

“TFT Bible Class will equip you with Christian values, principles and doctrines with the aim of transforming you to become an effective disciple in the ministry of Christ.”



## SUB-TOPIC 1.4.2

### THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is the second major division of the Christian Bible and consists of 27 books.

The part of the New Testament that focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ consists of the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The gospels provide us with invaluable insight into the life and teachings of Jesus, and are considered some of the most important books in the New Testament.

- The **Gospel of Matthew** is written by one of Jesus Disciples who was a tax collector. The book includes numerous Old Testament references. It emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah and king of the Jews.
- The **Gospel of Mark** is the shortest gospel and focuses on Jesus as a man of action and power, highlighting his miracles and healings. Mark wrote this book from both his personal eyewitness and that of other disciples like Peter.
- The **Gospel of Luke** focuses on Jesus as the savior for all people, regardless of their social status. It includes many stories about Jesus' interactions with women and the poor. Luke was a Doctor by profession.
- The **Gospel of John** written by the disciple whom Jesus loved. This gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus Christ and highlights his teachings on eternal life and the relationship between believers and God. It includes the famous "I am" sayings of Jesus, such as "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

The book of **Acts** provides for the history of the early church how the early church grew and spread throughout the world, and is filled with inspiring tales of faith and courage. Both the four gospels and the book of Acts are essential for deepening our understanding of Christianity.

A significant portion of the New Testament consists of the Epistles of Paul, which address theological and practical issues related to the Christian faith. These include letters to church leaders, such as I and II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, as well as the book of Hebrews.

Other epistles in the New Testament include those written by other disciples, such as I and II Peter, I, II, and III John, and Jude. Together, these books provide a comprehensive picture of the early Christian church and its teachings.

#### THE APOSTLE PAUL'S EPISTLES / LETTERS

The Epistles of Paul are a collection of letters written by the apostle Paul to various Christian communities in the first century after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These letters are considered some of the most important texts in the New Testament as they offer valuable insights into the early Christian church and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

## Here is a brief overview of each of the Epistles of Paul:

- **Romans**: Written to the Christian community in Rome, this letter is considered one of Paul's most important works. It discusses the nature of sin and salvation, and emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus Christ.
- **1 Corinthians**: This letter was written to the Christian community in Corinth, Greece. It addresses a number of issues, including divisions within the church, sexual immorality, and the importance of love and unity.
- **2 Corinthians**: This letter is a follow-up to 1 Corinthians, and it deals with issues of leadership, false teachers, and the importance of generosity.
- **Galatians**: Written to the Christian community in Galatia, this letter emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus Christ and argues against the idea that salvation can be earned through adherence to Jewish laws.
- **Ephesians**: This letter was written to the Christian community in Ephesus, and it emphasizes the unity of the church and the importance of living a holy life.
- **Philippians**: Written to the Christian community in Philippi, this letter emphasizes the importance of joy and contentment, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- **Colossians**: This letter was written to the Christian community in Colossae, and it emphasizes the supremacy of Christ and the importance of living a life that is pleasing to God.
- **1 Thessalonians**: This letter was written to the Christian community in Thessalonica, and it emphasizes the importance of living a holy life and being prepared for the return of Christ.
- **2 Thessalonians**: This letter is a follow-up to 1 Thessalonians, and it emphasizes the importance of perseverance in the face of persecution and the hope of Christ's return.
- **1 Timothy**: This letter was written to Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus, and it emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine, good leadership, and godly behaviour.
- **2 Timothy**: This letter is a follow-up to 1 Timothy, and it emphasizes the importance of holding fast to the truth of the gospel and persevering in the face of persecution.
- **Titus**: In this letter to Titus, a young pastor in Crete, the apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine, good leadership, and godly behaviour.

## THE DISCIPLES EPISTLES / LETTERS

Apart from the Epistles of Paul, there are several other letters in the New Testament that were written by other disciples of Jesus Christ. Overall, these letters by the disciples provide valuable insights into the teachings and practices of the early Christian church. Here is a brief overview of each of these Epistles:

- **James**: This letter was written by James, who was likely the brother of Jesus. It is addressed to Jewish Christians who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire, emphasizing the importance of faith in action and living a life that is pleasing to God.
- **1 Peter**: in this first letter, the apostle Peter writes to a group of Christians who were facing persecution in other Roman provinces (located in what is known as Turkey today). The letter urges them to remain faithful to Jesus and stay in hope even in the midst of suffering. In addition, he encourages believers to live holy lives since they are now God's holy nation.
- **2 Peter**: this letter is a follow-up to 1 Peter, through which the apostle Peter emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine and warns against false teachers who were leading people astray. Peter also explains that God wants everyone to repent.
- **1 John**: This letter written by the apostle John testifies of the reality of Jesus the Messiah coming in the flesh; whilst also emphasizing godly living and the importance of practical love and care for one another as signs of those who genuinely love and know God.
- **2 John**: the apostle John continues to emphasize the importance of love to the local church and still warns them against false teachers.
- **3 John**: in this brief note the apostle John commends Gaius for being a faithful believer who accommodated travelling preachers in his home and enabled them to carryout their mission. In the same light the apostle John condemns Diotrephes a troublemaker.
- **Jude**: Jude was said to have been one of the brother's of Jesus along with James. He was a church leader and, in this letter, he warns believers against false teachers and urges them to actively resist and reject these false teachers. Overall he encourages the believers to hold fast to the faith that was once for all entrusted to them.

The last book of the Bible is a prophetic book, Revelations, which describes the end times, including the rapture and tribulations. Written by the apostle John as revealed to him by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. The revelations in the book include many images of destruction, war, and judgment, as well as the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom over evil. The book is often seen as an encouragement to Christians to persevere through suffering and to remain faithful to God even in times of trial.

In conclusion, the New Testament is a vital resource for Christians, as it provides a record of the life, teachings, and mission of Jesus Christ and the ministry of his disciples in promoting the spread of the early Christian church. As modern-day disciples of Christ, we must strive to understand and promote the gospel message with faith and dedication, recognizing the importance of the compilation and organization of the New Testament books.