

YEAR
THRU THE 22
20 **BIBLE**

— VOLUME III —

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

INTRODUCTION

LifePoint,

This book is designed to serve alongside the third part of our Year Thru the Bible sermon series.

In 2022, we are going to spend the entire year working our way through the Bible. We won't hit every storyline or every book, but we can and will spend the year seeing the big picture. From "In the beginning" until the last "Amen," the Bible tells an incredible story of God's plan to redeem His creation for His glory.

The hope for this book is that it could be used individually or in LifeGroups the week prior to the corresponding message. Instead of being used as sermon discussion, this book is designed to be sermon preparation.

As always, the goal for this study (or any study) isn't to just increase Bible knowledge. The goal is that we might know and experience the God of the Bible in increasing ways as He transforms us through His Word.

Here are some important need-to-knows.

THREE TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Throughout this book you'll find three different types of questions that seek to engage the learning process. These three questions are woven throughout each section.

What does it say? (*Comprehension*)

What does it mean? (*Interpretation*)

How does it change me? (*Application*)

FORMAT

Each section is set up the same way. To begin, there's a prayer focus and prompt followed by the reference to the sermon text. Then there are discussion questions.

The very last section – Apply It – is designed for you to think about what you've studied and take away a key point.

A WORD TO LIFEGROUP LEADERS

This book is meant to assist you in leading your LifeGroup as we journey thru the Bible. Some of the best learning happens in the context of community. Our prayer is that this guide will help you lead your group to greater relational depth with both God and one another.

Group Goals:

- Pray together
- Read Scripture together
- Think critically and dialogue together
- Apply the text together
- Share about what God is doing in your lives

Please use this book only as a guide; you do not need to answer every question and do every activity each week. Our hope is that there is more content than you will be able to cover and that this guide will simply encourage discussion and participation among group members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was put together by numerous people from LifePoint with the people of LifePoint in mind. Special thanks to Ashley Cooper, Mike Drake, Nina Funk, Lane Gottula, Corey Harthoorn, Shelli Johnson, Hudson Kruse, James McClenahan, Charley Tynes, Chris Winegar, Melanie Worstell, and Tim Worstell.

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WANT TO GO DEEPER ON YOUR OWN?

Check out these books, articles, videos, etc.

BOOKS:

From Eden to the New Jerusalem | T. Desmond Alexander

The King and His Beauty: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments | Tom Schreiner

The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown | Andreas Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

All 66 Books of the Bible | Overview Bible

<https://overviewbible.com/books-of-the-bible>

- Overview of the Bible provides a helpful snapshot of the main point of each book of the Bible.

Bible Hub | <https://biblehub.com>

- Bible Hub is a free online resource that has multiple translations, Strong's Lexicon, commentary, etc.

The Story of the Bible | The Bible Project

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_CGP-12AE0

- This video gives an animated overview of the entire Bible.

Blue Letter Bible | <https://www.blueletterbible.org>

- BLB is a free online resource with commentaries, Greek & Hebrew resources, concordances, etc.

WEEK THIRTY-FIVE

IT IS FINISHED

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:8 – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

PRAY ABOUT IT: As we dive back into this series this fall, we're covering some pretty familiar territory. Pray that God would show you where spiritual indifference has set in so that you can rely more fully on Him.

RECAP

For most of the summer, we've been looking at the stories of Jesus' life and ministry in the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Last week, we saw the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. This week we will look at Luke's account of Jesus' death.

For more information on the second part of the book of Luke, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdFay7>



READ IT: Luke 23:18-49

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – In the first century, it became tradition for a prisoner to be released around the time of the Passover. Read **verses 18-24**. Who did Pilate try to release? What does the crowd choosing a guy like Barabbas show about their view of Jesus?

MORE THAN JUST A NAME

The name Barabbas literally means “Son of the Father.” The people wanted the guy named “Son of the Father.” They didn’t realize it, but God was orchestrating these events so that the true “Son of the Father” would provide a way for salvation.

2 – Look up the following verses to see what the Bible says about who crucified Jesus.

Genesis 3:15 –

Isaiah 53:10 –

Acts 2:23 –

The Bible doesn’t contradict itself, so what do all these answers communicate about who crucified Jesus? Why is that important?

3 – According to **verse 32**, who was also crucified with Jesus? If you were one of Jesus’ disciples, what would you be thinking/feeling at this point?

4 – In **verses 39-42**, those crucified with Jesus show us two different responses to the crucifixion of Jesus. What are those responses?

Criminal #1 –

Criminal #2 –

5 – In response to Criminal #2, Jesus says, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” What does that tell us someone must do to receive salvation?

6 – In **verses 44-45**, what supernatural occurrence happened as Jesus died? What additional details are we given in **Matthew 27:51-53**?

7 – Last spring we studied the Tabernacle, God’s dwelling place among His people. What did the curtain in the Tabernacle, and subsequently the Temple, represent? See **Exodus 26:33** and **Leviticus 16:1-2** for help with your answer.

8 – With that understanding, what was theologically being communicated when the curtain was torn in two? See **Hebrews 10:19-22** for help with your answer.

9 – **Luke 23** ends with Jesus’ body being put into a tomb. If you were one of Jesus’ followers, what thoughts, feelings, or emotions would you be experiencing as all this takes place?

10 – Fortunately, this isn't the end of the story, but it's good that we don't pass over it too quickly. How would you explain what happened to Jesus and the significance of it to someone who had never heard of Jesus?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, September 18, 2022

WEEK THIRTY-SIX

LIVING HOPE

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 1:3-4 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

PRAY ABOUT IT: This passage contains the central message of the entire Bible and the reason for our hope. Pray that God would remind and encourage you with this living hope as you read and study this chapter.

RECAP

Last week, we read about the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. This week we'll consider what happened three days later – the resurrection of Jesus.

READ IT: Luke 24:1-53

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – How many times is the word “they/them” used in **verses 1-9**? Who do we learn that these people are in **verse 10**? Why does it matter who “they” are?

DETAILS MATTER

Women were the first to find the tomb empty and to hear the announcement of the resurrection. This is strong evidence for the historicity of the resurrection accounts. In first century Judaism, women were not regarded as reliable witnesses. In other words, if you were making up a story, you wouldn't have created stories in which women discovered the empty tomb.

2 – In **verse 5**, they are cautioned against looking for the living among the dead. What do you think the men (angels) mean by that?

DEALING WITH DOUBT

Read through the following verses. Determine how each of these groups displays doubt, as well as how they were corrected.

DISPLAY OF DOUBT	RESPONSE TO DOUBT
24:4-5	24:6-7
24:21	24:25-26
24:37	24:38-39

3 – Even those closest to Jesus doubted. In what circumstances do you find yourself doubting God and/or His Word? How could you use a passage like **Luke 24** to encourage someone who's doubting?

4 – What does Jesus do in **verses 39-43**? What was significant about being able to see and touch the hands and feet of Jesus? What was the significance of Jesus eating?

5 – Jesus could've announced His resurrection any way He wanted. Why do you think He chose to appear to several women, two travelers on a road, and His disciples? What does this teach us about God?

6 – Rewrite **verses 27, 44-45** in your own words. Read it in a couple different translations to get the sense of it.

27:

44-45:

What is Jesus teaching them in regards to the point of the Old Testament? How should that inform how we read the Old Testament?

7 – What future event (for them) is being referenced in **verse 49**? Read **Acts 2:1-4**. What was the importance of this event? Why was having the Holy Spirit inside them better than having Jesus physically beside them?

8 – After Jesus ascended to heaven in **verse 51**, what was the response of the disciples in **verses 52-53**? How does their response affect how we should respond as we think about the resurrection?

9 – The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith – so much so that everything in the Old Testament points and leads up to it. How does the resurrection make Christianity different from other religions or philosophies? How can you use something like the resurrection in sharing your faith?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, September 25, 2022

WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 10:21-22 – And since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

PRAY ABOUT IT: Because of what Christ has done, we can draw near to God. Take a moment to thank Him for wanting us to draw near to Him.

RECAP

Over the last few weeks, we've looked at the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. This week we're going to look at what Jesus accomplished through His sacrifice.

For an overview of Hebrews, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdFjdY>



READ IT: Hebrews 9:18-10:18

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – In one sentence, summarize each of the following sets of verses.

9:18-22 –

9:23-28 –

10:1-4 –

10:5-10 –

10:11-14 -

10:15-18 -

2 – Read about the covenant being confirmed between God and Israel in **Exodus 24:1-8**. With this background, why does the author of Hebrews say it was necessary for blood to be sprinkled everywhere?

3 – According to **verse 22**, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” Read **Matthew 26:26-29**. How did Jesus see Himself in regards to the covenant? Why does this matter?

4 – **Verse 23** refers to the tabernacle and the things inside as “copies of heavenly things.” What do you think that means? What did the tabernacle (and the temple) represent?

5 – **Hebrews 10:5-7** is referencing **Psalm 40:6-8**. Compare both texts. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

6 – Read **Hebrews 10:11-12**. What distinguishes Christ's sacrifice from those of the Old Testament priests?

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Complete the following chart with how Jesus' sacrifice is different from the Old Testament sacrifices.

O.T. SACRIFICE (OLD COVENANT)	JESUS' SACRIFICE (NEW COVENANT)
Yearly sacrifice by High Priest	
Blood of another	
Covered outward sins	
Human made sanctuary	

7 – Over and over, we're taught that our justification (being made right) is found in the sacrifice of Jesus. What are some things people intentionally or unintentionally rely on to justify themselves?

8 – Read **Hebrews 10:12-13**. What does the image of your enemy being your footstool communicate? In what sense are we still waiting for this to happen? See **1 Corinthians 15:28** for help with your answer.

9 - If someone approached you saying they struggled with believing that God could forgive them, how could you use **Hebrews 9-10** to encourage them?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 2, 2022

WEEK THIRTY-EIGHT

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 28:18-20 – And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

PRAY ABOUT IT: This week’s passage includes the Great Commission, one of Jesus’ most famous commands. As you read and discuss, pray that God would show you your role in His mission.

RECAP

Last week, we looked theologically at the implications of Christ’s work on the cross. For the next few weeks, we’ll be looking at how we live in light of Christ’s work. Jesus has given really clear instructions to His followers on what we’re to do until He returns.

For more information about the second part of the book of Matthew, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bxc7c>



READ IT: This week we’ll be reading two different passages of Scripture. First, read **Matthew 28:16-20**.

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – After the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples went to Galilee. Why were there only 11? How did they know to go to Galilee? See **Matthew 27:3-5** and **28:9-10** for help with your answer.

2 – **Verse 17** says, “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted.” What does the word “doubt” mean? What are some possible reasons why they doubted?

3 – Jesus says that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him. Why is it significant that Jesus says this? How does that help them in their doubt?

4 – In these verses, Jesus gives one command: make disciples. Circle the words describing how we’re to do that. What was Jesus telling His disciples to do?

5 – Notice the last sentence of this week’s memory verse (**Matthew 28:20**). Why do you think Jesus says this? Why does that matter even for us today?

RED LETTER BIBLE

The first “Red Letter Bible” was published in 1899 by Lous Klopsch. He came up with the idea after reading Jesus’ words, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood” (**Luke 22:20**). He thought of printing all of Jesus’ words in red, the color of His blood. While some publishers still use this technique, many don’t because all the words of the Bible are God’s words.

READ IT: Now read **Acts 1:6-11**.

6 – **Acts 1** continues the story. What do the disciples ask in **verse 6**? What does this tell us about their understanding of what Jesus came to do? How do people today misunderstand the nature of Jesus’ kingdom?

7 – In **verses 7-8**, Jesus refers to all three members of the Trinity (which we’ll be talking about in the coming weeks). Which specific functions does Jesus choose to highlight here about the Father and the Holy Spirit?

8 – When the Holy Spirit came upon them, what did Jesus say they were to do (**verse 8**)? The Greek word for “witnesses” (*martures*) means “to bear witness, affirm what one has seen, heard, or experienced, or teach what one has learned.” Given that definition, how does that affect how you understand being a witness for Jesus?

9 – Read **verses 9-11**. It’s easy to see why they would stand paralyzed looking up into the sky, but what are some ways that we might be paralyzed from doing what Jesus calls us to do?

10 – Jesus calls all of us to this role of making disciples. Who is someone in your life that’s had a significant impact in your walk with Christ? Who is someone in your life that you could have a similar impact on?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week’s memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, October 9, 2022

WEEK THIRTY-NINE

WE ARE FAMILY!

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:42 – And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

PRAY ABOUT IT: Today’s passage reminds us that the Gospel doesn’t just save us from something. It also saves us for something. Pray that God would help us (LifePoint) walk out the type of unity and community that would be honoring to Him and compelling to those who don’t yet know Him.

RECAP

Last week, we looked at the Great Commission and Jesus’ last words to His disciples. Followers of Jesus are to spread the news about Him and help one another follow Him. Before embracing their mission, they were to wait in Jerusalem, where they would receive power from the Holy Spirit.

For an overview of the first part of the book of Acts, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdFmOE>



READ IT: Acts 2:42-47

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – Go back and read **Acts 2:1-5**. From this passage, fill out the following in your own words.

Who are “they”?

What happened?

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

2 – In **verse 2**, we read that “tongues as of fire” came upon the believers. What do you think this signifies? From the following Old Testament passages, what do we learn that fire often represents?

Genesis 15:17-18a -

Exodus 3:2-6 -

Exodus 13:21 -

1 Kings 18:36-39 -

Daniel 7:9-10 -

3 – Based upon your answer above, what is Luke, the author, communicating about this moment? What is different now compared to the Old Testament? How does this moment fulfill what Jesus had promised in **Acts 1:8**?

4 – What Jewish festival was taking place in Jerusalem when this happened (**Acts 2:1**)?

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

The Feast of Pentecost is actually the Greek name for a festival in the Old Testament known as the Feast of Weeks. “Pentecost” means fifty and refers to the fifty days that have passed since the Passover. This festival was associated with the grain harvest and is similar to our concept of Thanksgiving.

For more information on the significance of Pentecost, check out this article from The Gospel Coalition.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pentecost-first-of-the-last-days/>

5 – Pentecost was an important Jewish festival. Who was in Jerusalem for it, and where are they from (**Acts 2:9-11**)? What did they witness taking place?

6 – Based upon **Acts 2:42-47**, describe some of the actions taken by those first believers. What were they devoted to?

7 – Imagine yourself as a stranger walking about the streets of Jerusalem. What would have stuck out to you about a group like this? Do you think this “early church” lifestyle was common or uncommon in that time?

8 – During the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples hid in fear. How would you characterize their behavior now? Why do you think there's a difference?

9 –What stands out to you about the lifestyle of the early Christians? If you had community like this, how would that stand out to your neighbors, friends, family, etc.?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, October 16, 2022

WEEK FORTY

BIG FAT GREEK MEETING

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAY ABOUT IT: This week we'll see the message of Jesus continue to go forth. Before we begin, pray that God would give you a passion to see others come to know Jesus.

RECAP

Over the last few weeks, we saw the type of community the gospel creates, and how it went forth on Pentecost to Jewish people. This week, we'll see how the gospel went forth to Gentiles (non-Jewish people). While the message of the gospel (Jesus came into the world to save sinners) doesn't change, Paul shows us that how we present that truth can and should be different based upon our audience.

For an overview of the second part of the book of Acts, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdFmic>



READ IT: Acts 17:16-34

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – According to **verse 16**, where is Paul in this story? How is this city described?

2 – **Verse 16** tells us that Paul’s “spirit was provoked within him.” Read this verse in a couple different translations. What does the word “provoke” mean? In this context, what does Luke mean that Paul’s spirit was provoked?

3 – While Paul is waiting in this city, what groups of people does he speak with (**verses 17-18**)? What is he preaching?

4 – Like Paul, we often find ourselves in a time of “waiting.” What does Paul model about how we should view times of waiting and what we should be doing while we wait?

5 – The Areopagus (Mars Hill) is a hill outside Athens that was used to hold trials and debates to discuss important matters. What type of gathering is Paul addressing here? How is it different from a group of people that might gather in Jerusalem?

SMARTY PANTS

As in our day, Athens was full of competing philosophies, worldviews, and understandings of the world. **Acts 17:17-18** tells us that there were four distinct groups of people who listened to and debated with Paul there.

ATHENIAN JEWS – Similar to cultural Christians in our day, they knew the Bible, attended worship gatherings, and participated in rituals.

GOD-FEARING GREEKS – These were Gentiles (non-Jews) who sincerely feared the God of Israel and were sympathetic to Jewish people, but didn't necessarily practice Judaism. They would be similar to people today believing in a personal God, but not committed to any particular faith.

EPICUREANS – They were agnostic secularists who lived for the moment. They devoted themselves to finding sensual enjoyment in all things.

STOICS – Their beliefs were similar to modern day Hinduism. They believed God is in all things, so all things can be worshiped. One of their primary aims was to control their own emotions, thoughts, decisions, actions, etc.

6 – In **verses 22-23**, Paul addresses the people in Athens as being “very religious.” How does Paul use their religiosity to connect them to the Gospel? How can we follow Paul's example when sharing about Jesus with “religious non-believers”?

7 – In your own words, summarize in a couple sentences or bullet points Paul's message from **verses 24-31**.

8 – How did these people in Athens respond to Paul’s message?

Response #1 (17:32a) –

Response #2 (17:32b) –

Response #3 (17:34) –

How can their responses inform and shape our expectations of responses we might get when we share about Jesus?

9 – Think of a person in your life who doesn’t believe in or follow Jesus. What are some ways you could try to connect with them where they are in order to point them to Jesus?

10 – In your life, who have you seen walking out their faith courageously and lovingly? What can you implement from them in your life?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week’s memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 23, 2022

WEEK FORTY-ONE

ROMANS ROAD

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

PRAY ABOUT IT: It's always important to approach God's Word in prayer. As we think about the truth of the familiar Gospel, pray that God would give you fresh insight and understanding.

RECAP

The New Testament letters were written to help us live out our faith. Essentially, everything we're called to do is an implication of the good news we believe. This week we're looking at several verses from the book of Romans known as *The Romans Road*.

The Romans Road isn't a physical road, but a series of scriptures from the book of Romans laying out God's plan of salvation. When arranged in order, these verses form a systematic way of explaining the beautiful message of Jesus Christ.

For more information on The Romans Road, check out this video from Got Questions Ministries.

<https://qrco.de/bdFn59>



READ IT: This week is a little bit unique because we are looking at a particular set of verses. Read the verses printed below.

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 - If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13 - For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – As you read through these seven verses, what stuck out to you in a new way?

PAUL’S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROMANS

Although many barriers separated them, Paul felt a deep bond with the church in Rome. They were his brothers and sisters in Christ, and he longed to meet them. He had never met these believers, but he cared deeply and felt a sense of responsibility for them. In this letter, Paul introduces himself and tries to unite the believers in Rome around the message of the Gospel.

2 - Read **Romans 3:23**. What does it mean to fall short of God's glory? Why is that really important to understand?

3 - Read **Romans 6:23**. What does the word "wages" mean? What does this passage say "eternal life" is? Why is it important to understand the distinction between these two ideas?

4 - Read **Romans 5:8**. Why is it so significant that Christ died for us "while we were still sinners"? Who initiates our salvation?

5 - Read **Romans 10:9-13**. Take a few minutes and share about when/how/why this passage became true for you. What were the circumstances surrounding you putting your faith in Christ? Or, if you haven't or aren't sure, what questions still linger for you about putting your faith in Christ?

6 - Read **Romans 5:1** and **Romans 8:1**. What assurances are we given when we put our faith in Christ? Why is this so important?

7 – Who is someone in your life (past or present) that has greatly helped you understand who Jesus is and what He offers you?

8 – This set of verses was coined to help believers share their faith with other people. What are the advantages of something like *Romans Road* in sharing the good news (the Gospel) with someone? What are the disadvantages?

9 – Paul cared deeply for the church in Rome, and he wanted to make sure they understood what the Gospel was. Imagine you're getting the opportunity to share this same message with a good friend. In your own words, write out *The Romans Road*.

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 30, 2022

WEEK FORTY-TWO

BEAR FRUIT

MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

PRAY ABOUT IT: Thank God that He's given us His Spirit. Ask God by His Spirit to help you reject the sinful nature (desires of the flesh) and to live according to His ways.

RECAP

The book of Galatians was written to the church in the region of Galatia (modern day Turkey). Many of the first Christians in Galatia had come from a Jewish background. As a result, some of these churches had started requiring that Jewish (Old Testament) rituals and customs, such as circumcision, be practiced before someone could become a Christian.

Paul writes the book of Galatians to counter that teaching. In Christ, there is freedom from the Law.

For more information about the book of Galatians, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdFnRf>



READ IT: Galatians 5:16-26

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – According to **verses 16-17**, there are two ways we can live. What are the two motivators/controllers/pathways that influence us? Give an example of living according to each one.

2 – Paul urges his readers to walk in step with the Spirit so that they don't "fulfill the desires of the flesh." Where does a person's sin nature come from and originate? See **Romans 8:13**, **Romans 6:6**, and **Psalms 51:5** for help with your answer.

3 – In **verses 19-21**, Paul lists some of the ways giving into the flesh shows up in our lives. Which of these sins do you see most frequently tolerated by Christians today? Why do you think we view them as less serious? Are they less serious?

4 – In **verse 16**, Paul says in order to not gratify the desires of the flesh, we are to walk by _____. In your own words, write out what you think that means and give some examples of how to do it.

5 – Read **John 15:16**. Speaking to His disciples, Jesus tells them that He wants them to bear fruit and for their fruit to abide. In this context, what do you think the word “abide” means? (It may be helpful to see how different versions translate it).

6 - What’s the difference between one-time fruit and abiding fruit? What does one-off expression of that fruit versus consistency in that fruit reveal about a person?

7 – Thinking in a practical, agricultural sense, what is necessary for something to bear fruit? How does that relate to the discussion of fruit by Jesus and Paul?

8 – In **verses 22-23**, Paul lists some examples of the fruit of the Spirit. Write down a synonym or definition of each to help you think in different ways about each.

Love –

Joy –

Peace –

Patience –

Kindness –

Goodness –

Faithfulness –

Gentleness –

Self-control –

9 – If you think over the course of 5, 10, or 20 years, which of these aspects have you seen grow in your life? How can past growth give you confidence of future growth?

10 – In **verses 24-26**, what is the connection between walking by the Spirit and walking with one another? How can we spur one another on rather than doing the harmful things of **verse 26**?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, November 6, 2022

WEEK FORTY-THREE

WINNER, WINNER CHEERFUL GIVER

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 – The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

PRAY ABOUT IT: God's generosity toward us spurs us to be generous toward others. Thank God for different ways that He's been generous to you.

RECAP

Last week, we looked at walking according to the Spirit instead of the flesh from Paul's letter to the Galatians. This week we'll look at another one of Paul's letters – 2 Corinthians.

Paul wrote a series of letters to the church in Corinth that was struggling to live out the faith they proclaimed. Paul instructs them on a host of issues with which they were struggling: sexual immorality, idolatry, church discipline, spiritual gifts, marriage, etc.

Paul wrote at least three (likely more) letters to this church. Only the two we have in the Bible are still in existence and considered Scripture.

For more information on the book of 2 Corinthians, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdGCc0>



READ IT: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – Read **9:1-5**. What is the immediate context for the passage we’re going to look at today?

2 – Read **verse 6**. What two words are repeated? Give a definition for each of these words.

Word #1 _____ :

Word #2 _____ :

3 – Put the principle of **verse 6** into your own words.

4 – Read **verse 7** in at least three translations. What should our attitude in giving not be? What does wrongly motivated giving reveal? What should our attitude in giving be?

5 – Share about a time when you were the recipient of someone’s generosity or you saw someone give in a generous way. What did you learn from that experience?

6 – **Verse 10** is an allusion to **Isaiah 55:10-11**. What is the context of those verses in Isaiah? How does that help you understand what Paul is talking about?

7 – How have you seen God work through people and the resources He’s given to them in the reaching of others?

8 – Read **verses 14-15**. What is the “incredible gift” Paul is talking about? When you aren’t feeling generous and aren’t wanting to give like **verse 7** describes, how can this “incredible gift” change your heart?

9 – Think through verses **9:6-15**, and make a list of who benefits when we give?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, November 13, 2022

WEEK FORTY-FOUR

JESUS > ADAM

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 5:18 – Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

PRAY ABOUT IT: When we read God’s Word, we aren’t alone. God’s Spirit stirs our hearts, illuminates our minds, and redirects our lives - all for the glory of Christ (**John 16:14**). Pray that God would meet you as you think and reflect upon this passage.

RECAP

This week we’re looking at an important theological topic. The Bible describes Adam as a “type” of the one who was to come. Adam was uniquely positioned as the head of the human race. Jesus, because of all He accomplished, is often referred to as the “Second Adam.”

The first Adam was created by God and had no sin nature. He was born of dust and the Spirit, which meant he was totally sinless and innocent. The second Adam, Jesus, (He was and always will be God the Son) took on flesh by being born of woman and Spirit. He also had no sin nature. Every other person who is born of a mother and father is born with a sin nature.

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul describes what God did through Jesus Christ to solve humanity’s greatest problem – guilt of sin.

READ IT: Romans 5:12-21

Disclaimer: It may be helpful to read these verses in a translation on the dynamic end of the spectrum (NIV or NLT).

1 – This week’s passage teaches that every person is either “in Adam” or “in Christ.” Before getting into the passage, what do you know about Adam? Why is he significant? How is everyone connected to him?

2 – **Romans 5:12-14** is one of the many sections of Scripture which supports the doctrine known as total depravity. This means that on our own, we are completely separated from God. Earlier in the book, Paul showed this very concisely. Read **Romans 3:9-20** and fill in the blanks.

- All are _____ (3:9b)
- No one is _____ (3:10)
- No one _____ (3:11a)
- No one _____ (3:11b)
- All have _____ (3:12a)
- Together all have _____ (3:12b)
- No one _____ (3:12c)
- No one _____ (3:18)

3 – In **verses 15-17**, circle the word “gift” and underline the word “trespass(es).” Why do you think these words are emphasized and contrasted with each other? What action is required to receive the free gift of God through Jesus Christ?

4 – In verse 17, Paul uses the word “reign” to explain the result of Adam’s actions and Christ’s actions. In this context, what do you think the word “reign” means?

What was Adam’s action _____

What reigned as a result _____

What was Christ’s action _____

What reigns as a result _____

5 – **Verse 18**, our memory verse this week, says the same thing a different way. What is the result of Adam’s “one trespass”? What are the results of Jesus’ “one act of righteousness”? What does that mean for us today?

WHAT DOES “JUSTIFICATION” MEAN ANYWAY?

Justification is the pivotal idea in the doctrine of salvation. Before Christ, there was judgment; now, there is justification. Being justified is far more than being pardoned or forgiven. Pardon is negative in the sense that it remits a penalty or a debt. Justification is positive in that it bestows a righteous status upon its object.

The president can pardon an offence, but he cannot reinstate the criminal’s position as one who has not broken the law. Pardon deals with past sin, but cannot deal with a man’s future relationship to the law. God deals with both--that is justification. Before Christ, there was judgment.

Now, there is justification!

Excerpt taken from The Jeremiah Study Bible, NIV Edition, page 1542

6 – Read **verses 13-14 and 20**. What does it mean that the purpose of the Law was “to increase the trespass”? Why would sin need to be increased by the Law? See **Galatians 3:19a, 23-25** for help with your answer. It maybe be helpful to read these verses in a few translations.

7 – How can you allow grace to reign in your life (**verse 21**)? What is the result of grace’s reign in the life of a believer? Give an example of what that might look like.

8 – This chapter discusses the “Two Adams.” In **chapters 6 and 7**, Paul discusses another pair. All Christians face the battle between the two natures residing within us – the flesh and the Spirit. When do “fleshly” attitudes or actions tend to come out of you? How can turning our hearts to the things of God allow the things of the Spirit to be produced in us?

9 – Salvation is a gift. Share about a meaningful gift you’ve received or given. How does that give you insight into the gift of salvation given by Jesus?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, November 20, 2022

WEEK FORTY-FIVE THREE-IN-ONE

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 1:13-14 – In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

PRAY ABOUT IT: This week, we're looking at the role of each individual person of the godhead and their role in our salvation. Ask God to help give you understanding and insight into who He is.

RECAP

The book of Ephesians was written by the Apostle Paul to Christians in Ephesus. In the first three chapters, Paul explains what the Gospel is. In the last three chapters, Paul tells us how to live in light of the Gospel.

For more information about the book of Ephesians, check out this view from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdGDHB>



READ IT: Ephesians 1:3-14

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – After introducing himself, Paul begins by giving an adoration to God. Why does he bless God in **verse 3**? What three things has God blessed us with?

2 – **Verse 4** says that God chose us before the world was created. What does this tell us about God and His attributes?

3 – In **verse 5**, Paul describes God adopting us into His family. In your own words, define “adoption.” What implications does adoption have vertically between us and God? What implications does adoption have horizontally between us and others?

4 – What does your adopted status do for your sense of security in Christ? Your motivation to live for him? Understanding of value?

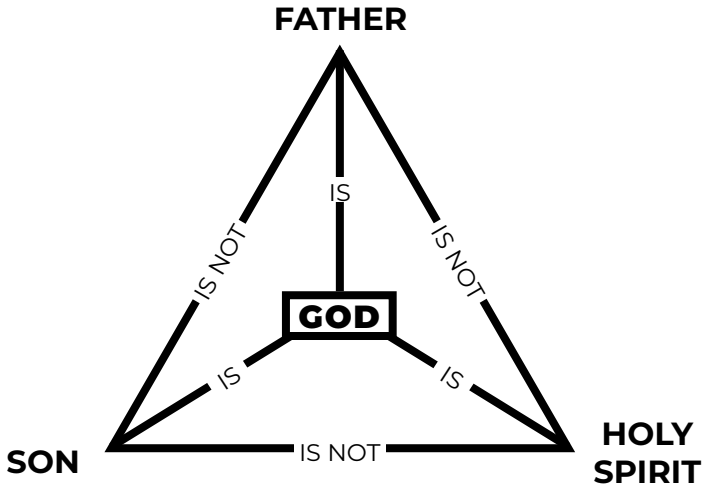
5 – In **verse 6**, the word “Beloved” is capitalized, indicating a proper noun. Who is this referencing? What does it mean to be blessed in the Beloved?

6 – Jesus’ power and love by itself wasn’t enough to purchase our redemption. According to **verse 7**, what was needed to pay for it? See **Hebrews 9:22** for help with your answer.

7 – What is God’s will as stated in **verse 10**? How does this give you hope for the future? How does it change how you might view those around you?

8 – Read **verse 13** in a couple different translations. What does it mean to be “sealed by the Holy Spirit?” What guarantee comes with a seal?

9 – Look at the diagram below. To the best of your ability, write out a definition and explanation of the Trinity.



10 – Paul didn't intend for this passage in Ephesians to be a systematic theology on the Trinity, but we clearly see each person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit) working together in our salvation. What sticks out or encourages you about this?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, November 27, 2022

WEEK FORTY-SIX

WALK THE WALK

MEMORY VERSE

Titus 3:4-6 – But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

PRAY ABOUT IT: God reminds us in this passage that we are saved by His mercy and not by our works. Thank Him for this great gift and pray that His Spirit would spur you to do good works out of gratitude for His gift.

RECAP

Over the last few weeks, we've looked up some of the core truths and implications of the Gospel. This week we'll see the same theme – living out the Gospel.

The book of Titus was written by the Apostle Paul to a young church planter living on the island of Crete.

For an overview of the book of Titus, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdGDRz>



READ IT: Titus 3:1-8

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – Who is the “them” that Paul is writing to in **verse 1**? Read this verse in the NLT for help with your answer. Why is this an important distinction?

2 - What commands are we given in **verses 1-2**. What stands out to you from this list? Are there any that have been particularly difficult for you?

ISLAND PARADISE?

The believers on the island of Crete were new converts in a culture where debauchery, corruption, and crudeness were celebrated. Paul wants Titus to model a different way for him and his church to live in the midst of this depraved culture.

3 – Why do you think Paul had to tell them to be submissive to rulers and authorities? Why and how is this command difficult for us to follow? When is it legitimate to not be submissive to rulers and authorities? See **Romans 13:1** and **1 Peter 2:13-15** for help with your answer.

4 – We often think that freedom means doing anything we want to do. What does **verse 3** say about doing whatever we want to do? How does that run counter to the world's definition of freedom?

5 – According to **verse 5**, what are we saved by? What doesn't save us? Why does this distinction matter?

6 – Read **verse 6**. What word is used to describe how God's Spirit is poured out on us? How does this help us understand the generosity of God?

7 – In **verse 7**, Paul describes us as heirs. What does it mean to be an heir? Despite our sin, flaws, past mistakes, etc., God has made us heirs. How does that give you hope?

8 – Why do you think Paul feels the need to emphasize and reiterate in **verse 8** that this teaching is trustworthy? See **1 Timothy 1:15** for help with your answer.

9 – What are believers commanded to devote themselves to at the end of **verse 8**? If we're saved by God's grace and not by works (**verse 5**), then why are we given this command? What is the connection between faith, works, and salvation? Which comes first?

FAITH & WORKS

The interplay between faith and works has been debated throughout the history of Christianity. As Protestants, we believe that salvation comes through faith alone. Works are the natural outgrowth of our salvation, not part of gaining it.

See this article from Got Questions on how to understand the Bible's teaching on faith and works.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/faith-vs-works.html>

10 – How does this passage help you to remind yourself daily of God's grace and mercy? How can that motivate you to live a life of good works?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, December 4, 2022

WEEK FORTY-SEVEN

PATMOS PROPHECY

MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

PRAY ABOUT IT: In the midst of chaos, God is at work redeeming and restoring. As we look at the book of Revelation, ask that God would remind you and show you what He's doing.

RECAP

Over the last few weeks, we've looked at epistles giving us instructions for how to live out our faith. This week we'll begin closing out this series by looking at the beginning of the book of Revelation.

For more information about the first part of the book of Revelation, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdGDzt>



READ IT: Revelation 1:1-20

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – According to **verse 1**, what is the purpose of the book of Revelation?

2 – What are some of the thoughts that come to your mind when you think about the book of **Revelation**?

AS A MATTER OF FACT

In **verses 5-8**, twelve statements are made about Jesus Christ.

Fill in the blanks, and reflect upon who He is, and what He does on our behalf.

Hints are provided in parentheses.

Jesus Christ is the faithful _____.

Jesus Christ is the _____ of the dead.

Jesus Christ is the _____ of kings on earth.

Jesus Christ _____ us.

Jesus Christ has _____ us from our sins by His blood.

Jesus Christ made us to be a _____ and _____
to serve God the Father.

Jesus Christ deserves eternal _____ and _____.

Jesus Christ is _____ with the clouds so that everyone will see Him.

Jesus Christ was _____ (for our transgressions).

Jesus Christ the _____ and the _____ (A to Z).

Jesus Christ _____ (present) and _____ (past) and
_____ (future).

Jesus Christ is the _____.

3 – Why is it important for us to read this book? Read **Revelation 1:3** and **22:7**. This promise is true for all books of the Bible, but unique to Revelation. Why do you think it’s specifically included here?

4 – Reread **verse 9**. How does John identify himself to his readers? Where is John, and why is he there? What can we learn about John and his audience by how he introduces himself?

WHO WAS “JOHN THE REVELATOR?”

The book of **Revelation** was written by John, who also wrote four other NT books: the gospel of **John** and 1-3 **John**. Along with Peter and his brother James, he was one of Jesus’ closest disciples and was with Jesus during the most critical moments of His ministry. He was most likely the only disciple who witnessed Jesus’s crucifixion, and Jesus entrusted His mother Mary to John while hanging on the cross (**John 19:26-27**).

In his gospel, John repeatedly referred to himself as
“the disciple whom Jesus loved”.

Most Bible scholars believe the book of **Revelation** was written around AD 96. According to church history, all of the other disciples had been martyred by that time. John also faced intense persecution as a follower of Christ. Tertullian, an early church historian, wrote, “Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile.” It’s from this place of exile that John writes this book.

5 – According to **verse 10**, John heard “a loud voice like a trumpet” speaking to him from behind. Who do we find out in **verses 13-16** that this voice belongs to? What can we learn about Him from some of the symbolic descriptors?

6 – In **verses 17-18**, how does John react to seeing Jesus? What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? Why is this necessary in order for this to be good news?

7 – **Verse 19** gives us a three-part outline for this book. What are the three parts?

8 – What stands out to you about Jesus from the **first chapter of Revelation**? How can the purpose of this book and the truths about Jesus encourage you as we await His return?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, December 11, 2022

WEEK FORTY-EIGHT

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 21:4 – He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

PRAY ABOUT IT: It's vital that we approach God's word in prayer. Ask that the Holy Spirit would make this passage come alive as you discuss it.

RECAP

This is the final week of our *Year Thru the Bible* journey. The last two chapters of Revelation paint a picture of the world we will one day inherit. The last two chapters of the Bible intentionally and specifically echo the first two chapters of the Bible. The New Heavens and New Earth are described like a return to Eden.

For more information about the second half of the book of Revelation, check out this video from The Bible Project.

<https://qrco.de/bdGEAz>



READ IT: Revelation 21:1-22:5

DISCUSS IT: *If needed, an answer key is available at www.lifepointne.com/sermons.*

1 – In **Revelation 21:1**, John says the first heaven and first earth “passed away.” What do you think it means that they will “pass away”? What comes to mind?

2 – Read **Revelation 21:1, 21:4, and 22:5**. What do they have in common? What do you think that means?

3 – Why is it significant that there will be a new heaven and a new earth?

GOD’S PRESENCE

The Holy of Holies represented God’s special presence among His people. We talked about the Holy of Holies when we looked at the Tabernacle in **Exodus 35-40**.

To refamiliarize yourself with the concept, check out this article from Got Questions.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-of-Holies.html>

4 – Read **Revelation 21:15-17**. What stands out to you in this description. What shape does he describe?

5 – This isn't the only time this shape has been described. The Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and later the Temple are described in the same way. What does that communicate about the New Jerusalem?

STRIKING SIMILARITIES

Fill out the chart comparing and contrasting Eden and the New Jerusalem.

EDEN	NEW JERUSALEM
Genesis 2:9	Revelation 22:2
Genesis 2:10	Revelation 22:1
Genesis 2:11	Revelation 21:18-21

7 – Read **Genesis 1:14-18**. The creation of the sun, moon, and stars was for ruling the day, night, and seasons. What is the significance of these seasonal markers not being in the New Jerusalem?

8 – Read **Revelation 21:25-27**. What do you think it means that the city gates will never close? Why would a city need gates? What does not needing gates communicate about this place?

9 – Compare **Genesis 3:17-18** to **Revelation 22:2-3**. How does Revelation describe a reversal of the **Genesis 3** curses?

10 – There are many questions and unknowns regarding Revelation and the end times. What things can we know for certain? How could you use what is known to encourage someone afraid of or nervous for the future?

APPLY IT:

Rewrite this week's memory verse in the space below.

What is one thing that really stood out to you from this passage?

SERMON NOTES
Sunday, December 18, 2022