

**"Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 14: *The Inspiration of the New Testament (cont.)***

*Tuesday Night Bible Study, July 11, 2006*

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

--intro / review key points from last week:

--the authority of the New Testament is rooted in the authority that Jesus gave the 12 apostles who personally accompanied Jesus from the beginning to the end of His earthly ministry

--At the last supper, Jesus told the 12 apostles, "I still have many things to say to you, but you 'cannot bear them now. However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...**" (John 16:12-14)

--after His resurrection, Jesus gave the 11 remaining apostles the Great Commission: "**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...**" (Matt 28:19-20)

--Right before His return to heaven, Jesus commanded the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit, as they were totally dependent on the Holy Spirit... "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father [the Holy Spirit]**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 ... 8 But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" (Acts 1:4-8)

--through the New Testament, the apostles teach and make disciples "of all the nations" (Matt 28:19-20) "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

--transference of Jesus Christ's teachings... **Jesus Christ >> apostles / apostle associates (through the Holy Spirit) >> the Bible >> all generations** (to whom the Holy Spirit illuminates the Bible)

--1 Corinthians 2:12-14: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ... 14 But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** "

--the New Testament authors:

--the authority of the original 12 apostles to record God's Word in Scripture was carried over to a select few of their associates (Mark, Luke, Paul, James, Jude). The word of the original 12 carried divine authority and by sanctioning their personal associates (also called "apostles" in a more general sense) they in effect made the word of their associates divinely authoritative and qualified to be included in the canon of scripture. The organic process of recording New Testament scripture could only occur in the generation of the original 12 apostles, thus precluding the myriad of false throughout the ages.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS:	AUTHORS:		
Matthew	<b>apostle</b>	Matthew	disciple of Jesus
Mark	associate of the original apostles	Mark	associate of Peter and Paul
Luke, Acts	associate of the original apostles	Luke	associate of Paul
John; 1,2,3 John; Revelation	<b>apostle</b>	John	disciple of Jesus
Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews	"13 <sup>th</sup> <b>apostle</b> " + associate of the original apostles	Paul	direct encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus
James*	associate of the original apostles	James	brother of Jesus
1 & 2 Peter	<b>apostle</b>	Peter	disciple of Jesus
Jude	associate of the original apostles	Jude	brother of Jesus

**--Matthew, John, Peter:**

--of the original 12 apostles

**--Mark (John Mark):**

--Mark is frequently documented throughout the New Testament as an assistant and "fellow laborer" of the apostles Peter and Paul (Acts 12:25; 13:5; 13:13; 15:37-41; Colossians 4:10, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:11, 1 Peter 5:13). Nelson's Bible dictionary states, *Writing at an early date, Papias (A.D. 60-130), whose report is followed by Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 150-215), tells us that Mark served as Peter's interpreter in Rome and wrote his gospel from Peter's remembrances.*

**--Luke:**

--Luke "the beloved physician" was a "fellow laborer" of the apostle Paul (Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:11, Colossians 4:14)

--when Paul faced execution on death row, he mentioned Luke's faithfulness in his letter to Timothy: "Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. **11 Only Luke is with me.** Get Mark [John Mark] and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (2 Timothy 4:9-12)

**--James:**

--There were several people named James in the New Testament, but James the brother of Jesus wrote the N.T. book of James. James the brother of Jesus didn't believe in Christ until after the resurrection and became one of the main leaders of the early church (Acts 15:13-21; 21:17-18; Galatians 2:9; 1:19; 1 Corinthians 9:5)

--Paul called James an "apostle" (Galatians 1:19)

**--Jude:**

--Jude, like James, was a brother of Jesus who didn't have faith in Christ until after His resurrection. Little is known about Jude and he wrote only the small book of Jude (only 24 verses).

**--the apostle Paul:**

--Paul has been called the 13<sup>th</sup> apostle (after the original 12) because of His direct encounter with Christ and His approval by the original apostles

--Paul's conversion and commission: "But the Lord said to him [Ananias who baptized Paul], 'Go, **for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.**'" (Acts 9:15)

--Paul's apostleship was confirmed by the apostles at the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:6-29, Galatians 1:18,19)

--Paul wrote, "**He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles...**" (Galatians 2:8)

--the apostle Peter categorized Paul's writings as Scripture: "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. **16** He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, **as they do the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

--in almost all of his epistles, Paul introduces himself as an apostle. Example: "Paul, a bondservant of God and **an apostle of Jesus Christ**, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which

God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but **has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior.** (Titus 1:1-3: ) \*\*\*the process of recording and spreading God's word may seem imperfect; but, in a sense, it isn't the way God originally intended for His Word to be known – it is a rescue operation in a fallen world... His eternal truth... "in due time manifested... through preaching..."

--biographical overview of how God called Paul to be an apostle: **"But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.** 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. 20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.) 21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 **And they glorified God in me.**" (Galatians 1:1-24)

--maybe one reason God chose someone like Paul to be such an instrumental figure in the church and write so many key books of the New Testament was that Paul exemplified how Jesus Christ changes lives for the glory of God - "and they glorified God in me..." (Galatians 1:24)

### **--the continuity of the New Testament is a hallmark of authenticity**

--The major doctrines of Christianity depend on multiple passages written by multiple authors, and all the books of the New Testament are built around the central theme that Jesus Himself emphasized right before He ascended back to heaven: "**repentance**", "**remission of sins**", and "**the Promise of the Father**" (the Holy Spirit through whom we have a personal relationship with God after we receive after we repent of our sins and receive remission of sins)

--Luke 24:46-51: "Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that **repentance** and **remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send **the Promise of My Father** upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

--Peter's sermon in Acts: "... 38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**; and you shall receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:14-39)

--central themes of the New Testament seen in the intro/conclusions of 20 out of 22 New Testament books that cover the period of time after Jesus Christ ascended back to heaven:

**Grace... remission of sins / Peace... through the Holy Spirit.... / the Lord Jesus Christ.... repentance**

Introduction to Romans (ch.1, verse 7)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Corinthians (ch.1, verse 3)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 2 Corinthians (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Galatians (ch.1, verses 3-4)  
"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Ephesians (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Philippians (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to Colossians (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians (ch.1, verse 1)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 2 Thessalonians (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Introduction to 1 Timothy (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord..."

Introduction to 2 Timothy (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord..."

Introduction to Titus (ch.1, verse 4)  
"Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior..."

Introduction to Philemon (verse 3)  
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Conclusion of Hebrews (ch.13, verse 25)  
"Grace be with you all. Amen."

Introduction to 1 Peter (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace to you and peace be multiplied..."

Introduction to 2 Peter (ch.1, verse 2)  
"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord..."

Introduction to 2 John (verse 3)  
"Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Conclusion to 3 John (verse 14)  
"Peace to you..." 2 John 3

Introduction to Jude (verse 2)  
"Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you..."

Introduction to Revelation (ch.1, verse 4)  
"Grace to you and peace from Him..."

And the very last sentence of the Bible (Revelation 22:21)  
"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

--The central theme is summed up by two words – Jesus Christ. Remission of sins **through Christ**, repentance to **follow Christ**, and relationship **with Christ** through the Holy Spirit. Hence, the apostle Paul's declaration:

--Colossians 1:28-29: "**Him we preach**, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present **every man perfect in Christ Jesus**. 29 To this end I also labor, **striving according to His working which works in me mightily**."

--"perfect in Christ Jesus" = forgiven ("remission of sins"), in relationship with Christ (through the Holy Spirit, "the Promise of the Father"), following Christ ("repentance")

--"striving according to His working which works in me mightily..." includes the Holy Spirit composing Scripture through Paul...