

3.1 Introduction to the New Testament

Discussion Date: 1-21-2007

Goal: read and come with Qs and comments to help one another

Key texts for meditation: Jn 13.7, 20; 14.25-26; 15.26; 16.12-13

If you can do only a little reading in advance, focus on these texts

Why is it somewhat misleading to say that the early church only had the OT as its Bible?

From the beginning, the church had the essence of the NT, in two ways. First, the church had memories, reports, and information about the sayings of Jesus. Second, the church had the teaching of the apostles (Acts 2.42), which authoritatively reported on the work of Christ per the Lord's commission (Jn 16.12, 13).

How can the following list of things make up a sentence explanation of the Bible?

Bible: 66 books (OT/NT; promise/fulfillment)

Special: direct, in words

Redemptive: saving, restoring (for the glory of God)

Revelation: disclosure of the mind of God

Sinners: covenant breakers (context: redemptive history and revelation are covenantal)

Image of God: design of man to glorify God by reflection

For a start, we say, "the Bible (composed of OT and NT; promise and fulfillment), is the direct-saving-restorative word of God that reveals His mind and will in the saving of covenant breakers, saved by the work of His Son, Jesus-Messiah, in order that they may fulfill their role of glorifying and enjoying Him forever in eternal Sabbath rest purposed for man, God image, from the beginning."

In what sense do we get apostolic interpretation from all the NT books *including the Gospels and Acts*? The Gospels and Acts present the perspective of the narrator who interprets by the blessing of the Spirit.