

SESSION 6

After the Book of Acts

I. PRAYER

II. BOOK OF ACTS: CHARTED

BOOK OF ACTS			
Author: Luke Theme: Beginnings of the Church Key Verse: Acts 1:8			
Chapter 1	Chapter 2-7	Chapter 8-12	Chapter 13-28
Introduction	Witnessing in Jerusalem	Witnessing in Judea/Samaria	Witnessing to the Ends of the Earth
Focus: Jews		Jews + ½ Jews	Gentiles

Note that the chart captures the movement of the Book of Acts as outlined by Acts 1:8:

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."

After the three Missionary Journeys of Paul and the Journey to Rome (as Paul appealed to Caesar as a Roman citizen), the Book of Acts ends. Paul is under house arrest and Acts 28:28-30 contains the fitting conclusion:

"Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" [29] 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

III. POST “BOOK OF ACTS”: PAUL’S APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

A. First Roman Imprisonment (House Arrest)

1. Date: Winter 60—Spring 62 (Hoehner’s dating).
2. Letters written: **Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians.**

B. Release from Arrest (Imprisonment): 62 AD

C. Paul’s Ministry Continues

Since the Book of Acts ends with Paul at Rome under house arrest, there is no Biblical “part two” to Acts. Therefore, using Biblical data from Paul’s writings, a possible chronology of his ministry leading to his second and final imprisonment can be constructed. The following reconstruction is from Hoehner’s chronological work.

1. Paul ministers in Macedonia; perhaps he visited Ephesus and Colossae (1 Tim 1:3). **First Timothy** was likely penned during this time (during a delayed stay—cf. 1 Tim 3:14).
2. Paul returns to Ephesus (1 Tim 3:14). (Some suggest he may have also traveled to Spain—cf. Ro 15:24, 28).
3. Paul visits Crete, leaving Titus with delegated apostolic duties (Tit 1:5). At some point Paul pens **Titus**.
4. Paul winters at Nicopolis where he is visited by Titus (Tit 3:12).
5. Paul visits Corinth (2 Tim 4:20), Troas (2 Tim 4:13), and makes his last visit to Ephesus (2 Tim 1:18).
6. At some point in Asia, Paul is arrested and journeys to Rome for the last time.

D. Paul’s Final Roman Imprisonment

During this time, **Second Timothy** is written. In the Spring of 68 AD Paul is martyred during the reign of Nero.

IV. PAUL'S FINAL LETTERS

A. During the First Imprisonment

These four letters were all penned during Paul's house arrest, thus they are called "Prison Epistles." A brief overview of each letter follows: note that a chart and key passages for each letter are given. (Details of authorship, addressees, theme and distinctives are omitted; these are all Pauline in authorship.)

1. Ephesians

a. Charted

Ephesians	
Chapters 1-3	Chapters 4-6
Privileges	Responsibilities
Our Powerful Position...	Our Worthy Walk...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise (1) • Prayer (1) • Position (2) • Purpose (3) • Prayer (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk in unity (4) • Walk in new life (4) • Walk in love/light (5) • Walk in wisdom (5) • Walk in Spirit (5-6) • Walk in warfare (6)
Belief	Behavior

b. Key passages: Ephesians outline

(1) Praise (Ch. 1)

Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

(2) Prayer (Ch. 1)

Ephesians 1:15-17

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my **prayers**. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

(3) Position (Ch. 2)

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5

*As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins... ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵**made us alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(4) Purpose (Ch. 3)

Ephesians 3:6

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

(5) Prayer (Ch. 3)

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(6) Walk in unity (Ch. 4)

Ephesians 4:1-3

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the **unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.*

(7) Walk in new life (Ch. 4)

Ephesians 4:22-23

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds...

(8) Walk in love/light (Ch. 5)

Ephesians 5:1-2

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and **walk in the way of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

(9) Walk in wisdom (Ch. 5)

Ephesians 5:15-16

*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as **wise**, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

(10) Walk in the Spirit (Ch. 5-6)

Ephesians 5:18

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit...***

(11) Walk in warfare (Ch. 6)

Ephesians 6:10-11

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

2. **Colossians**

a. Charted

Colossians			
Chapters 1-2		Chapters 3-4	
Doctrinal		Practical	
1:1	Opening 1:14	3:1	Sound Conduct 3:17
1:15	Supremacy of Christ 1:23	3:18	Household Code 4:1
1:24	Ministry of Paul 2:5	Closing	
2:6	Sound Doctrine 2:23	4:2	4:18
Supremacy of Christ		Submission to Christ	

b. Key passages: Colossians outline

(1) Opening (1:1-14)

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified

you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

(2) Supremacy of Christ (1:15-23)

Colossians 1:15-18

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that **in everything he might have the supremacy.***

(3) Ministry of Paul (1:24-2:5)

Colossians 2:1-3

I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ²My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(4) Sound Doctrine (2:6-23)

Colossians 2:6-8

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

(5) Sound Conduct (3:1-17)

Colossians 3:1-2

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts** on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²**Set your minds** on things above, not on earthly things.*

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(6) Household Code (3:18-4:1)

Colossians 3:18-21

***Wives**, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹**Husbands**, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰**Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

(7) Closing (4:2-18)

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

3. Philemon

a. Charted

Philemon		
Verses 1-7	Verses 8-16	Verses 17-25
Prayer for...	Plea for...	Pledge from... (for)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philemon • Apphia • Archippus • House Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onesimus (Runaway Slave) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul (Partner) • Payback

b. Key passages: Philemon

Philemon 8-11

*Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son **Onesimus**, who became my son while I was in chains.¹¹ Formerly he was **useless** to you, but now he has become **useful** both to you and to me.*

Philemon 17-18

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

4. Philippians

a. Charted

Philippians		
Passage	Title	Sections
1:1-11	Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salutation (1-2) • Thanksgiving (3-8) • Prayer (9-11)
1:12-26	Personal Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chains (12-18^a) • Life or death (18^b-26)
1:27-2:18	Exhortations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worthy of the Gospel (1:27-30) • Example of Christ (2:1-18)
2:19-30	Personal Associates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy (19-24) • Epaphroditus (25-30)
3:1-4:1	Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against Judaizers (3:1-11) • Against Libertines (3:12-4:1)
4:2-23	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhortations (2-9) • Gratitude (10-20) • Farewells (21-23)

b. Key passages: Philippians outline

(1) Opening (1:1-11)

Philippians 1:3-6

*I **thank** my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 1:9-11

*And this is my **prayer**: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

(2) Personal update (1:12-26)

Philippians 1:12-14

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

(3) Exhortations (1:27-2:18)

Philippians 2:1-4

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

(4) Personal associates (2:19-30)

(a) Timothy (19-24)

Philippians 2:19-22

*I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for*

*your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that **Timothy** has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.*

(b) Epaphroditus (25-30)

Philippians 2:25-27

*But I think it is necessary to send back to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.*

²⁶For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

(5) Warning (3:1-4:1)

Philippians 3:2-4^a

Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

Philippians 3:17-19

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

(6) Closing (4:2-23)

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if

anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

V. OTHER NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

A. NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS: CHART

NEW TESTAMENT (27)		
Narrative (5)	Epistolary (21)	Apocalyptic (1)
Gospels (4)	Pauline (13)	Revelation (1)
Acts (1)	General (8)	[Daniel]

B. New Testament Epistles: Authorship

1. Pauline (by Paul) 13 letters
2. Catholic (General) 8 letters
 - a. James (half-brother of Jesus) 1 letter
 - b. Peter (the apostle) 2 letters
 - c. Jude (half-brother of Jesus) 1 letter
 - d. John (the apostle) 3 letters
 - e. Unknown (apostolic authority) 1 letter

C. Epistles (Grk. *epistolê*, “letter”): Form

The Apostle Paul and other New Testament writers adapted the Greco-Roman letter-style for distinctively Christian purposes. While written in a personal style, Biblical writers seem to be conscious of broader usages (wider scale and distribution).

1. Common structural components
 - a. Opening (author, addressees, salutation)
 - b. Thanksgiving and prayer
 - c. Body (doctrinal and practical teachings)
 - d. Closing (personal greetings, benediction, final words)

2. Common purpose

The epistles were intended for a specific audience, read aloud to individuals and/or congregations. The epistle's message was also intended for the wider Christian Community.

VI. CATHOLIC (GENERAL) LETTERS

A. First Peter

1. Charted

First Peter		
Passage	Title	Sections
1:1-2	Opening Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author (1) • Addressees (2)
1:3-2:10	Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New birth (1:3-12) • New life (1:13-15) • New people (2:1-10)
2:11-3:12	Responsibilities	Submission to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World (2:11-12) • Authorities (2:13-17) • Masters (2:18-25) • Husbands (3:1-6) • Wives (3:7) • Others (3:8-12)
3:13-4:19	Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right actions (3:13-22) • Right approach (4:1-11) • Right perspective (4:12-19)
5:1-11	Ministering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To elders (1-4) • To young men (5^a) • To all (5^b-11)
5:12-14	Concluding Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Paul • Silas • Mark
Written before 64 AD (Peter's death?)		

2. Key passages: 1 Peter

a. Opening words (1:1-2)

1 Peter 1:1

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces
of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...*

b. Identity (1:3-2:10)

1 Peter 1:3-5 (new birth)

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth**
into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an **inheritance** that
can never perish, spoil or fade. This **inheritance** is kept
in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by
God's power until the coming of the salvation that is
ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 Peter 1:15 (new life)

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all
you do...*

1 Peter 2:9-10 (new people)

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy
nation, God's special possession, that you may declare
the praises of him who called you out of darkness into
his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but
now you are **the people of God**; once you had not
received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

c. Responsibilities (2:11-3:12)

(1) Before the world

1 Peter 2:12

*Live such **good lives** among the pagans that,
though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may
see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he
visits us.*

(2) Before authorities

1 Peter 2:13-14

*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every
human authority: whether to the emperor, as the*

supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

(3) Before masters

1 Peter 2:18

Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your **masters**, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

(4) (Wives) Before husbands

1 Peter 3:1-4

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³our beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

(5) (Husbands) Before wives

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

(6) Before others

1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

d. Suffering

1 Peter 3:13-15^a (right actions)

*Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should **suffer** for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

1 Peter 4:1-2 (right approach/attitude)

*Therefore, since **Christ suffered** in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because **whoever suffers** in the body is done with sin. ²As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

1 Peter 4:12-14 (right perspective)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

e. Ministering

1 Peter 5:2-3 (to elders)

*Be **shepherds** of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.*

1 Peter 5:5^a (to young men)

*In the same way, you who are **younger**, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...*

1 Peter 5:6-7 (to all)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2 Peter 1:12, 20-21 (truth resources)

*So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the **truth** you now have. . . ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

b. False teachers (2:1-22)

2 Peter 2:1-3 (their description)

*But there were also **false prophets** among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³In their greed **these teachers** will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

2 Peter 2:9-10 (their condemnation)

. . .if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. ¹⁰This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings. . .

2 Peter 2:17-19 (their conduct)

These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.”

2. Key passages

a. Occasion (1-4)

Jude 3-4

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. ⁴For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

b. Problems (apostasy) (5-16)

Jude 14-16

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

c. Perseverance (17-23)

Jude 17-21

*But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. ²⁰But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹**keep yourselves in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

d. Benediction (24-25)

Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault

and with great joy—²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

D. First John

1. Charted

First John		
"Tests of Fellowship" (Not Relationship)		
Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	Chapter 5
Light	Love	Life
Conditions 1:1 1:10 ----- Conduct 2:1 2:29	Characteristics 3:1 3:24 ----- Cautions 4:1 4:21	Cause (for Assurance) 5:1 5:12 ----- Conclusion 5:13 5:21
Author: John the Apostle		Date written: Prior to 95 AD (late 80s-early 90s)

1. Key passages

a. Conditions (fellowship) (1:1-10)

1 John 1:5-9

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have **fellowship with him** and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the blood*

of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

b. Conduct (2:1-29)

1 John 2:1-2

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

c. Characteristics (3:1-24)

1 John 3:2-3

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:16-18

*This is how we know **what love is**: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

d. Cautions (4:1-21)

1 John 4:1-3

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because*

*many false prophets have gone out into the world.
²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

1 John 4:19-21

We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

e. Cause (for assurance) (5:1-12)

1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ²This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

f. Conclusion (5:13-21)

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

1 John 5:21

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

E. Second and Third John

1. Second John

This is a personal letter from “the older” (i.e. John) to a house church (“chosen lady and her children”). The basic theme is the relationship of truth (embraced) and love.

2 John 4-6

*It has given me great joy to find some of your children **walking in the truth**, just as the Father commanded us.*

*⁵And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶And this is love: that we **walk in obedience** to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you **walk in love**.*

2. Third John

This is a personal letter to “Gaius” from the “elder” (i.e. John). It contrasts the faithfulness of Gaius to the divisive rebellion of “Diotrephes.” It also commends “Demetrius.”

3 John 3-4

*It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your **faithfulness to the truth**, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are **walking in the truth**.*

3 John 9-10

*I wrote to the church, but **Diotrephes**, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. ¹⁰So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*

3 John 12

***Demetrius** is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.*

F. Hebrews

1. Charted

Hebrews		
"Christ is Superior to " (Better Than...)		
Chapters 1-4	Chapters 4-10	Chapters 10-13
Superiority of the Person of Christ	Superiority of the Priesthood of Christ	Superiority of the Pursuit of Christ
Superior to "Prophets" 1:1 1:3	Superior in "His Position" 4:14 4:16	Encouragement to persevere 10:32 10:39
Superior to "Angels" 1:3 2:18	Superior in "His Qualifications" 5:1 5:10	Encouragement to walk in faith 11:1 11:40
Superior to "Moses & Joshua" 3:6 4:13	Superior in "His Priestly Order" 7:1 7:28	Encouragement to endurance 12:1 12:28
WARNING #1 "Don't Drift" 2:1 2:4	WARNING #3 "Don't Degenerate" 5:11 6:20	WARNING #4 "Don't Despise" (deliberate sinning) 10:26 10:31
WARNING #2 "Don't Doubt" 3:7 4:7		WARNING #5 "Don't Deny" 12:18 12:29
Author: Unknown • Paul (?) • Barnabas (?) • Apollos (?) • Luke (?) • Barnabas/Apollos (?)		Date: Likely prior to 70 AD

2. Charted: The Theme of the Letter

Thesis (Purpose of Hebrews)	
Stated:	The New Testament in Jesus' blood is far superior to and supplants (takes the place of) the Old Testament in animal blood.
Proven:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hebrews 8:6 (Better covenant) <i>But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.</i>• Hebrews 7:18-22 (Priest forever of a better covenant) <i>The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. ²⁰And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'" ²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.</i>• Hebrews 8:7-8 (Old was faulty; New is superior) <i>For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah."</i>• Hebrews 10:8-9 (First covenant set aside for the New) <i>First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.</i>

3. Key passages: Hebrews

The student is encouraged to read the whole of this monumental theological letter. Keep the outline and thesis chart close at hand. Keep in mind: the letter seems to be addressed to Hebrew Christians who are thinking the unthinkable: abandoning faith in Christ (the final, ultimate sacrifice in His blood) and returning to the Old Covenant Judaism (sacrifice of animals' blood). The writer exhorts them to hold on to their new-found faith (the completion of redemption in God's overall program).

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

VII. TAKEAWAYS

Review Session 6 and the introduction/overview to several New Testament letters. Select one or two for further reading and study.

Movement 11: The Church Age is complete. What follows next in God's Program is covered in Movement 12: The Final Consummation.

Note also that we today are living in the Church Age "while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).