





Personal Bible Study

A short study of these vital topics . . .

-  **Respecting Bible Authority**
-  **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**
-  **Working and Worshipping Together**
-  **Introduction to the New Testament**

Simply work your way through the booklet, opening your Bible to the passages mentioned; filling in the blanks that come up along the way. (NOTE – Bible verses are in New American Standard Version, 1995 edition, unless noted otherwise.)

If you have questions, contact the person who gave you this study, or one of the men listed on the back page of this study.

Old Testament Books:

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentation
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

New Testament Books:

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation

Lesson 1: Respecting Bible Authority

Introduction

- Most religious division is caused by either ignorance of or a lack of respect for the word of God and the authority of Christ.
- This lesson is a study of the true standard of Divine authority for today.

Discussion

I. Christ Has All “Right to Rule”

- A. “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All _____ has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” (**Matthew 28:18**)
- B. Christ’s authority is revealed to us in the New Testament. “If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I _____ to you are the Lord’s _____.” (**1 Corinthians 14:37**)
- C. The Bible is God’s final and complete revelation to man. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

II. God’s Law Demands Respect

- A. God expects men to respect what He says! “You shall _____ to the word which I am commanding you, nor _____ from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” (**Deuteronomy 4:1-2**)
- B. John said, “Anyone who goes too far and _____ in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.” (**2 John 9**)
- C. Examples of God’s strictness:
 1. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and were driven from the garden of Eden for not respecting God’s command. (**Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-24**)
 2. Nadab and Abihu offered “strange fire” which they had no authority to do and were killed. (**Leviticus 10:1-2**)
 3. David incurred the anger of God for moving the ark of the covenant in an unauthorized manner. (**1 Chronicles 13:1-14; 15:11-15**)

III. God’s Will Can Be Understood

- A. Many think the Bible cannot be understood. But, we are expected to understand it. “By referring to this, when you read you can _____ my insight into the mystery of Christ.” (**Ephesians 3:4**) “So then do not be foolish, but _____ what the will of the Lord is.” (**Ephesians 5:17**)
- B. Do you think that God would give us a book to read, believe, and obey and then make it too hard to understand?
- C. This does not mean that the Bible reads as a first grade reader. It simply means that with study you can understand what God expects of you without some special anointing of God, or degree from a seminary, or having to unquestionably rely on a church or a preacher.

IV. False Standards Of Authority

Let's look at some wrong standards of authority that many appeal to in religion.

A. Conscience

1. In religious matters, many people just let their conscience be their guide. Conscience is that which tells us whether we are doing right or wrong based upon what we have been taught. If we have been taught wrong, our conscience has faulty data to work from, and may approve what is unapproved, or condemn what is approved.
2. Personal experiences and feelings can lead one astray, yet many are guided by them. "There is a _____ which _____ right to a man, but its end is the way of _____." (**Proverbs 14:12**)
3. The apostle Paul was guided by his conscience (**Acts 23:1**), but he did many things which were religiously wrong. "So then, I _____ that I had to do many things _____ to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." (**Acts 26:9**)

B. The Wisdom of Men

1. Men can be wrong. Our faith must not be in our own thinking, nor in the wisdom of others. "...so that your faith would not rest on the _____ of _____, but on the power of God." (**1 Corinthians 2:5**)
2. God's way and man's way are different. "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its _____ did _____ come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (**1 Corinthians 1:21**). "I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to _____ his steps." (**Jeremiah 10:23**)
3. This will eliminate all man-made creed books as authoritative standards. God's only creed is the Bible!

C. The Majority

1. The majority of people can be wrong.
2. Just because the majority may do a thing does not make it right. There were only _____ persons saved in the ark. (**1 Peter 3:20**)
3. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are _____ who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are _____ who find it." (**Matthew 7:13-14**)
4. Throughout history, those standing for what is right have often been the few. (**Genesis 6:5,8; 7:1-5, 13-23; Numbers 14:22-24...26:51, 64-65; 1 Kings 18:17-19**)

D. Parents

1. Many want to follow tradition handed down by their parents. Belonging to a church solely because one's parents did is going by a false standard.
2. "He who loves _____ or _____ more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." (**Matthew 10:37**)

3. Christianity is an individual effort. You must examine the Bible for yourself and do what it teaches. God will judge us based on *our* faith and practice, not that of our parents.
4. Paul was involved in religious error because he followed tradition. "...and I was advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral _____." (**Galatians 1:14**)

E. The Law of Moses

1. Many fail to realize that the law of Moses is not our standard of authority in religion today. It served its purpose and is no longer the authoritative standard for worship.
2. "It was added because of transgressions ... until the _____ would come to whom the promise had been made." (**Galatians 3:19**) Who is identified as the seed?
_____ (**Galatians 3:16**)
3. Two covenants are the Law of Moses, the "first," and the Law (or Covenant, or Will, or Testament) of Christ, the "second." (**Hebrews 8:6-13**) Christ, through his ministry, "
_____ the first in order to _____ the second." (**Hebrews 10:9,10**)
4. Since the first covenant has been taken away along with its "regulations of _____" (**Hebrews 9:1**), Christians do not keep the Sabbath, burn incense, offer animal sacrifices, and do other things they did under the Law of Moses. See also **Colossians 2:14-17**.
5. It was the death of Christ that put into force the New Covenant. (**Hebrews 9:16-17**)
6. The Old Testament is still beneficial for us today. We learn how God deals with people and receive many moral lessons from it. (**Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11**) It is inspired of God and we believe what it says. We just do not live under the same specific laws as the Jews did.

False standards of authority keep people from understanding the Lord's will for us today.

V. Conclusion

- A. The standard of authority for today is Christ's will in the New Testament.
- B. In the judgment to come, we will be judged by the gospel of Christ! (**John 12:48**)
- C. If we follow mistaken human authority, we will suffer the same mistaken destiny. "And if a blind man guides a blind man, _____." (**Matthew 15:14**)

Additional Notes:

Jesus asked, "The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?" (**Matthew 21:25**). He only gave two choices—either a religious practice or belief has authority from God (heaven), or from men. For thought and discussion:

- **Why** do you believe what you do?
- Is the **ultimate** source of this belief from Heaven (God's Word), or men (parents, friends, society, preacher, feelings)? That is, while we may have learned it from our parents, preacher, or simple "think" it's so, can it's source be **ultimately** traced back to God's Word?
- Has the source for your belief even been mistaken about anything? If so, could it be mistaken in its views about religion?

Lesson 2: God's Plan for Man's Salvation

NOTE - *important*: Answer these questions as best you can BEFORE doing this lesson. Write your answers down. AFTER you have done the lesson, come back and compare what you have studied from God's Word with your answers.

- Have you been saved? _____
- How were you saved? _____
- When were you saved? (How old were you?) _____
- Have you been baptized? _____ If so, were you immersed, sprinkled, or did you have water poured on you? _____ Were you baptized *before* or *after* you were saved? _____

Introduction

- All men are lost in sin and cannot save themselves. However, in His matchless grace, God has made salvation available to all.
- There are many conflicting ideas about salvation, but God's plan is clearly revealed in the New Testament.

Discussion

I. Why do we need God's plan?

A. Because we all sin.

No one is "good enough." "For _____ have _____ and fall short of the glory of God." (**Romans 3:23**) Sins are not inherited, but are transgressions of God's law (**1 John 3:4**).

B. Because sin leads to spiritual death.

"For the wages of sin is _____." (**Romans 6:23**) This "death" is separation from God and His grace.

C. Because goodness alone does not save.

Good works, being a good moral person, and acts of worship cannot take away sin.

1. List four things about Cornelius that showed his character. (**Acts 10:2**)

2. However, Cornelius needed to hear words by which he would "_____" you and your household." (**Acts 11:14**)

3. David was sorry about his sin, but knew that acts of worship alone would not remove his guilt. (**Psalms 51:15,16**) He appealed to God's _____. (**Psalms 51:1**)

D. Because God's plan offers the only hope.

1. Jesus said, "Unless you believe that I am He, you will _____." (**John 8:24**)

2. He also said he was "the way, and the truth, and the life" and that _____." (**John 14:6**)

II. God's Role in God's plan for our salvation

There are some things that God has already done for us to make salvation available to all.

A. God sent His Son.

"For God so loved the world, that He _____, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (**John 3:16**)

B. God bestowed His grace.

"For by _____ you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." (**Ephesians 2:8**)

C. Jesus died for us.

"In Him we have redemption _____, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**)

D. The Holy Spirit revealed God's plan for man.

1. God's plan for our salvation in Christ was "revealed _____" to chosen men who would teach it to others (**1 Corinthians 2:9-10,13**).
2. These chosen men are apostles and prophets. Writing about God's plan of salvation in Christ, the apostle Paul said it had "now been revealed to _____ in the Spirit." (**Ephesians 3:5**)

III. Mankind's role in God's plan for our salvation

A. Hear the gospel

"So faith comes from _____, and hearing by the word of Christ." (**Romans 10:17**)

B. Believe the gospel of Christ

1. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has _____ and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has _____ shall be condemned.'" (**Mark 16:15,16**)
2. This faith will cause one to *obey*, just as Noah's faith caused him to build an ark (**Hebrews 11:7**) and Abraham's faith caused him to obey and go to another country (**Hebrews 11:8**).

C. Repent and give up one's will to Christ as Lord

1. "Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, '_____, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ...'" (**Acts 2:37,38**)
2. Repentance is a change of will, and a commitment to do the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. Confess one's faith in Christ as the Son of God

"that if you _____ with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he _____, resulting in salvation." (**Romans 10:9-10**)

E. Be baptized for the remission of sins

1. When those pierced in heart as a result of believing in Jesus as the Christ (**Acts 2:36-37**) asked the apostles what they needed to do, they were told, “Repent, and each of you _____ in the name of Jesus Christ _____; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (**Acts 2:38**) Three thousand were baptized “that day.” (**Acts 2:41**)
2. Ananias, sent by God to the penitent believer, Saul, told him, “Now why do you delay? Get up and _____, and _____, calling on His name.” (**Acts 22:16**)
3. Peter reminded his readers, that corresponding to Noah’s salvation by water, baptism “now _____.” (**1 Peter 3:21**)
4. That we must be baptized to be saved no more nullifies grace than that we must repent to be saved. Just as Noah was saved by grace (**Genesis 6:8**) but had to do what God commanded to be saved (build an ark, **Hebrews 11:7**), so we are saved by grace but must do what is commanded to be saved, and this includes being baptized. This is not a plan devised by man, nor does this act “earn” anything, but rather by the grace of God when we in penitent faith are baptized upon our faith in Christ in order to obtain the benefits of His death, God forgives us of all our sins.
5. Baptism is immersion in water, not sprinkling or having water poured on us.
 - a. “John was _____ in Aenon near Salim, because _____” (**John 3:23**) It doesn’t take much water to sprinkle water, or pour water, on people.
 - b. “And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they _____ went down into the water, _____ as well as _____, and he _____ him.” (**Acts 8:38**) There would be no need for the baptizer to get into the pool or stream if baptism could be experienced by sprinkling or pouring.
6. Baptism, like faith, repentance, and confession, is essential to salvation.

F. Be faithful

1. When one is baptized in the name of Christ, the Lord adds him to the body of the saved, or the church (**Acts 2:47**). He then should “walk _____.” (**Ephesians 4:1**) This manner of life is discussed in the last three chapters of this letter, as well in the other New Testament letters from Romans through Revelation.
2. The Corinthian Christians were exhorted to “be _____, always _____, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)
3. God’s plan is that Christians meet together to work and worship together to help them stay faithful. These groups were called “churches,” like the ones in Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica (see **1 Corinthians 1:2**; **Philippians 1:1**; **1 Thessalonians 1:1**). Working together in such local groups, or churches, we are “_____ for the faith of the gospel.” (**Philippians 1:27**).

Conclusion

- This is not our plan, but God's, and we have no right to ignore it or change it. We need to learn it, believe it, obey it, and teach it.
- Now go back and review your answers to the questions at the beginning of this lesson. Is what you have done according to God's plan? Someone would be glad to discuss this with you if you have questions.
- Are you living according to God's plan today?

Lesson 3: Working and Worshipping Together

Introduction

- Those who believed and obeyed the gospel of Christ devoted themselves to working and worshipping together. (**Acts 2:41,42**)
- As we learned in lesson one, this work and worship must be according to Bible authority. We cannot simply do as we think best, or what others do, or even what the Law of Moses instructed people who lived under it to do. Churches and denominations cannot authorize work and worship God has not authorized in the New Testament. The apostle Paul wrote to the preacher, Timothy, who worked with the church in Ephesus, “**Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you heard from me.**” (**2 Timothy 1:13**, New King James Version)
- This lesson is a study of the New Testament pattern for working and worshipping together in Christ.

Discussion

I. Worship and Work

A. Prayer

1. Christians should pray, and should also come together to pray.
2. “_____ without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**)
3. “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and _____.” (**Acts 2:42**)

B. Singing

1. Christians should sing songs of worship, and should also come together to sing.
2. “Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to _____.” (**James 5:13**)
3. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing _____ with _____ with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (**Colossians 3:16**)
4. There is no record in the New Testament of Christians using, or being told to use, mechanical instruments of music in worship. This practice in churches began centuries later and is without Divine authority.

C. The Lord’s Supper

1. Christians should remember the Lord’s death, and should come together to commemorate it.
2. “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this _____.’ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, _____.’”

- For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you _____ until He comes.” (1 **Corinthians 11:23-26**)
3. The early Christians assembled on the first day of the week to “break bread,” or observe this memorial meal. (**Acts 20:7**)

D. Giving

1. Christians should give to relieve needy Christians and to support the work of the gospel of Christ, and should also contribute to a common fund for these purposes when gathered together.
2. “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. _____ let each one of you _____, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.” (1 **Corinthians 16:1, 2**). Observe when this collection was made.
3. “And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no _____ shared with me _____ and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you _____ more than once for my needs.” (**Philippians 4:15, 16**)
4. Tithing was required under the Old Testament, but in the New Testament Christians are instructed to give “as he [they] may prosper” (1 **Corinthians 16:2**) and “purpose” with a “cheerful” heart (2 **Corinthians 9:7**).
5. There is no record of churches in the New Testament raising funds by soliciting from the world, having sales of goods, or other type fund raisers.
6. Nor is there any evidence they used the funds gathered in churches for anything but relieving needy Christians and supporting the work of the gospel of Christ. There is nothing in the Divine pattern authorizing churches of Christ to be engaged in entertainment, social pursuits, politics, or civic projects.

E. Teaching

1. Christians should study God’s Word to grow, and come together to study God’s Word.
2. “Like newborn babies, _____, so that by it you may _____ in respect to salvation.” (1 **Peter 2:2**)
3. “And for an entire year they _____ and _____ considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (**Acts 11:26**)
4. This is why local churches plan Bible classes and sermons.

II. Working and Worshipping Together

A. Local churches

Christians banded together as a “team” “_____ for the faith of the gospel.” (**Philippians 1:27**). These groups, or teams, were called “churches,” and since they banded together due to their faith in Christ and for His work and worship, they were sometimes called “churches _____” (**Romans 16:16**), or “church _____” (1 **Corinthians 1:2**), or “the church of the Thessalonians _____” (1 **Thessalonians 1:1**).

B. Local autonomy

1. “Autonomy” refers to self government. The churches in the New Testament were governed by qualified leaders within each local church. In the New Testament pattern, there was no centralized government that ruled the work and worship of several churches, whether two or two thousand.
2. These governing leaders were called by several terms: “overseers” (same as “bishops”), “shepherds” (same as “pastors”), or “elders” (same as “presbyters”). (**Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1,2**) Being a preacher did not make one a “pastor,” and never do we read of only one pastor or bishop in a local church.
3. The jurisdiction of these leaders was limited to “the flock of God _____.” (**1 Peter 5:2**). See also **Acts 20:28**. There were no bishops, elders, or pastors over any church but the local church of which they were members.
4. There were no synods, assemblies, boards, or any kind of centralized oversight over churches, whether by a group of men or by one man.

C. Cooperation

1. Christians cooperated by joining together to work and worship together in a local church. (**Philippians 1:1,27**) They formed no other bodies or organizations to work and worship together in those duties peculiar to being in Christ.
2. Churches cooperated by contributing at times to the same work, whether a benevolent need, or a gospel preacher in need of support. (**Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 11:9**) They formed no organization of churches working under a centralized oversight to do this work. Churches combined together under a centralized oversight to work together is a denomination, and that was a later development and unknown to the New Testament.

Conclusion

- Not all worship is acceptable to God. Jesus said, “_____ do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines _____.” (**Matthew 15:9**)
- Whether work or worship, we need to be sure we respect Bible authority (see lesson one).

Additional Notes:

Not all churches who claim to follow Christ practice the work and worship that is according to the New Testament pattern. It is every individual’s responsibility to find a group that respects the Bible as authority (see lesson one). The most important consideration is how your fellowship with a church impacts your devotion to the Lordship of Christ and your relationship with Him.

Lesson 4: Introduction to the New Testament

Introduction

- God's plan is that the New Testament be read and heard. "When you _____ you _____ my insight into the mystery of Christ." (**Ephesians 3:4**) "I adjure you by the Lord to _____." (**1 Thessalonians 5:27**)
- Many are not familiar with the New Testament, so this lesson is a brief introduction to it with the aim of increasing understanding when reading and hearing it.

Discussion

I. The Four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

A. Historical foundation for our faith

1. These four historical records provide the foundation for our faith in Jesus as the Son of God.
 - a. Luke said he wrote his gospel so that Theophilus "may know _____ about the things" he had been taught." (**Luke 1:4**)
 - b. John said this about his gospel, "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but _____; and that believing you may have life in His name. (**John 20:30, 31**).
2. They were written in the first century by the authors whose names are attached. Their age and accuracy are attested to by over 5000 Greek manuscripts, over 19,000 versions, and over 19,000 quotations of men who lived within 300 years of Christ's death. Fenton John Anthony Hort, 1828-1892 A.D., a renowned textual scholar of the 19th century who served on the committee of the English Revised Version in the 1880s said this about the New Testament, "...the amount of what can in any sense be called substantial variation is but a small fraction of the whole residuary variation, and can hardly form more than a thousandth part of the entire text." (*The New Testament in the original Greek* By Brooke Foss Westcott, Fenton John Anthony Hort, Introduction and Appendix, pg. 2-3) There is no other ancient book like it! We can have confidence that major versions of today (King James Version, New King James Version, American Standard Version, New American Standard Version) accurately represent the original texts.

B. Further information about the Gospels

1. Two of these four documents were written by apostles of Christ (Matthew, John), and two by prophets (Mark, Luke).
2. Matthew wrote especially for the Jewish reader, and this explains why he began his gospel with a genealogy of Jesus, **Matthew 1:1-17**.
3. Matthew, Mark, and Luke included material about the life of Christ that is similar in many respects, and thus they are called the "synoptic" gospels.
4. It would be good to read at least one of the four gospels all the way through.

II. The Acts of the Apostles

A. Sequel to the Gospels

1. Acts was written by Luke. It begins where Luke left off in his gospel. Compare **Luke 1:3-4...24:44-53** with **Acts 1:1-11**.
2. It records examples of the miracles that were promised to the apostles to confirm the preaching of the gospel, **Mark 16:15-20**.
3. It demonstrates how the apostles understood and preached the great commission Jesus gave them, **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**. In doing so, it serves to clarify vital questions such as the role of baptism in salvation.
4. It is a Divine commentary on the promised mission of the the Holy Spirit, **John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13-14**.

B. Background to the rest of the letters

1. Acts provides background of the origin of churches that had letters written to them, e.g. Thessalonians (**Acts 17**), Corinthians (**Acts 18**), and Ephesians (**Acts 19**).
2. Acts provides fuller insight into some of the incidents referred to in the letters, e.g. **1 Corinthians 16:8,9 (Acts 19:11-20)**.

C. Other information about Acts

1. A good outline is in **Acts 1:8** - "you [the apostles] will be my witnesses..."
 - In Jerusalem, **chapters 1-7**
 - In all Judea and Samaria, **chapters 8-12**
 - Even to the remotest part of the earth, **chapters 13-28**
2. The acts of two apostles are focused on
 - Peter, **chapters 1-12**
 - Paul, **chapters 13-28**
3. Acts covers the first c. 30 years of early church history (c. 30 – c. 63 A.D.)
4. Acts contains vital information about the church's establishment, growth, work, and organization (both the universal and local church).

III. Romans - Revelation (22 letters)

A. Value

1. They were written to individuals and to churches in the first century. They were designed to teach, to warn, to refute error, to encourage, and to establish in the faith of the gospel.
2. They provide insight about the work, worship, and organization of churches under apostolic direction.
3. Reading them, studying them, and instilling their lessons in the heart is vital to Christians' growth and steadfastness in the faith. If we respect Divine authority, we will respect these letters. (see lesson one)

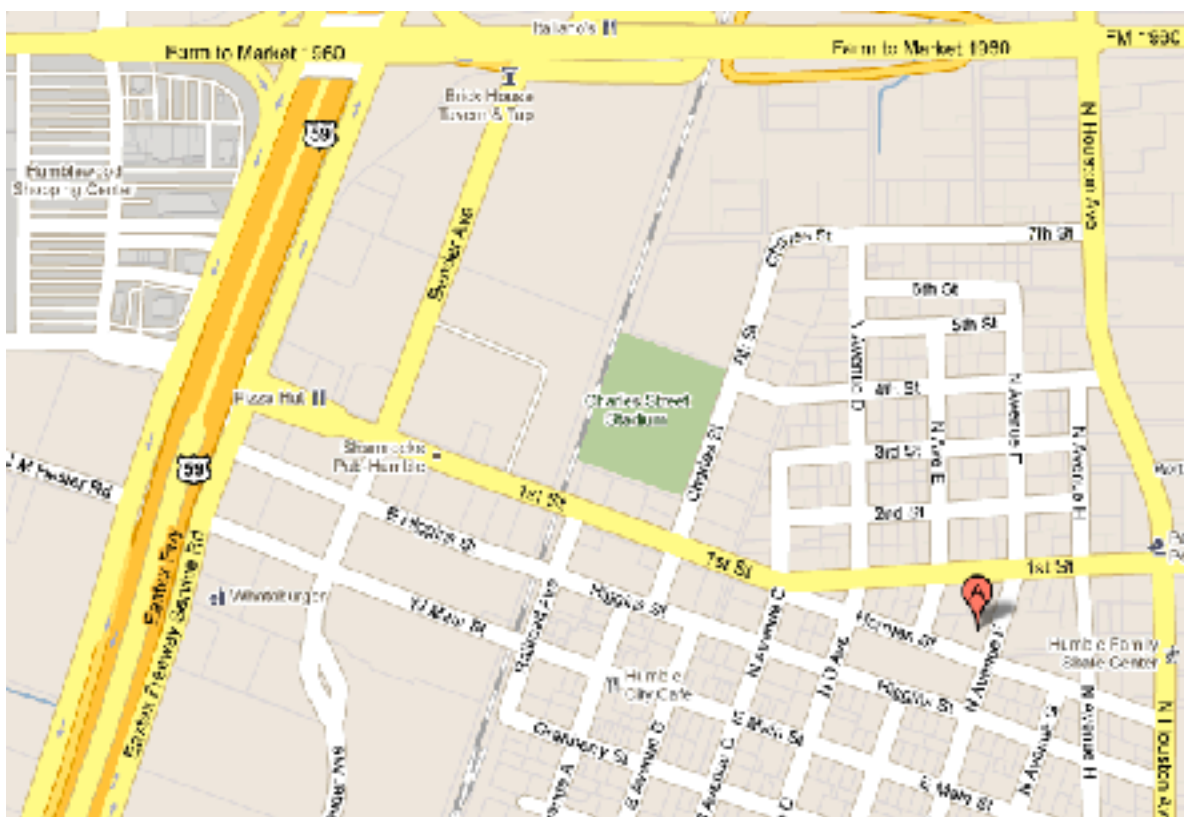
B. Authors

1. The apostle John wrote five: Gospel of John; 1,2,3 John; Revelation.
2. The apostle Peter wrote two: 1 and 2 Peter.

3. The apostle Paul wrote thirteen: Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1 and 2 Thessalonians; 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon.
4. James wrote one: James.
5. Jude wrote one: Jude.
6. The author of Hebrews is unknown.

Conclusion

- There are 27 letters comprising the New Testament. The authors are four apostles (Matthew, John, Paul, Peter), and four prophets (Mark, Luke, James, Jude), and one unknown prophet (letter to the Hebrews). Christians—their faith, hope, and standard of living—are “built on the foundation of _____, Christ Jesus himself being the corner stone.” (**Ephesians 2:20**)
- As prophets (all apostles are prophets, but not all prophets are apostles), these men were giving the power to write the exact words God intended by the power of the Holy Spirit. Discussing the gospel of Christ, Paul wrote “it has now been revealed _____ to His holy apostles and prophets.” (**Ephesians 3:5**, New King James Version. If you use the New American Standard Version, see the marginal note on “in the Spirit.”).
- Preachers should “preach _____” (**2 Timothy 4:2**), not human philosophy, myths, and other “fruitless discussion” (**1 Timothy 1:6**). Christians should expect men to support their teaching by citing book, chapter, and verse. And all should then “examine the Scriptures daily to _____.” (**Acts 17:11**)



**Church of Christ in Humble
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Bible classes for all—9:30 am Sunday; 7:00 pm Wednesday.

Worship assembly—10:30 am Sunday.

Worship and Bible study—5pm Sunday.

If you would like to set up a home study, or have questions about this material, or would just like to know more about who we are, please feel free to contact us.

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