Friday – What command was given to Peter by Jesus in John 21:17-25?

Saturday – Read Acts chapter 1, 2 and 4. Describe the role that Peter ascended to among the disciples.

Sunday – Read Acts 10:1-28. How did the conversation that the Lord had with Peter change Peter’s life and how did it impact the entire culture of the Jews?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –John – The Beloved Disciple

Monday – Read Matthew 4:17-22. Describe the conditions around John's call to be a disciple.

Tuesday – How did John refer to himself in John 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, 21:7, 20 and 24?

What does this say about the relationship that John had with Jesus?

Why do you think he did not refer to himself as John?

Wednesday – What responsibility did Jesus give to John while Jesus was on the cross?

Are there any other disciples of Jesus that seem to be present at this time?

Thursday – When you read I John, II John and III John, what is the general manner by which John wrote?

How did he look at other believers and how was he trying to help them?

Friday – How did Paul describe John, James and Cephas in Galatians 2:9?

Saturday – Read Revelation 1:4-5. To whom was John writing and from whom did he say the message was from?

Sunday – How did John refer to believers in I John 2:12 and III John 4?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –The Disciples

Monday – What prayer in Matthew 9:35-38 led to the calling of the disciples?

What drove the Lord to enlist others to the gospel work?

Tuesday – According to Matthew 10:1, what powers were given to the disciples before the Lord sent them forth to preach?

Wednesday – Read Matthew 10:2-4. List the names of the twelve disciples.

Thursday – According to Matthew 10:5-18, what were some of the instructions that were given to the disciples as they were sent forth to preach?

Friday – According to Mark 3:14, what were the disciples first called to do before they were sent forth to preach?

Why is this calling so important?

Saturday – Read Acts 4:32-37. After the Lord had ascended to Heaven and the disciples (apostles) had begun their ministry, in what way were they a witness?

What did they speak of?

Sunday – Compare Ephesians 2:20, Galatians 2:9 and Revelation 21:14. What do these passages teach us about the importance of the disciples (apostles)?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses –The Disciples Part Two

Monday – Read Ephesians 2:20 and Revelation 21:14. What is the eternal and temporal impact of the lives of the apostles?

Tuesday – Describe what the apostles were appointed to in I Corinthians 4:9.

What motivated them to continue in their ministry, knowing the cost?

Wednesday – Describe the gifts from God in Ephesians 4:11.

According to Ephesians 4:11-14, what is the purpose of God's gifts?

Thursday – What were the conditions in Acts 1:21-22, that the disciples felt were necessary to appoint the person that was going to replace Judas Iscariot?

Friday – What were some of the tools that the disciples used in Acts 1:23-24, that helped them make the decision as to who would replace Judas Iscariot?

Saturday – Describe the conversion of Saul in Acts 9.

What was he saved from and what did he end up doing?

Sunday – Read Romans 11:13 and I Corinthians 9:1. What does Paul declare to be true of himself?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – Paul

Monday – According to I Timothy 1:15, how did Paul describe himself in comparison to Christ Jesus?

Tuesday – Describe the birthright of Paul to be a Pharisee as it is mentioned in Acts 23:6.

Wednesday – Read Philippians 3:5 and Acts 22:3. Describe the training of Paul that prepared him to be a Pharisee.

Thursday – According to Acts 26:4-5, how did Paul live his life?

What do these passages teach us about the position and dedication of the Paul?

Friday – Read Acts 7:57-60 and Acts 8:8:1-3. Describe the actions of Saul/Paul.

Would you describe him as a Bible time terrorist to the early church?

Saturday – Describe the spirit of Saul/Paul in Acts 9:1-2.

What would motivate a man to have such hatred for Christians?

Sunday – In Acts 9:3-9, we read of the conversion of Saul/Paul. What events led to his conversion?

What do you feel turned his heart from hatred to belief?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – Paul Part Two

Monday – Describe what we learn about the training of Paul by comparing Acts 22:3 and Galatians 1:14-17.

Tuesday – According to Acts 13:1-4, what was the church of origin for Paul’s ministry?

What was he already doing there?

Wednesday – To your understanding, what is the difference between the gospel of the un-circumcision that was committed to Paula and the gospel of the circumcision that was committed to Peter?

Thursday – Upon reading Romans 10:1, what was a primary desire of Paul?

How did he demonstrate this in his ministry?

Friday – List the books of the Bible that had authorship that was attributed to Paul.

Saturday – What instruction did Paul give to young Timothy in regard to the ministry in II Timothy 2:1-4?

What things did Timothy “fully know” according to II Timothy 3:10-11?

Sunday – Upon reading Acts 20:26-27, what was Paul pure from?

How did he come to this place?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – Timothy and Titus

Monday – Describe how Paul describes the calling that both he and Timothy had.

Tuesday – Read I Timothy 3:1-7. List the things that a Bishop “must” have true about them?

Wednesday – Read I Timothy 3:1-7. List the conditional requirements of the Bishop. These are the statements and have a description accompanying them.

Thursday – What are the “must” statements in regard to deacons in I Timothy 3:8-12?

What is the thing that deacons hold in a pure conscience?

Friday – What are the conditions for deacon’s wives as described in I Timothy 3:8-12?

Saturday – What are the “let” statements that relate to deacons in I Timothy 3:8-12?

Sunday – Read I Timothy 3:15. What is the purpose that a church should have guidelines in the selection of pastors and deacons?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – Timothy and Titus – Part Two

Monday – What role did Titus have in Titus 1:5-9?

What does, “Set in order” mean?

Tuesday – How did Paul instruct Titus to deal with those who were problems in Titus 1:10-16?

How would you describe his authority?

Wednesday – Compare II Timothy 3:13 and 4:2-5. What were some of the problems that Paul was preparing Timothy to deal with?

What was the primary tool that Paul gave Timothy?

Thursday – Make a list of the instructions that Paul gave Timothy in II Timothy 2:1-4.

Friday – According to II Timothy 3:8-11, what things did Paul tell Timothy that he fully knew?

Saturday – Read I Timothy 4:16. What things was Timothy to be an example of?

Sunday – Describe the problems that Paul prepared Timothy to face in II Timothy 4:1-5.

Why do you feel that people come to the place that they do not endure strong doctrine?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – The Three James

Monday – Describe the circumstances surrounding the calling of James the Son of Zebedee in Matthew 4:21-22.

Tuesday – According to Matthew 17:1, who were the three disciples that went up the mountain with Jesus?

Wednesday – What happened to James in Acts 12:1-2?

Why would Herod pick James?

Thursday – Where does James fall in the order of people that saw a resurrected Christ?

Friday – Read Matthew 10:2-5. What do we know from scripture about James the son of Alphaeus?

Saturday – Read Matthew 13:55. List the family members mentioned in this passage.

Sunday – Compare Acts 1:18 and Acts 15:13-20. What was the role of James in the church at Jerusalem?

The Great Cloud of Witnesses – The Troublemakers

Monday – Read II Timothy 2:15-26. What were some of the problems that Hymenaeus and Philetus brought to the apostle Paul?

What solution did Paul give to deal with Hymenaeus and Philetus?

Tuesday – Alexander the coppersmith did Paul much harm. According to II Timothy 4:14, how did Alexander harm Paul?
In Acts 19:33, what was Alexander doing?

Wednesday – According to III John 1:9-11, what were the issues that John stated to be problems with Diotrophes?
How does a person “desire to have the preeminence?”

Thursday – According to III John 1:11, how did John tell the readers to deal with people like Diotrophes?

Friday – Read I Corinthians 16:11-16. After reading this passage, how do you feel Paul felt about Apollos?

Saturday – Find a place in the gospel records as well as the book of Acts that demonstrates how the Pharisees and scribes.

Sunday – Compare Matthew 24:24 and I Corinthians 11:13-14. How did Jesus and Paul speak of and warn about false prophets?

CALVARY



BAPTIST CHURCH

To search the scriptures and strengthen the things which remain because all scripture is given by inspiration of God and we must expound the way of God more perfectly.

Pastor Lyon Brown



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