

## New Testament Foundations: Session One

# Introduction to the New Testament

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### OUTCOME BASED OBJECTIVE:

*The goal of this course is to provide important contextual information to enable our pastors to produce more accurate and powerful expository sermons.*

### Expository Sermons

#### 1. What is an expository sermon?

- An expository sermon focuses \_\_\_\_\_ on explaining a single passage.
- An expository sermon takes its entire \_\_\_\_\_ and shape from the passage.
- An expository sermon allows the sermon \_\_\_\_\_ to arise out of the process of text explanation.

The point of the sermon is the point of the writer of the biblical text. An expository sermon makes its whole purpose the explanation of a passage. Therefore the content, structure, and shape of the sermon will be controlled by the text. So, the meaning of the message is the message of the passage.

#### 2. Why expository sermons?

*“To preach biblically is to open up the inspired text with such faithfulness and sensitivity that God’s voice is heard and that His people believe and obey.”*

*John Stott*

The Bible is partially closed because of the cultural and chronological canyon between us and the original writings. Therefore, we must accept the discipline of thinking our way back into the original text. If we neglect this task it shows disrespect for how God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. Expository sermons force you to deal with the historical, grammatical, literary, and cultural context of the text.

- Expository preaching is less open to \_\_\_\_\_ since your thesis is controlled directly by the text.
- Expository preaching focuses on the biblical passage itself in a way that \_\_\_\_\_ forms of preaching do not.
- Expository preaching brings people face-to-face with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Word and ensures that the Holy Spirit has the “raw material” for construction work on our heart

*“If you ask, ‘Why is expository preaching more important today,’ it is that we don’t have the authority that preachers had in the past. Aside from people that have grown up in the church, the average person in our society does not give high grades to preachers as being intellectual or even moral leaders. Therefore, in a postmodern age we work with the biblical text to have the authority of the text—and therefore the authority of God—behind what we say.”*

*Haddon Robinson*

## General Introduction to the New Testament

The twenty-seven books of the New Testament are divided into four different genres.

1. There are four Gospels.

A Gospel is an account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ arranged as a theological sermon and not as a biography or chronological narrative. The goal is to convert individuals to Christ and to meet the unique spiritual needs of a particular group.

*“The Gospels were gathered together around the beginning of the second century in a collection known as “The Gospel” in the singular, not “The Gospels” in the plural; there was only one Gospel, narrated in four records, distinguished as “according to Matthew,” “according to Mark,” and so on.”<sup>1</sup>*

F.F. Bruce

2. There is one History.

3. There are twenty-one Epistles.

- The Epistles are grouped into two categories. There are \_\_\_\_ Pauline epistles and \_\_\_\_ General epistles.

4. There is one Apocalypse.

- An Apocalypse is a work concerning the end of the world and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the righteous. It is filled with symbols, visions, and prophecies.

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<sup>1</sup> F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* p. 18

## Chronology of the New Testament

DATE	EVENT
4, 5 BC	Birth of Jesus
4 BC	Death of Herod
6 AD	Judea comes under direct Roman rule
26	Pontius Pilate becomes the Roman prefect over Judea
27	Jesus begins His ministry
30	Crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus
33	Conversion of Paul
33-35	Paul in Arabia (Galatians 1:17)
36-46	Paul's ministry in Cilicia and Syria (Galatians 1:21)
45-50	James' letter
45-60	Matthew's Gospel
47, 48	Paul's first missionary journey (Barnabas and Mark)
48	Paul's letter to the Galatians
49	The Jerusalem Council
49, 50	Paul's second missionary journey (Silas and Timothy)
50	Paul's letters to the Thessalonians
50-52	Paul's ministry in Corinth
50-65	Mark's Gospel
52-55	Paul's third missionary journey
52-55	Paul's ministry in Ephesus
54	Paul's first letter to the Corinthians
55, 56	Paul's second letter to the Corinthians
56	Paul's letter to the Romans
57	Paul brings the collection to Jerusalem
57-59	Paul imprisoned in Caesarea
59, 60	Paul's trip to Rome
60-62	Paul's first Roman imprisonment
60, 61	Paul's letters to the Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon
61, 62	Paul's letter to the Philippians
60-65	Luke's Gospel
60-65	Acts
65, 66	Paul and Peter martyred in Rome
60-70	The letter to the Hebrews
63-66	Paul's first letter to Timothy
63-66	Paul's letter to Titus
64-66	Paul's second letter to Timothy
64-66	Peter's first and second letter
65-80	Jude's letter
70	The temple is destroyed by the Roman army
85-90	John's Gospel
85-95	John's three letters
90-95	John's Revelation (may have been written 65-70)