

## Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 126)

### INTRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Hook	
Manual Goal	
EGD Goal	

- I. Reviewing the Sunday School lessons and approach (It does look like the vast majority of the NT is assigned, which is very nice)
  - a. Lessons 1-27: Gospels
  - b. Lessons 28-32; 38: Acts + 1-2 Thess; Galatians
  - c. Lessons 33-36, 38-41: Pauline letters
  - d. Lesson 37: Hebrews
  - e. Lessons 42-44: Catholic Epistles (James, 1-2 Peter, Jude, 1-3 John)
  - f. Lessons 45-46: Revelation
  - g. The “Scripture chain” topics give a good idea of the focus for each lesson (read)
- II. Format of Engaging Gospel Doctrine this year
  - a. One file with the following portions (I will note the minute marks; have a goal to be more concise, edifying and constructive and focused on the text)
    - i. Sunday School
    - ii. Scripture Study (comments on the text and history)
    - iii. Study Notes (deeper comments on history and potential solutions to problematic aspects; spare tire/toolbox approach)
- III. Something hopefully to look forward to “New Testament Illuminated”
- IV. Recommendations for additional study/devotional reading (Take each book on its own, either in canonical or chronological order if you want to get fancy, and read it in one sitting, paying attention to its distinctive features)
- V. Recommended resources
  - a. A Bible: (Harper Collins Study Bible, most resources for the buck; Oxford Study Bible if you want a layout easier on the eyes; ESV Study Bible if you want a resource more faith friendly). NT Wright’s translation, “The Kingdom New Testament” is different and refreshing.
  - b. Bible apps (Logos Bible; YouVersion; Olive Tree Bible Study; Gospel Library)

- c. Audio Bible (I am not aware of good free ones, though lds.org has mp3s for the KJV. Over the top dramatization or kooky music are two common critiques I hear. I bought an audio NRSV that I liked reasonably well.)
  - d. Supplementary Resources (what you can expect from each)
    - i. LDS
      - 1. Jesus Christ and the World of the New Testament (Eric Huntsman and Richard Holzapfel are both excellent faithful scholars; Holzapfel has a multi-volume “The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ”)
      - 2. Julie Smith, Search, Ponder, and Pray: A Guide to the Gospels
      - 3. Kevin Barney has a wealth of online helps
    - ii. Scholarship by believers
      - 1. Raymond Brown, Introduction to the New Testament
      - 2. Mark Alan Powell, Introducing the New Testament (also plenty of superb online resources)
      - 3. Pretty much anything by NT Wright. Luke Timothy Johnson has a good book “The Real Jesus”.
    - iii. Other scholarship (You will find a wealth of valuable material according to particular topic. Feel free to message me for recommendations)
      - 1. One I would recommend is Ehrman’s Reader: The New Testament and Other Christian Writings
- VI. What can you do as listeners?
- a. Subscribe/donate! ☺
  - b. Recommend the podcast to others
  - c. Write a review on iTunes
  - d. Volunteer to be on the podcast
  - e. Join the facebook group
  - f. Send me your questions and comments
- VII. Scripture Study: How we got the New Testament (Creation, Copying, Canonization... need to add Translation)
- VIII. Study Notes: Some thoughts on New Testament scholarship and belief

Example of devotional appreciation of NT books

Book	Theme to look for (just an example to get you thinking)
1 Thessalonians	Rejoice in love and goodness; behave properly
Galatians	There are no divisions; we are all one in Christ
Philemon	Forgive each other; receive former slaves as family
Philippians	We can do all things through God who strengthens us
1 Corinthians	The greatest of spiritual gifts is love (agapé)

2 Corinthians	Our strength is made perfect in weakness
Romans	Walk in newness of life
2 Timothy	"I have fought the good fight", reflections on a life well lived
Mark	Human, vulnerable Jesus who is also bold and authoritative
1 Peter	We are God's precious treasures
Matthew	God is with us in our religious community; avoid hypocrisy
Luke	Care for the marginalized, social gospel, don't let religion hinder love
Acts	Acceptance beyond prejudices
Colossians	Putting the old self to death and clothing ourselves in our new Selves
Hebrews	Jesus as a "true high priest" acquainted with our sufferings
James	"Pure religion" caring for those in need
Revelation	"All things new"
Ephesians	Put on the armor of God
John	A new intimate relationship with God through Jesus; knowing God is Eternal Life
Jude	Keep yourselves in the love of God; have mercy
2 Thessalonians	Don't sit around waiting for Jesus to fix things
1 Timothy	Be nourished by faith and sound teaching
Titus	Be gentle and courteous
1 John	God is love
2 John	Abide in the teaching of Christ
3 John	Joy in those who walk in truth; imitate what is good
2 Peter	Support faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.

Questions from the Fb group:

1. How should I go about reading the entire NT? (Book at a time, either canonically or chronologically)
2. How do I evaluate how credible a scholarly claim is? (look at education, publisher, see if you can follow the flow of argument, see whether the way primary sources are used seems reasonable or a stretch)
3. How did the NT come to be? (already covered)
4. What do we know about Mary and Joseph? (future episodes)
5. How to balance devotional and historical-critical approaches?
6. What can LDS readers gain from extra-canonical writings?
7. What do I think of Jesus the Christ?