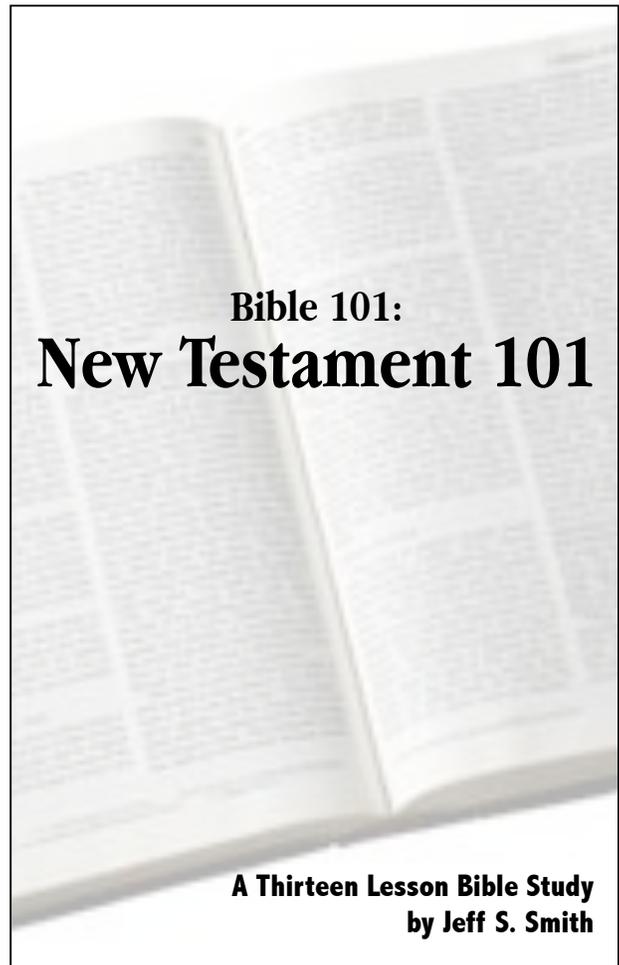


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Bible 101: New Testament 101

**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

6. Is the Law of Moses in effect today (Matthew 5:17-18, Galatians 3:21-25, Hebrews 8:13, Romans 7:1-4)? What law is in effect (Romans 8:2, Galatians 6:2, James 1:25)?

7. What does Paul teach about the possibility of apostasy (First Corinthians 10:1-13)?

8. List the four prison epistles.

9. What is Paul's first charge to Timothy (First Timothy 1:3-11)? Did he relate the same concern to Titus (1:10-16)? List some false brethren Paul notes (First Timothy 1:18-20, Second Timothy 2:14-19). List two false doctrines (First Timothy 4:1-5).

10. Who wrote the "shorter epistles"?

11. There are three important clues in the opening three verses of Revelation that help us to interpret the book. Identify the importance of each:

- Things which must shortly take place:
- He sent and *signified*:
- The time is near:

12. What "office" exemplifies the apostasy that occurred after the New Testament was completed? What were the names of the two men who are most closely associated with the Protestant Reformation? Was the modern church of Christ established before 1800 or during that century?

Introduction

In centuries earlier than the twenty-first, the Bible was so universally taught in Western nations that nearly everyone had intimate knowledge of the basics of Scripture. Sadly, that interest in God's word has waned mightily and now even among Christians, the young are more likely to be immersed in entertainment and recreation than fundamental, divine principles. This two-part series of studies, *Bible 101*, is designed to chase away ignorance of God's word with an overview of the Bible message.

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Lesson 13: *Review*

1. Why is our savior called Jesus (Luke 2:21, Matthew 1:21-25)? What is the significance of the name Immanuel (Matthew 1:21-23)?

2. Consider Matthew 7:13-29. What makes the difference between the wise man and the foolish?

3. Read Luke 23:26-47. How was Jesus treated by the Jews, the soldiers and the criminals being crucified beside him? What did the centurion say when Jesus breathed his last?

4. The conversation between the resurrected Jesus and some of his disciples on the road to Emmaus is quite telling. Then, many of them were disillusioned because they believed he was supposed to be a military deliverer and that his death meant he failed. Today, modern Premillennialists believe likewise that his death was a contingency after he failed to convert enough Jews. How does Jesus answer this false contention (Luke 24:13-35, especially verses 26-27)?

5. Who wrote the “Acts of the Apostles” (Acts 1:1-14)? According to the author, what did Jesus provide the apostles after his resurrection?

Printing Instructions

1. Download the booklet and open it in Adobe Reader.
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3. Now FLIP THE PILE OVER so the blank sides are ready.
4. Print ONLY the EVEN pages.
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4. List some commandments or traditions of men that have been added to God's word by Catholic or Protestant churches.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

5. Men continued to diverge from the Bible until a pope was appointed in A.D. 606 and the Roman Catholic Church was born. Among many errors, the sale of indulgences infuriated more pious thinkers like a priest named Martin Luther, who nailed 95 complaints to the door of the Catholic Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. The Protestant Reformation was born, and with it came the theories of John Calvin. Can you identify the five major facets of Calvinism, illustrated with the TULIP acronym?

- T
- U
- L
- I
- P

6. Instead of reforming the Catholic Church, dozens of denominations were founded in this era, including the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The disunity of what came to be called "Christendom" intensified. Throughout this time, however, small bands of disciples continued to employ only the New Testament as their creed, eschewing both Catholicism and Protestantism. In the early 1800s, their numbers suddenly boomed as the concept of restoring practices to the Biblical model gained acceptance. Men began again to take very seriously edicts like the one contained in First Peter 4:11. What does it mean to "speak as the oracles of God"?

7. Disciples who are committed to following only the New Testament as their creed are called properly only "Christians," and collectively form "churches of Christ" or something else found explicitly in Scripture. Can you find where these terms are used in the Bible?

Lesson 1: *Young Jesus*

1. What is the name of Jesus's older cousin, born to Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25)? What was his mission (1:57-80)?

2. How far back is the genealogy of Jesus Christ traced (Matthew 1:1-17)? Why do the genealogies in Matthew and Luke (3:23-38) differ?

3. Who told Mary she would bear the savior (Luke 1:26-55)? What did this character prevent Joseph from doing (Matthew 1:18-25)?

4. Consider Luke's account of Christ's birth (2:1-20). Answer the following questions:

a. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?

b. Where in Bethlehem was Jesus born?

c. How soon did the shepherds arrive?

d. Where are the magi, or wise men, so familiar in modern nativity scenes?

5. Why is he called Jesus (Luke 2:21, Matthew 1:21-25)? What is the significance of the name Immanuel (Matthew 1:21-23)?

6. When the family went to Jerusalem to present Jesus to God, they were met by a man named Simeon. How does Luke describe Simeon (2:22-35)? How did Simeon react to the baby Jesus?

7. How did Anna the aged prophetess react to the sight of Jesus (Luke 2:36-38)?

8. How did the wise men find their way to Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1-6)? Why was Herod troubled? What gifts did they bring (2:7-12)?

9. Why did the family flee to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18)? How did Jesus come to be called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:19-23)?

10. What happened when Jesus was age twelve (Luke 2:41-52)?

Lesson 12: *Since A.D. 100*

1. The time since the close of the writing of the New Testament around A.D. 100 has seen three major eras: first, Apostasy; second, The Protestant Reformation; and third, New Testament Restoration. The seeds of apostasy, however, are evident even in the challenges facing the faithful in the New Testament. Identify the dangers that Paul warns about in the following passages:

a. Acts 20:28-30:

b. First Corinthians 1:10-13:

c. Second Thessalonians 2:3-4:

d. First Timothy 4:1-3:

e. Second Timothy 4:1-4:

2. The apostasy that develops in the centuries after the apostles' deaths is hastened by the decline of congregational autonomy, or "self-rule." Under the New Testament, how broad is the authority of elders (Acts 20:28, First Peter 5:1-5)? Is "bishop" synonymous with "elder" or a higher office? What passage discusses the qualifications for the offices of "cardinal" or "pope"?

3. Where does the church find its source of authority and guidance—a perpetual succession of popes or in Scripture (James 1:25, James 4:12, John 12:48, Jude 3, First Peter 1:22-25, Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 10:17)? What is the danger in adding our tradition to Scripture to form an authoritative team (Matthew 15:1-14)?

4. Revelation contains three series of sevens that foretell the persecution the early church would face prior to relief. List the series:

- a. Revelation 6:1-8:5:
- b. Revelation 8:6-11:19:
- c. Revelation 16:1-21:

5. Try to distinguish between the symbolic groups of 144,000 and the great multitude (7:1-17). Where were they located in relation to each other?

6. What happened when John ate the little book (10:1-11)? Why?

7. If Revelation was written in the first century and it describes things that were then about to take place, what city would be represented by the great harlot (17:1-18)?

8. The thousand years of Revelation 20 represents a long break in the action between the persecution of the early church by Rome and the return of Christ yet future even now. What is the role of the great white throne and book of life in those events?

9. What is the second death (Revelation 21:1-8)?

10. Where have we seen the tree of life before (22:1-5)?

11. How does Revelation end (Revelation 22:14-21)?

Lesson 2: *Ministry of Christ*

1. What does Jesus's cousin, John, do to prepare the way (Luke 3:1-18)? At what point does Christ's ministry commence (Luke 3:19-23, Matthew 4:12-17)? What is Christ's theme (Matthew 4:17)?

2. List his twelve apostles and describe them, if possible (Matthew 10:1-4):

3. The deity of Christ was also a divisive point among his audiences, especially the Jewish leaders who wanted a military messiah but doubted that this carpenter's son could conquer the Romans without destroying the elders' power. In the following two passages, how does Jesus establish his connection with Jehovah?

John 5:16-18:

John 8:24-59:

4. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus volunteered that his doctrine would differ from Moses. What did he admit was his intention toward the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17-20). What phrases did he use in the rest of Matthew 5 to make that point clear?

5. Consider Matthew 7:13-29. What makes the difference between the wise man and the foolish?

6. How did Jesus teach Nicodemus about entering the kingdom of God (John 3:1-21)? With what did Jesus identify the kingdom after Peter confessed Jesus was the Christ (Matthew 16:13-19)?

7. What was the purpose of the miracles (John 20:30-31)? Give an example.

8. Why did Jesus teach in parables (Matthew 13:10-17)? Give an example.

9. What abuse made the hypocrites' worship vain (Matthew 15:1-9)?

10. Did Jesus know that he was going to die (Matthew 16:21-28, John 10:1-18)? Explain.

11. How do the following passages establish his authority?

a. Matthew 7:29:

b. Matthew 17:1-9:

12. Why did he wash the disciples' feet (John 13:1-20)?

Lesson II: *Revelation*

1. There are three important clues in the opening three verses of Revelation that help us to interpret the book. Identify the importance of each:

- Things which must shortly take place:
- He sent and *signified*:
- The time is near:

2. What is your overall impression of the appearance of Jesus to John (Revelation 1:9-20)? What do the lamp stands represent?

3. How would you characterize the seven churches?

1. Ephesus (2:1-7):

2. Smyrna (2:8-11):

3. Pergamos (2:12-17):

4. Thyatira (2:18-29):

5. Sardis (3:1-6):

6. Philadelphia (3:7-13):

7. Laodicea (3:14-22):

7. What is the purpose of God's delay in sending Jesus back (Second Peter 3:1-13)? For what are we looking?

8. What are the requirements for fellowship (First John 1:1-10)? Is obedience really necessary or is that just legalism (First John 2:1-6)? How do you know?

9. What is in the world (First John 2:15-17)?

10. Who is coming in this last hour (First John 2:18-29)? How do we identify false spirits (First John 4:1-6)?

11. How much fellowship are we permitted to enjoy with false brethren (Second John 2:7-11)? What are the limits?

12. What was wrong with Diotrephes (Third John 9-10)? What was right with Demetrius (Third John 12)?

13. When dealing with error, should we be "contentious" (Jude 3-4)?

14. How should we deal with people who are being led astray (Jude 22-23)?

Lesson 3: *Sacrifice of Christ*

1. Consider Isaiah 53. Why did God plan to send Jesus to the cross?

2. Did Jesus "know" he was going to die *before* prophesying the imminent arrival of the kingdom of God (Matthew 16:21-28)? How do you know?

3. How did Caiaphas the high priest unwittingly predict the fulfillment of prophecy concerning Jesus (John 11:45-53)? What happened to Jesus at the house of Simon the leper (Mark 14:1-11)?

4. Read John 12:12-16. How did Jesus fulfill the prophecies in Psalm 118:25-26, Isaiah 40:9 and Zechariah 9:9? Which disciple betrayed him (Luke 22:1-6)? How?

5. What weekly religious observance did Jesus institute during his Last Supper, the Passover meal on the day before his crucifixion (Luke 22:7-22)?

6. Where was Jesus arrested (Luke 22:39-54)? Did he resist them (63-71)?

7. What charges were levied against him before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1-25)? Did Pilate really want to kill Jesus? How do you know?

8. Read Luke 23:26-47. How was Jesus treated by the Jews, the soldiers and the criminals being crucified beside him? What did the centurion say when Jesus breathed his last?

9. Where was Jesus's body buried (Luke 23:50-56)? How long did it remain there (Luke 24:1-12)?

10. The conversation between Jesus and some of his disciples on the road to Emmaus is quite telling. Then, many of them were disillusioned because they believed he was supposed to be a military deliverer and that his death meant he failed. Today, modern Premillennialists believe likewise that his death was a contingency after he failed to convert enough Jews. How does Jesus answer this false contention (Luke 24:13-35, especially verses 26-27)?

11. What were his last instructions to his apostles (Luke 24:46-49, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20)?

12. As Jesus ascends into Heaven, what is the angels' consolation about him (Acts 1:1-11)?

Lesson 10: *General Epistles*

1. To whom is the book of First Peter addressed (First Peter 1:1-2)? Where is their inheritance (First Peter 1:3-12)? What does that make them (First Peter 2:11-12)?

2. What does it mean to be holy? Is it possible to be holy (First Peter 1:13-21, 5:6-10)? What enables men to be born again (First Peter 1:22-25)?

3. How does Peter characterize the church of Christ in 2:9 (First Peter 2:4-10)? Of what is Christ their example (First Peter 2:18-25, 4:12-19; First John 3:13-22)?

4. What is the will of the Gentiles (First Peter 4:1-6)? What does it mean to "speak as the oracles of God" (First Peter 4:10-11)?

5. List the attributes we are to add (Second Peter 1:5-11)? What is the result of their addition?

6. How much success did Peter foresee for false teachers (Second Peter 2:1-19)? What happens to the one who is led astray by such error (Second Peter 2:20-22)?

8. To what three professions does Paul compare the preacher, as he tries to teach Timothy to persevere (Second Timothy 2:1-7)?

9. What happens to all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus (Second Timothy 3:12)?

10. For what four facets of preaching does God's word thoroughly equip the man of God (Second Timothy 3:16-17)? What does it mean to preach the word "in season and out of season" (Second Timothy 4:1-5)?

11. How did Paul express confidence about his eternal fate (Second Timothy 4:6-8)?

12. What was Titus to teach these groups about their behavior (2:1-10):

- Older men:

- Older women:

- Younger women:

- Young men:

- Bondservants:

13. What role do good works play in the life of a Christian (2:11-14, 3:8-14)?

Lesson 4: *Acts of the Apostles (chapters 1-12)*

1. Who wrote the "Acts of the Apostles" (Acts 1:1-14)? According to the author, what did Jesus provide the apostles after his resurrection?

2. Who was chosen to succeed Judas Iscariot as an apostle? What criteria were used to select him? Does this authorize a succession for every apostolic office (Acts 1:15-26)? Explain.

3. Jesus told the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endowed with power from on high and that the kingdom would come with power. How is this power manifested (Acts 2:1-21)? Whose prophecy is fulfilled here?

4. By what act did God raise Jesus up to sit on David's throne (Acts 2:22-36)? What effect did Peter's accusations have on his audience (Acts 2:37-39)? What did the believers do (Acts 2:40-47)?

5. What did Peter and John do to get into trouble with the Jewish leaders (Acts 3:1-4:31)? What power did Peter ascribe to the name of Jesus (Acts 4:8-12)? Did the apostles obey the council's edict against preaching?

6. As evidence of the character of the early church, what do we find people like Barnabas doing in times of need (Acts 4:32-5:11)? What was wrong with the contribution of Ananias and Sapphira?

7. What happened to the apostles when they were apprehended preaching the forbidden Name again (Acts 5:12-42)? Why didn't this persecution have the chilling effect on the gospel that the council desired?

8. What brings the first internal discord to the church at Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7)? How did the apostles resolve the problem?

9. How did Stephen make the Jews angry (Acts 6:8-7:60)? How did he die?

10. Why were men like Philip driven out of Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-3)? What success did he have in his preaching (Acts 8:4-40)?

11. Describe Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-31, cf. Acts 22:1-16, 26:1-23).

12. What did Peter learn at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-11:12:25)?

Lesson 9: *Two Preachers*

1. What do we know about Timothy's background (First Timothy 1:3, 4:12, Second Timothy 1:3-6)? What do we know about Titus's background (Titus 1:4-5)?

2. What was Paul's first charge to Timothy (First Timothy 1:3-11)? Did he have the same concern when he wrote to Titus (1:10-16)? List some false brethren that Paul notes (First Timothy 1:18-20, Second Timothy 2:14-19). What are two specific false doctrines (First Timothy 4:1-5)?

3. What are the different roles of men and women in the church (First Timothy 2:8-15)? What reason is given for the difference?

4. Consider the qualities given for elders in First Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. What part of a man's life is a specific proving ground for his ability to oversee the church?

5. What limitations on benevolence did Paul place upon the church (First Timothy 5:3-16)?

6. What is the danger of greed to the Christian (First Timothy 6:1-19)?

7. What kind of spirit has God given his people (Second Timothy 1:7)?

7. What example should a man use to learn how to love his wife properly (Ephesians 5:22-33)?

8. List the elements of the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20):

- a. _____ d.
- b. _____ e.
- c. _____ f.

9. How did Paul discover contentment in Christ?

- a. Philippians 3:7-14:
- b. Philippians 3:20-21:
- c. Philippians 4:6-7:
- d. Philippians 4:8-9:
- e. Philippians 4:10-13:

10. Are Christians today required to observe the Sabbath (Colossians 2:16-23)? Should they be required to abstain from eating meats?

11. Read the brief book of Philemon, which was written while Paul was in prison. Who was Philemon? Who was Onesimus?

12. What did Paul do with Onesimus? Why?

Lesson 5: *Acts of the Apostles (chapters 13-28)*

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas turn their attention to Gentiles while in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:1-52)?

2. What “useless things” did Paul expose in Lystra (Acts 14:1-28)? How did the people there respond to the gospel?

3. What issue caused disharmony between brethren in Jerusalem and Antioch (Acts 15:1-5)? How did they resolve it (Acts 15:6-41)?

4. What is the name of the preacher who joined Paul and Silas after Barnabas left to join John Mark (Acts 15:36-16:10)? Describe him.

5. Who was converted in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)?

6. Why were the Bereans nobler than the Thessalonians (Acts 17:1-15)? As Paul finished his sermon at the Areopagus, what did he command the idolaters before him (Acts 17:16-31)? How did they respond (32-33)?

7. What marred the discipleship of Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)? How was it rectified? What legacy remained that Paul had to repair (Acts 19:1-7)?

8. How did the Ephesian magicians show their penitence (Acts 19:8-20)? What is the name of the goddess that held sway over the city (19:21-41)?

9. What did the disciples do on Sunday in Troas (Acts 20:1-12)? What instructions did Paul give the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-38)?

10. What did Paul do to try to placate his Jewish enemies (Acts 21:1-25)? Did it work (Acts 21:26-40)? What happened?

11. Make a list of the authorities that tried Paul:

a. Acts 24:1-27:

b. Acts 25:1-12:

c. Acts 25:13-26:32:

12. How did Felix respond when cornered by Paul (Acts 24:25)? How did Agrippa respond (Acts 26:28)?

13. What happened to Paul on the voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:10)?

14. What did Paul preach in Rome (Acts 28:11-31)?

Lesson 8: *Prison Epistles*

1. To what does Paul liken the church (Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22)?

2. What happened to the Law of Moses when Jesus went to the cross (Ephesians 2:11-18, Colossians 2:13-14)?

3. What are the seven planks of Christian unity in Scripture (Ephesians 4:1-6)?

a. one e. one

b. one f. one

c. one g. one

d. one

4. What attitudes aid this unity (Philippians 2:1-16)?

5. List some practical ways in which the Christian puts off the old man of sin and puts on the life of Christ:

a. Ephesians 4:25:

b. Ephesians 4:26:

c. Ephesians 4:28:

d. Ephesians 4:29:

6. How does Paul describe musical worship (Ephesians 5:17-21, Colossians 3:16-17)?

6. What are good deeds worth if not motivated by love (13:1-13)? When and how did the early church contribute financially to the work of the church (First Corinthians 16:1-4, Second Corinthians 9:1-14)?

7. What is the ministry “written and engraved on stones” (Second Corinthians 3:7-18)? What is its fate according to this passage?

8. How can the Christian endure the passage and hardships of life, which are often intensified because of persecution (4:7-5:11, 12:1-10)?

9. What lifestyle does Paul command (First Thessalonians 4:9-12)?

10. What picture of Judgment Day does Paul give (First Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)? Upon whom will God take vengeance in that day (Second Thessalonians 1:3-12)? What must come first (Second Thessalonians 2:1-11)?

11. Whom does the writer identify as candidates for withdrawal in Second Thessalonians 3:6-15? How is this to be accomplished?

Lesson 6: *Liberty in Christ*

1. Freedom through the grace of God is a major theme of the entire New Testament. From what is that freedom (Matthew 1:21, Romans 6:23)? More precisely, from whom is that freedom (John 8:28-44)?

2. The transition from the Law of Moses to the Law of Christ is described repeatedly and the superiority of the latter is especially important to the Hebrew writer. What was the purpose of the Law of Moses (Romans 7:1-12, Hebrews 8:1-13)?

3. Specifically, how did Jesus bring about the possibility of liberty from condemnation (Hebrews 4:14-18, 5:5-9)?

4. Is the Law of Moses still in effect today (Matthew 5:17-18, Galatians 3:21-25, Hebrews 8:13, Romans 7:1-4)? What law is in effect (Romans 8:2, Galatians 6:2, James 1:25)?

5. What role does Paul attribute to water baptism in the interest of being set free by Christ (Romans 6:1-23, Galatians 3:26-27)?

6. Under what circumstances is circumcision an offense against the law of Christ (Galatians 5:1-6)?

7. Is it possible to fall from grace (Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 10:19-39, 12:12-17)?

8. Consider Romans 8:1-11. What determines whether one is carnally minded or spiritually minded? Is it faith alone or a working faith?

9. How does Paul describe this life in Romans 12:1-2 and 13:11-14?

10. Beyond simple belief, what is involved in receiving the word (James 1:21-25)?

11. Consider Romans 4:1-8 and James 2:14-26. How do you harmonize the two writers while Paul suggests that Abraham was justified apart from works and James argues that he was justified by works and not faith only?

Lesson 7: *Two Churches*

1. Paul wrote two letters each to the churches at Corinth and Thessalonica in the early part of the sixth decade of the first century. All four of the letters contains elements of positive exhortation, but they are overwhelmingly corrective in nature. This is especially true in the first Corinthian letter. What is the first pressing issue that Paul tackles (First Corinthians 1:10-17, 3:1-23)?

2. What moral issue had shamed the church at Corinth (First Corinthians 5:1-13)? How were they handling it? What did Paul recommend? How did that man respond (Second Corinthians 2:1-11)?

3. What is the implication of Paul's statement that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (First Corinthians 6:12-20 and First Thessalonians 4:1-8)? What role does marriage play in this (7:1-40)?

4. What does Paul teach about the possibility of apostasy (First Corinthians 10:1-13)?

5. What dangers surround a thoughtless participation in the communion (First Corinthians 11:17-34)? What is true if Christ was not raised (15:12-19)?