

NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONS Course Guide

The Gospels
The Book of Acts

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The first five books of the New Testament are key books of the Bible since they narrate the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as the beginnings of his church. Each of the four gospels has a unique perspective and a unique purpose. In lessons one through five, this course explains the background, the structure, the main contents, and the major themes of each gospel. In lessons six through eight, we'll look at the Book of Acts, exploring Luke's main points as he wrote and providing the framework he gave his readers as a context for understanding primary and secondary matters. This course is based on two Thirdmill video series, *The Gospels* and *The Book of Acts*, produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Pete Alwinson and Dr. Hans F. Bayer.

COURSE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND LIST OF MODULES

Goals

In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope you will learn the key information about the background, the contents, and the major themes of each of the gospels.
2. We hope you grow in your desire to know Jesus better and follow Him more faithfully as you study the gospels.
3. We hope that you will apply to your own life the lessons learned as you study the four gospels especially that you come to know Jesus better and follow Him more faithfully.
4. We hope you will make use of all the resources of the course to learn key things about the background and content of The Book of Acts.
5. We hope you will become enthusiastic about doing your part to help extend the kingdom of God throughout the world.
6. We hope you make some changes in your life as a response to the teachings of The Book of Acts, especially making a greater effort to do your part in the extension of the kingdom of God.

Objectives

When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can:
 - Identify key information about the background of each of the four gospels, including their author, the audience, the date of composition, and the purpose.
 - Identify the structure and key contents of each of the four gospels.
 - Identify the major themes of each of the four gospels.
 - Identify key information about the background, structure, content and themes of The Book of Acts.
2. Complete the study guides, expressing your sentiments toward Jesus and the extension of the kingdom of God, and showing how you have applied the teachings of the course to your own life, especially how the course has helped you know Jesus better and follow Him more faithfully, as well as the ways in which the Book of Acts has encouraged you to work for the extension of the kingdom of God.

List of Modules for New Testament Foundations Course

1. Introduction to the Gospels
2. The Gospel of Matthew
3. The Gospel of Mark
4. The Gospel of Luke
5. The Gospel of John
6. The Background of Acts
7. Structure and Content of Acts
8. Major Themes in Acts

EXPLANATION OF COURSE ELEMENTS

Badge

1. Each week, part of your group discussion time should be devoted to working through the ***Badge document***. This two-page guide will provide a general direction for your Trainer as you seek to develop this vital ministry skill.
2. In the first few weeks, part of your discussion time will be spent walking through the *Discussion Topics* given in the Badge Instructions.

3. Once a solid foundation has been laid through the group discussion times, spend the remaining weeks working through the badge *Call to Action*.
4. You will be awarded the badge once your Trainer has determined the completion of the action steps in light of the Badge Instructions.

Modules

1. Study the *lessons*; watching the **video**, listening to the **audio**, or reading the **manuscript**.
2. Complete the **Study Guide** for each module. These study guides will prepare you for the online quiz.
3. Take the online **Quiz** for each module. The quizzes may be taken as many times as you want, but you must wait one hour between each attempt. Your highest grade will be the official grade. We suggest achieving at least an 80% before participating in the weekly discussion to ensure you understand the concepts correctly.
4. Participate in the weekly *discussions* with your group and Trainer, utilizing the **Discussion Guide**. These discussions are vital to your full understanding of the course material and your ability to correctly apply the concepts to your life and ministry. We recommend the discussion for each module last at least one hour.

Final Exam

You may take the test as many times as you want for review, but you must wait one hour between each attempt. The official grade will be your highest grade, and in order to complete the course, you must achieve at least an 80% on the Final Exam.

GRADES

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

1. The quizzes on the lectures are each worth 30 points.
2. The final exam on the lectures is worth 100 points.
3. The Badge won't affect your grade but must be completed to the satisfaction of the Trainer and marked as complete on the Foundations Certificate Checklist.

A total course score above 80% is considered passing.

List of Contributors to this course (institutions listed *relative to the time of recording*)

Dr. Pete Alwinson is the founding pastor of Willow Creek Church, PCA, Winter Springs, FL, where he served as Senior Pastor for 26 years.

Dr. Richard J. Bauckham is a New Testament scholar and author and is Professor Emeritus at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

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