

PLAYBOOK FOR LIFE: New Testament

February 17 & 20, 2022

PART FOUR: NEW TESTAMENT GOSPELS

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Consider: *What is a Gospel?*

“Gospel” is the simple good news that Jesus died for our sins and was raised back to life. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Gospels: divinely inspired, historically accurate, pastorally interpretative narratives of the life of Jesus Christ.

Three Principles for Reading Gospels:

1. Read behind the lines (NIV Study Bible, Zondervan’s Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, IVP Bible Background Commentary: NT)
2. Read before the lines.
Consider: *How does this passage fit into the larger story of the book?*
3. Read beside the lines.

Matthew emphasizes Jesus as Messiah, the promised King.

Mark emphasizes Jesus’s humanity as powerful servant.

Luke emphasizes Jesus’s compassion & concern for outcasts.

John emphasizes Jesus as God in the flesh, personal & loving.

PART FIVE: NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

21 of 27 New Testament Books are letters

Consider: *What is a New Testament epistle/letter?*

Epistle: letter in the ancient world designed for wide circulation that addresses current issues and revives personal relationship.

Ancient epistle format: prescript, greetings, body, exhortations, closing

New Testament letter writer tools:

- Hymns | Philippians 2:5-11
- Household codes | Ephesians 5:22-6:9
- Vice & virtue lists | Galatians 5:19-23, 2 Timothy 3:2-4
- Chiasm | Ephesians 2:1-10
- Metaphor

Five Questions to Ask When Reading a New Testament Letter:

1. Have I read the entire letter? (Think paragraphs)
2. Have I dug deeply into the historical background? (Study Bible, commentaries)
3. Have I paid close attention to the words? (Word translation ESV or NASB, Colin Brown’s New International Dictionary of NT Theology, studylight.org, blueletterbible.org)
4. Have I considered the rest of the Bible’s teaching?
5. Have I traced the connection between doctrine and duty?

PART SIX: REVELATIONConsider: *Why should I read Revelation? How do I read Revelation?***Four Keys to Unlocking the Meaning of Revelation:**

1. Setting | Seven churches in Asia Minor facing persecution & cultural seduction.
2. Structure | “Things are bad; things are going to get worse; we win.” Chapters 1-3, *Jesus counsels the church*; 4-5, *controls the universe*; 6-11, *condemns the earth*; 12-20, *conquers Satan*; 21-22, *consummates his long-awaited marriage*
3. Symbols | +500 Old Testament allusions in Revelation
4. Style | Apocalyptic literature

Seven Ways Revelation Deepens My Faith (Chapters):

1. We approach Jesus more humbly, 1
2. We love the church more honestly, 2-3
3. We enter worship more selflessly, 4-5
4. We endure suffering more confidently, 6-9
5. We speak God’s truth more courageously, 10-11
6. We see evil more clearly, 12-18
7. We long for Christ’s return more deeply, 19-22

TAKEAWAY: Study the Playbook and be encouraged, endure and live adventurously.

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