

NEW TESTAMENT II

New Testament II: Syllabus

Notes —

CLASS #1:

- I. Course Introduction.
- II. The Book of Acts.

CLASS #2:

- II. The Book of Acts. (cont.)
- III. The Life of Paul.

CLASS #3:

- III. The Life of Paul. (cont.)
- IV. The Book of Romans.

CLASS #4:

- V. The Books of 1 & 2 Corinthians.
- VI. The Book of Galations.

CLASS #5:

- VI. The Book of Galations. (cont.)
- VII. The Books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
- Exam.

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New Testament II: Exam

Possible 20 Point Questions

- 1) Explain how Acts 1:8 brings together the ideas of power, death and mission (pp. 349, 350).
- 2) Using four different accounts in Acts of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon people, show how there were various effects of “evidences of the filling of the Spirit” (pp. 350-352).
- 3) Discuss the relationship between freedom and obligation as it is set forth in the book of Galatians and other related Scriptures (pp. 367, 368).

Possible 10 Point Questions

- 1) List three key themes of Acts (p. 348).
- 2) Use two Scriptures to describe Paul’s background (p. 358).
- 3) When were Paul’s missionary journeys (p. 359)?
- 4) List four ways in which Paul described Christ. No Scripture references necessary (p. 359,360).
- 5) Using Romans 5:1-5, list four things we have through justification (p. 364).
- 6) List three errors that Paul sought to correct in 1 Corinthians (p. 365,366).

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I. Course Introduction.

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The New Testament Series of Courses:

As with the Old Testament series of courses, we are not able to study the entire New Testament in a series of three brief courses. Our goal is to survey the contents of the New Testament, organize them, and study general themes, as well as some selected specific topics.

After completing these three courses, we should be able to communicate a general understanding of the N.T. We should also be able to communicate on a deeper level, about certain specific parts and topics of the N.T.

Our goal is to promote further N.T. studies by establishing a framework of understanding for the 27 books of the New Testament canon, as a whole unit and as individual parts.

The Three New Testament Courses:

New Testament I: The Gospels and Jesus Christ. This includes Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

New Testament II: Birth of the Church. This category includes the study of Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

New Testament III: Advance of the Church. This category includes the Prison Epistles, the Pastoral Epistles, the General Epistles and Hebrews.

The courses have been developed as a series. If you do not finish all the materials from the first course, then start course #2 from where you left off in course #1. The same is true for starting course #3 (for this reason course #3 contains less material as some “runover” from the first courses is expected).

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A. Contents of This Course.

1. This course focuses on the birth of the New Testament Church.
2. The following books are presented:
 - a. Acts.
 - b. Romans.
 - c. 1 & 2 Corinthians.
 - d. Galatians.
 - e. 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
3. A study of the life of Paul is also presented.

II. The Book of Acts.

A. The Title of the Book.

1. Originally, the book of Acts was the second volume of the writings of Luke. It was attached to Luke's gospel.
2. In the second century A.D., the second volume began to be recognized as an individual book (this is valid because Luke himself makes a distinction between the two books: see Acts 1:1).
 - a. At that time the title "**The Acts of the Apostles**" began to be used to designate this book.
 - b. The book mainly refers to two of the apostles (Peter and Paul). "**The Acts of Peter and Paul**" may have been a more suitable title.

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- c. Even more suitable may have been the title “**The Acts of the Holy Spirit.**” His presence and actions in extending the influence and growth of the Church is the focus of the book.

- 1) We could suggest one more possible title that seems appropriate to the content of the book:

“The continuation and extension of the ministry of Jesus through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- 2) In the gospel of Luke we see the ministry of Jesus on earth. In the second volume, the book of Acts, we see the ministry of Jesus on earth as it is done through His people.

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B. The author of Acts.

1. Luke the physician is generally accepted as the author of Acts.
2. Luke-Acts is clearly written by the same author (Lk 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1).
3. Luke was a close companion of Paul as was the writer of Acts (see 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16 where the writer uses “we”).
4. Tradition also says that Luke was the author.

C. Key Aspects of the Book of Acts.

1. Key words in Acts.
 - a. Holy Spirit.
 - b. Peter (chapters 1-12).
 - c. Paul (chapters 13-28).
 - d. Church.
 - e. Jews.
 - f. Gentiles.

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- g. Tongues.
 - h. Fellowship/sharing (koinonia).
 - i. Witnesses.
- 2. Key ideas in Acts.
 - a. Persecution.
 - b. Spread of the gospel.
 - c. Increase and multiplication of the Church.
- 3. The Key phrase in Acts - “Were added to their number.”
- 4. Key verse in Acts - Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (1:8).
- 5. Three Key themes in Acts.
 - a. The power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The spread of the gospel.
 - c. The growth of the church (for an in-depth study of this topic see the MOTMOT course titled Church Growth).

D. Theme #1: The Power of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. The purpose of the sending of the Holy Spirit is for believers to receive empowering.
- 2. Jesus clearly stated in Acts 1:8, that the Holy Spirit was sent in order that the believers might have “power” (the Greek term is “dunamis” from which we get our word “dynamite”).

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Author's Comment:

When we teach and minister concerning the topic known as “baptism” or “filling” of the Holy Spirit, we should keep this foundational understanding of power at the center of our perspective. We should not emphasize any personal doctrines, but should simply emphasize the idea of receiving power.

John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Fellowship, provides us with a good example. He says that when he ministers regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit he does not focus on other points, but simply asks people if they want to have more power in their lives and ministries.

We do not want to be divisive or offensive. We simply want to walk in the fullness of God's power through His Holy Spirit.

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3. The purpose and results of the POWER of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. In Acts 1:8, Jesus made a clear connection between the POWER of the Holy Spirit and the WITNESS of the Church (also consider Lk 24:48, 49). We might say that the POWER of the Spirit is directly connected to the MISSION among the nations (see Lk 24:47-49).
 - b. The word “witness” is the translation of the Greek word “marturion”. From “marturion” we get the English word “martyr”. The foundational idea of “marturion” is to be willing “to die for what has been seen and testified to”.
 - 1) Thus, we see a Biblical connection that is the foundation of the sending and receiving of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Bible we see that POWER and DEATH are related.
 - a) POWER is perfected in WEAKNESS (2 Cor 12:9).
 - b) LIFE is connected with DEATH (Mt 16:24, 25; Jn 12:24, 25).
 - c) POWER is connected with SUFFERING (2 Tim 1:8).

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- 2) We see that the Spirit is sent to give us **POWER**. This **POWER** enables us to die to ourselves so that we can witness for Christ (this **DEATH** is spiritual, but could be physical).
 - a) To **WITNESS** was to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - b) In Acts, the idea of a **WITNESS** was often directly connected with what someone had **SEEN AND HEARD** regarding the resurrection.
- c. What happened when the Holy Spirit came in Acts?

Discussion Point

Use the following section to study and discuss the accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts.

You may be surprised to see that there were many things that happened when the Holy Spirit “fell” on people.

Biblically, it is difficult to say that any one specific thing is the conclusive sign or proof of the “filling” of the Spirit.

- 1) The day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
 - a) Tongues (Acts 2:4).
 - b) Preaching (Acts 2:14-36; 3:11-26).
 - c) Things that were **BOTH** “seen and heard” (Acts 2:33).
 - d) Souls were saved (Acts 2:41, 47).
 - e) The disciplines of prayer, fellowship (sharing), study, and breaking bread (worship) were practiced (Acts 2:42).
 - f) Signs and wonders (Acts 2:43).
 - g) Sharing (Acts 2:44-46).
 - h) Praise (Acts 2:47).
 - i) Healing (Acts 3:1-10).

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- 2) The second shaking (Acts 4:31).
 - a) Boldness (Acts 4:31).
 - b) Sharing (Acts 4:32-35).
 - c) Witness or preaching (Acts 4:33).
 - d) A spiritual gift: a word of knowledge (Acts 5:3).
 - e) Signs and wonders (Acts 5:12).
 - f) Unity (Acts 5:12).
 - g) Souls were saved (Acts 5:14).
 - h) Healing and deliverance (Acts 5:16).
- 3) The Samaritan account (Acts 8).
 - a) Things that were “seen” by Simon (Acts 8:18).
 - b) The laying on of hands.
- 4) Paul’s conversion (Acts 9).
 - a) Healing: Paul regained his sight (9:18).
 - b) There was preaching and proclaiming (9:20).
 - c) There was a spiritual gift of the word of wisdom (9:22).
 - d) Boldness (9:27, 28).
- 5) The Cornelius account (Acts 10).
 - a) Tongues (10:46).
 - b) Praise and exaltation of God (10:46).

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- 6) A third (continual) filling (Acts 13:52).
 - a) Preaching (14:1,7).
 - b) Possible references to the spiritual gifts: a word of wisdom (Acts 14:1-- “spoke in such a manner”), and a word of knowledge (Acts 14:6 -- “They became aware of it”).
 - c) Boldness (14:3).
 - d) Signs and wonders (14:3).
 - e) Healing (14:10).
- 7) The Ephesian account (Acts 19).
 - a) Tongues (19:6).
 - b) Prophecy (19:6).
 - c) The laying on of hands.

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Author's Comment Regarding Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 presents a three-fold foundation regarding Christian initiation and the empowering of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) Repent
- 2) Be baptized (in water).
- 3) You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This seems to indicate that the receiving of the gift is a “second experience”, which means the gift of the Spirit comes after salvation.

The Acts chapter 2 account also presents a “second experience” situation regarding the Holy Spirit (see Jn 20:22).

However, the Acts 4:31 and 13:52 accounts show that it is not a singular “second experience”, but a continual filling (see Eph 5:18; Jn 7:37).

The following accounts all support the idea of a “second experience”: Acts 2:1-21, Acts 8:14-20, Acts 9:10-19, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:1-6.

In Acts 10:44-48 the repentance and spirit reception seem to happen simultaneously, but we later read that the gift was given AFTER they believed (see Acts 11:17). Also, note that the water baptism came after the gift of the Spirit was given in both Acts 9 and Acts 10, but repentance always came first.

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Discussion Point

Use the following chart to summarize the list of accounts of the coming of the power of the Holy Spirit.

What are some of the conclusions you gain from this study?

How should we understand the idea of “evidences” of the filling of the Holy Spirit?

Account	Healing	Preaching	Tongues	Signs and Wonders	Boldness	Sharing	Praise	Spiritual Gifts	Souls saved	Prophecy	Discipline	Seen/ Heard	Laying on Hands
Acts 2	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	
Acts 4:31	X	X		X	X	X		X	X				
Acts 8												X	X
Acts 9	X	X			X			X					
Acts 10			X				X						
Acts 13:52	X	X		X	X			X					
Acts 19			X							X			X
TOTAL	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	2

***Note: Laying on of hands is not one of the effects or results of the coming of the Spirit (as are the rest), but is included to show that sometimes it was used as a method to give the gift of the Holy Spirit and sometimes it was not.

***Note: The “TOTALS” show that there are various significant effects, results, signs, proofs, or “evidences” of the filling of the Holy Spirit. None of the effects appear in all of the accounts and not one “evidence” stands out above the rest.

Discussion Point

What are some of the conclusions you gain from this study? How should we understand the idea of “evidences” of the filling of the Holy Spirit?

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C. Theme #2: The Spread of the Gospel in Acts.

Notes —

Author's Illustration:

Two of the major themes of the book of Acts, the power of the Holy Spirit and the spread of the gospel, go together like a fan and the circulation of air. The purpose of a fan is to circulate air. The purpose of the power of the Spirit is to spread the gospel.

Insert Your Illustration:

Author's Comment:

The Gospel is to be spread to all levels of society and to all locations. According to Acts 1:8, the gospel was to be spread to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This meant the Gospel was to be spread in the local community, in the surrounding provinces, and to the distant places as well.

1. The spread of the gospel in Jerusalem (Acts chapters 1-7).
 - a. This was done at some cost. There was much persecution as we can see from the various jail experiences (Acts chapters 4, 5) and the death of Stephen (Acts chapter 7).
 - b. At this time, the Church began to develop more of a structure or order (note the appointment of deacons in Acts chapter 6).

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2. The spread of the gospel in Judea and Samaria (Acts chapters 8, 9).
 - a. Philip in Samaria (Acts chapter 8). Note: African Christianity has its roots in this phase of early Church outreach (note the account of the Ethiopian eunuch).
 - b. Paul in Damascus (Acts 9:19-31).
 - c. Peter's ministry (Acts 9:32-43).
3. The spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 10-28).
 - a. To Caesarea (Acts chapter 10).
 - b. To Antioch (Acts 11:19). Note that this was a result of persecution.
 - c. To Asia Minor (Paul's first missionary journey).
 - 1) Cyprus (Acts 13:5-13).
 - 2) Perga (Acts 13:13).
 - 3) Antioch Pisidia (Acts 13:14).
 - 4) Iconium (Acts 13:51).
 - 5) Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:6)
 - d. To Asia Minor and Greece (Paul's second missionary journey).
 - 1) Syria and Cilicia (Acts 15:41).
 - 2) Lystra (Acts 16:1).
 - 3) Phrygia and Galatia (Acts 16:6).
 - 4) Troas (Acts 16:9).
 - 5) Philippi (Acts 16:12).
 - 6) Thessalonica and Berea (Acts 17:1,10).

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- 7) Athens and Corinth (Acts 17:16 and 18:1).
- 8) Ephesus (Acts 18:19).
- e. To Asia Minor and Greece again (Paul's third Missionary journey).
 - 1) Galatia (Acts 18:23).
 - 2) Ephesus (Acts 19:1).
 - 3) Greece (Acts 20:2).
 - 4) Troas (Acts 20:6-12).
 - 5) Tyre (Acts 21:1-4).
 - 6) Caesarea (Acts 21:8).
- f. To Rome (through Paul's imprisonment).
 - 1) Paul testified before many influential people such as Felix and Agrippa, etc. (see Acts 26:18).
 - 2) God sovereignly used Paul's imprisonment to bring the gospel to Rome (see Acts 26:32).
- g. To Spain (tradition says that Paul went to Spain) (see Rom 15:24, 28).

Notes —

Discussion Point

Use the following Scriptures to show how the New Testament Church responded to the instructions of Acts 1:8. See how the gospel was spread from Jerusalem to the known ends of the earth. What about us today? Are we being obedient to the instruction of Acts 1:8? Should we also respond?

Acts 5:28; Acts 6:7; Acts 8:1; Acts 8:14;
Acts 9:31; Acts 13:47; Acts 15:13; Acts 17:6; and Acts 24:5.

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III. The Life of Paul.

A. Major Events in Paul's Life (use this outline to do a general study of Paul's life and ministry).

1. His background.
 - a. He was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6).
 - b. He was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:25-28).
 - c. He was born in Tarsus (Acts 22:3).
 - d. He studied under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).
 - e. He learned to make tents (Acts 18:3).
2. Before his conversion.
 - a. He persecuted the Church (Acts 9:1-3; 22:4). He guarded the robes of Stephen's murderers (Acts 7:58).
 - b. He kept the Law (Acts 26:5).
3. His conversion.
 - a. Near Damascus he saw a bright light and was blinded (Acts 9:3; 22:6; 9:8).
 - b. Christ rebuked him and he replied (Acts 22:7, 8; 9:6).
 - c. He was led to Damascus where he fasted and prayed (Acts 22:11; 9:9-11).
 - d. Ananias was sent to him and he was baptized (Acts 9:11, 12, 18).

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4. After his conversion.

- a. He preached in Damascus and then went to Arabia (Acts 9:20; Gal 1:17).
- b. He returned to Damascus and then went to Jerusalem (Gal 1:17, 18).
- c. The Church doubted him, the Jews persecuted him, and Barnabas became his friend (Acts 9:26-29).
- d. Barnabas brought him to Antioch where he taught for one year (Acts 11:25, 26).

5. First, second and third missionary journeys.

- a. The journeys occurred between 47-57 A.D.
- b. See the previous section (The spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth) for a general outline.

6. In Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Rome (imprisonments).

- a. He was received by the church but seized by the Jews, and then seized by the Romans (Acts 21:17, 27; 22:24-29).
- b. He was taken to Caesarea where he spent two years in prison (Acts 23:23-33; 24:27).
- c. He gave his defense before Felix and King Agrippa (Acts 24:10-21; 26:1-29).
- d. He was taken to Rome where he preached and wrote letters while he was under house arrest (Acts 27:14-44; 28:16, 30, 31).

Notes —

B. Ways that Paul Described Christ.

1. The peacemaker (Rom 5:1).
2. The Lord of glory (1 Cor 2:8).
3. The only foundation (1 Cor 3:11).

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4. The sacrificial lamb (1 Cor 5:7).
5. The conqueror of death (1 Cor 15:24-26).
6. The image of God (2 Cor 4:4).
7. The liberator (Gal 5:1).
8. The goal or standard of maturity (Eph 4:13).
9. The ultimate reward of a believer (Phil 3:8).
10. The head of the Church (Col 1:18).
11. The coming Lord (1 Thes 4:16).
12. The blessed and only Sovereign who is the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim 6:15).
13. The Judge of all men (2 Tim 4:1).
14. The Redeemer (Titus 2:14).
15. The author of salvation (Heb 2:10).
16. The great high priest (Heb 4:14).
17. The author and perfecter of faith (Heb 12:2).

Class Discussion:

Using the above study on Paul's life, discuss the following items:

- 1) Based on his own experiences, how highly do you think Paul would esteem education, social status, political position, or religious activity in regard to walking obediently with the Lord?
- 2) Based on his own experiences, how highly do you think Paul would esteem boldness, brokenness, patience and self protection?
- 3) Based on his understanding of Christ, how do you think Paul would compare a person's perception of Jesus in contrast to their own self perception?

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IV. The Book of Romans.

Notes —

A. A General Outline of Romans.

1. Doctrine (Rom chapters 1-11). The main theme is the plan of salvation that includes justification by faith and sanctification by the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. Application (Rom chapters 12-16) - There are a variety of exhortations regarding Christian responsibilities.

B. A more Detailed Outline of Romans (use this outline to make a general study of the book of Romans).

1. The plan of Salvation (Rom chapters 1-11).
 - a. The introduction of the letter (Rom 1:1-17).
 - b. Righteousness is the key to man's relationship with God (Rom 1:18-8:39).
 - 1) Righteousness is the necessary position of man when he stands before God (Rom 1:18-5:21).
 - a) Man's failure (Rom 1:18-3:20).
 - b) The victory of faith (Rom 3:21-31).
 - c) The example of Abraham (Rom 4:1-25).
 - d) The results of justification (Rom 5:1-21).
 - 2) Righteousness is the necessary way of life for man when he stands before God (Rom 6:1-8:39).
 - a) Sin is not validated by grace (Rom 6:1-14).
 - b) The power of grace (Rom 6:15-7:6).
 - c) The struggle against sin (Rom 7:7-25).
 - d) Victory through the Spirit (Rom 8:1-39).

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- c. Israel and the Gentiles in the plan of God (Rom 9:1-11:36).
 - 1) Paul's concern for Israel (Rom 9:1-5).
 - 2) The sovereignty and justice of God with respect to Israel and all people (Rom 9:6-29).
 - 3) The failure of Israel/The success of the Gentiles (Rom 9:30-10:21).
 - 4) The current situation of Israel (Rom 11:1-10).
 - 5) The future situation of Israel (Rom 11:11-36).
 - 6) The salvation of Israel and the mercy and greatness of God (Rom 11:25-36).
- 2. The practical applications of the life of salvation (Rom chapters 12-16).
 - a. Christian standards for attitudes and actions (Rom 12:1-15:13).
 - 1) Commitment and dedication (Rom 12:1, 2).
 - 2) The use of gifts (Rom 12:3-8).
 - 3) Instructions and exhortations in Christian character (Rom 12:9-21).
 - 4) Response to authority (Rom 13:1-14).
 - 5) Unity and sensitivity to others (Rom 14:1-15:13).
 - b. Personal reports, requests, recommendations, warnings, and greetings (Rom 15:14-16:27).

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C. Key verses in Romans.

1. Consider how Rom 1:16 and Rom 5:1 might be called the key verses of the book of Romans.
2. Consider how the following flow of verses could be used to give a brief summary of the contents of Romans.
 - a. Rom 1:16.
 - b. Rom 3:22, 23, 28.
 - c. Rom 4:3.
 - d. Rom 5:1, 18.
 - e. Rom 9:31, 32.
 - f. Rom 10:3-9.

Notes —

D. Key theme or message in Romans.

1. The message of Romans is a message of hope in the midst of a hopelessly fallen world.
2. The following points show how Romans emphasizes this theme.
 - a. Guilt.
 - 1) Guilt creates a great wall of separation between God and man (Rom 1:18-3:20).
 - 2) Hope is found in justification by faith (Rom 5:1).
 - b. Our sinful nature.
 - 1) Our sinful nature creates a great wall of separation between us and God (Rom 7:15-24).
 - 2) Hope is found in regeneration (Rom 8:1-4).

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c. God's sovereign election.

- 1) God's sovereign election creates a great wall of separation between God and man (Rom 9:7-18).
- 2) Hope is found in our common opportunity to call on His name (Rom 10:11-13).

E. Justification by Faith (Rom 5:1-5).

1. See the introduction Rom 5:1: "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have...."
2. What is it that we have through justification or reconciliation?
 - a. We have peace (vs. 1).
 - b. We have access to grace (vs. 2).
 - c. We have joy in hope (vs. 2).
 - d. We have joy in tribulations (vs. 3).
 - e. We have perseverance (vs. 3, 4).
 - f. We have proven character (vs. 4).
 - g. We have hope (vs. 4,5).
 - h. We have love (vs. 5).
 - i. We have the Holy Spirit (vs. 5).

Discussion Point

Consider and discuss the following statement regarding your study of Rom 5:1-5.
Peace is joy resting. Joy is peace dancing.

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V. The Books of 1 & 2 Corinthians.

Notes —

A. 1 Corinthians.

1. General structure of 1 Corinthians.
 - a. It is clear that 1 Corinthians is a letter that was written in response to letters that the Corinthians had sent to Paul. Apparently, these letters mentioned various problems within the church. Paul responds to these problems in his letter.
 - b. Note the various sections of the letter that are introduced by the words: “**Now concerning...**”
 - 1) 1 Cor 7:1 - Now concerning (Marriage).
 - 2) 1 Cor 7:25 - Now concerning (Virgins and Widows).
 - 3) 1 Cor 8:1, 4 - Now concerning (Food offered to idols)
 - 4) 1 Cor 12:1 - Now concerning (Spiritual gifts).
 - 5) 1 Cor 16:1 - Now concerning (Collection for the saints).
 - 6) 1 Cor 16:12 - Now concerning (Apollos).
2. The key theme of 1 Corinthians.
 - a. This is a letter that was written to correct errors in the life of the church and to make suggestions concerning specific topics.
 - b. We can form a general outline of the book by listing the errors that were corrected.
 - 1) The error of divisions within the church (1 Cor 1:10-31; 3:1-8).
 - 2) The error of a false perception of ministers and the ministry (1 Cor 3:1-4:21).
 - 3) The error of not cleansing the church from immorality, law-suits, and sensuality (1 Cor 5:1-6:20).

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- 4) Suggestions about marriage and sex (1 Cor 7:1-40).
- 5) The error of demanding your rights (1 Cor 8:1-9:27; 10:23-33).
- 6) The error of a lack of separation from the world, disunity and prejudice at the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 10:16-21; 11:17-34).
- 7) Suggestions concerning Christian order (1 Cor 11:1-16).
- 8) Suggestions concerning the use of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:1-14:40).

B. 2 Corinthians.

1. The nature of the letter.
 - a. This is one of Paul's most personal letters. He is very transparent in this letter as he focuses on the motives, goals, methods, and validity of his own ministry.
 - b. Note in the following verses, how Paul seems to be concerned that his apostleship was not accepted.
 - 1) 2 Cor 3:1 (Do we need letters of recommendation?)
 - 2) 2 Cor 5:12 (We will let you tell of our work.)
 - 3) 2 Cor 7:2 (We have wronged no one.)
 - 4) 2 Cor 10:2, 3 (We were accused of being in the flesh.)
 - 5) 2 Cor 11:5, 6 (I am not inferior to these false Apostles.)
 - 6) 2 Cor 12:11 (I was compelled to boast due to false Apostles.)
 - 7) 2 Cor 13:3 (You seek proof of Christ speaking in me.)

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2. In the midst of this focus on his own ministry and its characteristics and validity, Paul inserts a significant section concerning the importance of generosity.
 - a. Review 2 Cor chapters 8 and 9. Especially focus on 2 Cor 8:12-15.
 - b. Review Acts 2:44, 45 and Acts 4:32-37.

Discussion Point

Based on the passages from 2 Cor 8 and 9, and Acts 2 and 4, discuss the concepts of Christian sharing and Christian equality.

VI. The Book of Galatians.

A. General Structure of Galatians.

1. The main theme is the relationship of freedom and obligation.
2. General Outline of Galatians.
 - a. A record of past problems (chapters 1-2).
 - b. A theology of freedom (chapters 3-4).
 - c. The ethics of obligation (chapters 5-6).
3. The flow from freedom to obligation.
 - a. Freedom must precede obligation just as the promise must precede the command.
 - b. Freedom enables us to be obligated (the promise enables us to do the command).

Notes —

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- c. God does give commands, but He always gives promises that will enable us to do the commands. God never asks us to do something unless He provides us with the ability to do it (for example, see the principle of 1 Cor 10:13). God always makes provision for what He asks of us.
 - d. This flow of freedom to obligation is necessary because God is the source of all things and is sovereign. Our obligation must start with God's provision.
4. These concepts of freedom and obligation are presented in various ways throughout the Bible. In each case, the two concepts are shown to be vitally connected. There is not one without the other. They exist together and mutually affect one another.
 - a. There is no freedom without obligation.
 - b. There is no obligation without freedom.

Discussion Point

Use the following diagram to promote a discussion concerning freedom and obligation. Challenge the students to make applications for their own lives.

Passage Of The Two	And Location Concepts	The Specific Terms Of The Relationship	The Way In Which The Two Concepts Relate To Each Other
Galatians	Freedom (chap. 3&4), Obligation (chap. 5&6)	Freedom Obligation	The existence of the freedom enables us to complete the obligation...The existence of the obligation leads us to receive the freedom.
Matthew	5:17 Grace (Jesus in us), Law (done in us)	Grace Law	The existence of the grace enables us to keep the law...The existence of the law leads us to receive the grace
Ephesians	Privilege (chap. 1-3), Responsibility (chap. 4-6)	Privilege Responsibility	The existence of the privilege enables us to complete the responsibility...The existence of the responsibility leads us to use the privilege
Abrahamic Covenant	Gen. 12:1-3 1/2 promises (v.2), 1/2 commands (v.2,3)	Promise Command	The existence of the promise enables us to follow the command...The existence of command necessitates that we receive what is promised
Acts	1:8 Provision (Holy Spirit), Mission (Jerusalem to end of the earth)	Provision Mission	The existence of the provision enables us to complete the mission...The existence of the mission demands that we receive the provision.

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B. The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22, 23).

Notes —

1. The Christian can live victoriously over the requirements of the law. That does not mean that he does not live according to the law. It means that he is able to keep the law.
 - a. The fruit of the Spirit is proof of our living over the law. As Paul said, “Against such things there is no law.” Living in such a way is evidence of the Spirit’s rulership and our growth in grace.
 - b. That is to say that a spirit controlled life does not need the law to force him to live a righteous (lawful) life.
2. The Christian life should be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit.
 - a. **LOVE** should be the central theme of the Christian life.
 - b. **JOY** should be its strength.
 - c. **PEACE** should be its confidence.
 - d. **PATIENCE** should be its endurance.
 - e. **KINDNESS** should be its testimony.
 - f. **GOODNESS** should be its conduct.
 - g. **FAITHFULNESS** should be its response to God.
 - h. **GENTLENESS** should be its manner.
 - i. **SELF-CONTROL** should be its maturity.

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VII. The Books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

A. General Structure of the two Books.

1. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians after Timothy brought back a report concerning the Thessalonian church (see 1 Thes 3:6).
2. Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to respond to confusion that continued in the Thessalonian church regarding the second coming of Jesus (Paul initially addressed the problem in 1 Thes 4:13-5:11).

B. Major Themes of the Books.

1. Example and imitation (1 Thes 1:5, 6; 2:14; 2 Thes 3:6-9).
2. Discipline for those who are lazy (1 Thes 5:14; 2 Thes 3:10-15).
3. The return of Christ (1 Thes 4:13-5:11; 2 Thes 2).
4. Endurance and encouragement in persecution (1 Thes 1:6; 2:14-16; 1:3-12).
5. Evangelism (1 Thes 1:8; 2:9; 2 Thes 3:1).

Course Conclusion:

This concludes New Testament II, which surveyed several themes and topics regarding the birth of the New Testament Church. From the book of Acts, the power of the Holy Spirit and the Spread of the Gospel were emphasized. A study of the life of Paul reviewed his life before and after conversion, along with his description of Christ. From Romans, justification by faith was emphasized. From 1 & 2 Corinthians, we saw that Paul responded to problems in the Corinthian church, then gave a defense of his Apostleship. From Galatians the themes of freedom and obligation, and the fruit of the Spirit were emphasized. From 1 & 2 Thessalonians, we saw that Paul emphasized example, imitation, encouragement and endurance, then responded to confusion concerning Christ's second coming.

The next course in this series, New Testament III, surveys the advance of the Church.