

New Testament Overview

The Gospels	Matthew -disciple, former tax collector	- to prove to Jews that Jesus is the Messiah & fulfilled OT prophecy
	Mark companion of Paul	- to present the person, work, & teachings of Jesus
	Luke Gentile doctor	- to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus; the perfect human & Savior
	*John - a disciple	- to prove that Jesus is the Son of God; all who believe in Him will be saved
Possibly Luke	Acts	- how the church started; right after Jesus ascended into heaven; Holy Spirit given
Paul's Letters	*Romans	- an organized, carefully presented statement of the Christian faith; salvation by faith & grace
	1 Corinthians	- confront church problems & explain how Christians should live
	2 Corinthians	- Paul explains his credentials & refutes false teachers
	Galatians	- refute idea that Gentiles had to obey Jewish law to be saved; faith & freedom in Christ
	Ephesians	- explanation of the church, the body of Christ
	Philippians	- to strengthen believers; true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone
	Colossians	- combat false teachings (religious relativism - combining of beliefs); Christ is all we need
	1 Thessalonians	- correct misconceptions about the resurrection & the second coming of Christ
	2 Thessalonians	- clarify events that lead up to the second coming of Christ
	1 Timothy	- a personal letter to Timothy, a young church leader, to encourage & instruct
	2 Timothy	- more instruction to Timothy; sound doctrine, steadfast faith, confident endurance & lasting love
	Titus	- instructs Titus how to lead the churches on the island of Crete
	Philemon	- personal letter to Paul's friend Philemon, to forgive & accept his runaway slave
Author unknown	Hebrews	- explains how Christianity is better than, "replaces" & fulfills Judaism
James, Jesus' brother	James	- expose hypocritical behavior & teach right Christian behavior
Apostle/Disciple Peter	1 Peter	- to encourage and teach suffering & persecuted Christians;
	2 Peter	- warn about false teachers; importance of growing in faith & knowledge of Christ
Apostle/Disciple John	*1 John	- dispel doubts, build assurance, present a clear picture of Christ; God is love
	*2 John	- emphasize the basics of following Christ, truth & love; warn against false teachers
	3 John	- commend Gaius; contrast between hospitable & stubborn Christians
Jude, Jesus' brother	Jude	- remind church to be vigilant, strong in faith & oppose heresy
Apostle/Disciple John	Revelation	- reveal the full identity of Christ; give warning & hope to believers; Christ's ultimate victory

*** Great books to read first if you want some guidance; feel free to go where your curiosity and God leads**