

Getting Inside Your Bible #5

LOOK AT US GROW!

Welcome!

- ◎ This is the second of three weeks summarizing the New Testament
- ◎ Slides may be downloaded from www.kelleycentral.com
- ◎ Session taught by Dr. Mark Kelley, June 4, 2014

Verse – Hebrews 1

In these last days God has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe” (Hebrews 1:2 NIV).

Verse – Hebrews 1

In these _____ days God has spoken to us by his _____, whom he appointed _____ of all things, and through whom also he made the _____”
(Hebrews 1:2 NIV).

Recapping the Story

- Torah – God selects a family to spread his glory
- History – God's family frustrates him
- Poetry – The feelings of God's family
- Prophecy – The future of God's family

An Overview of the Christian Scriptures (NT)

- ◎ The Son Brings God's Kingdom
 - Four Gospels
- ◎ The Church Expands God's Kingdom
 - Acts and the Epistles (Letters)
- ◎ God Finalizes His Kingdom
 - Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Outline of Acts

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to **the ends of the earth**” (Jesus, in Acts 1:8, NIV).

Spread of the Church

- “Jerusalem” (Acts 2:5-41)
- “Judea & Samaria” (Acts 8:1)
- “The ends of the earth” (Acts 28:14b)

Finally!

- ⦿ God now has a family that will spread his glory through out the whole earth.
- ⦿ The church family will do what the Abraham family never did

Explosion of the Church

- 3000 added (Acts 2:41)
- 5000 total (Acts 4:4)
- Many priests believe (Acts 6:7)

- 1/3 of all Jews became Christian by AD 70

New Testament Letters (Epistles)

- ⦿ Problem: unifying a quickly spreading movement.
- ⦿ Answers:
 - Traveling Ministers
 - Letters from Top Leaders

Paul's Letters

- ◎ to imperfect churches (like ours!)
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Paul's Letters

- ◎ to key leaders
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon

Paul's Typical Outline

- ⦿ Prayer of Thanksgiving for the recipient
- ⦿ Explaining Bible truths
- ⦿ Exhorting actions that demonstrate Biblical truths

Outline Lessons

- Tough conversations become easier when they start with affirmation
- Before God asks something of us, he provides the resources

Other Letter Writers

- James – Jesus' brother, Jerusalem's leader
- Peter – leader of Jewish branch of church
- John – “beloved disciple”
- Jude
- Author of Hebrews, a sermon manuscript (Hebrews 13:22)

Letters to Churches

- The principles work for individuals, but were meant for groups.
- Philippians 4:6-7 promises peace to church groups

Looking at Philippians 4:1-7

- Notice how the passage helps a church fighting itself

Bottom Line: Results

- 33 AD, Acts 1 = 120 believers in Jerusalem
- 68 AD, Acts 28 = 5000+ believers in Jerusalem, countless others in every major town