



ACTS TO REVELATION BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Dear Bible Correspondence Course Student,

The Canadian Lord's Day Association (CLDA), which publishes the *Daily Diary* you may have in your pocket, has prepared this course for people like you, who want to learn more about the Bible.

The "*Acts to Revelation Bible Study*" has been developed to help followers read thoughtfully through Scripture. The explanatory notes and questions in each lesson are intended to assist with understanding difficult portions of Scripture. Each of the 89 lessons accompany the assigned readings of Holy Scripture. The course will be sent to participants in packets containing four lessons. After you have completed a packet of lessons, mail it to the CLDA address in the postage-paid return envelope provided. After we have marked the lessons, we will send you the next set of lessons. When all lessons are finished, a certificate and a special gift will be awarded to graduates. Though not required to complete the course, students may wish to have a copy of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible which was used by the author. A free complimentary copy of the KJV Bible may be requested through your chaplain from the CLDA or directly from the Trinitarian Bible Society.

Due to the generosity of our donors, the CLDA offers all diaries and courses free of charge. Many inmates who have graduated with certificates of completion have expressed sincere appreciation for the simple yet profound instruction they received by these means. It is our sincere desire and pleasure to share the blessing of God's precious Word with others.

Sincerely,

The Prison Ministry Committee of the CLDA

Introduction

God clearly reveals Himself as a wonderful Creator to all those who will but consider His handiwork in nature. “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead...” (Romans 1:20). Today, however, many openly reject God and will not acknowledge Him, preferring to remain in darkness regarding Him and His message. Regrettably, despite the explosive growth in man’s abilities and knowledge in general, without the illumination of the Holy Spirit, we all have chosen blindness, and are “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7). In general, as a community, God has given historical faith to believe that God exists and has created the world out of nothing in six days.



While we can learn much concerning the truths of God from creation, (God’s general revelation), we need a deeper, more gracious revelation if we are to understand, even in a small way, God’s purposes and plans for man and creation. We find this deeper revelation, this specific or special revelation, recorded in the Bible. And what a blessing it is that God chooses to reveal these things to sinful man in writing! God communicates to us in the Bible so much about Who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing! Instead of abandoning His image bearers to their chosen rebellion, God gives us the Bible out of pure mercy. In it He chooses to reveal to man “things the angels desire to look into” (1 Peter 1:12). If the angels are intrigued by this Book, should we not also be eager to study it in depth? This is particularly true when we realize that the Bible has been written by God for our benefit. In the Bible God reveals His way of salvation, a “salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow, unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven...” (1 Peter 1:9-12).

Without the Bible then we would remain incredibly ignorant of so many crucial, potentially life-changing things: Who is God? Who made this universe, and for what purpose? Why are there so many things that seem wrong in the world? What about me – where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? How can I know the Truth? How can I please God? In the face of so many questions, we should obviously pay very close attention to the answers God gives us in His Word. When Jesus walked among men, He said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Mat. 4:4), and, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39).

Obviously, if we desire the true knowledge that can make one wise, we should carefully study this Word of God. It is a Book that is so profound it will require a lifetime of study, and yet, even with that much concentration, it will not profit us without the Holy Spirit’s blessing. During your studies then, remember to ask God to bless all your reading and meditation. He is faithful to His promises. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5). “And I [Jesus] say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened...If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask him?” (Luke 11:9-10)

By way of introduction, there are a number of different ways to approach the study of the Bible. The Bible can be studied by topic, by individual verse, and by individual book. This series provides a general survey or broad overview of parts of the Bible, covering Acts to Revelation. Using this series of workbooks, you will eventually read most of these books of the Bible. Hopefully this study will inspire you to continue reading through the entire Old and New Testaments of Holy Scripture.

Again, during this course of study, remember that the Bible is truly one of the greatest gifts God has given you. In it He lovingly calls to sinners (“Come unto me all ye that are weary...turn ye turn ye for why will ye die”) and testifies of His abiding love (“For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son...John 3:16). As you study this profound gift, realize that it is God Who is speaking. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open our dead hearts to hear this Word of God.

General Format of Bible

In one sense, the Bible could be called the Library of God. It consists of 66 books, divided into two main sections: the Old Testament contains 39 books, and the New Testament contains 27 books. The New Testament begins with the **gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.**

“Gospel” means “good news” and four men were moved by God to record many of the details of Jesus Christ’s life on earth. Matthew and John were of the 12 apostles, while Mark (better known as John Mark) was an early believer and Luke was the “beloved physician.” Each of these men was an eyewitness to many of the things they wrote, and together their books provide a firsthand view of Christ’s ministry.

The books from Acts to Revelation, upon which this course is based follow immediately after the gospels and can be divided into the following different categories.

Historical Book: Acts

It has often been remarked that the book called “The Acts of the Apostles” could better be called “The Acts of the Holy Ghost,” due to the fact that so much of what occurs in its pages is the result of the power of the Spirit. This book shows how the early church grew following Pentecost as the “Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

Pauline Epistles: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

The letters of Paul, called Pauline epistles, were written to specific churches of individuals and cover a great variety of instruction in doctrine and practice. Paul was a highly accomplished Pharisee, a rabbi in his own right. God converted this man in a remarkable way on the Damascus road and declared him a “chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

General Epistles: Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, 1, 2&3 John, Jude

These letters are more general in nature and written to the worldwide church. As a result, they are not focused on correcting doctrinal errors in early believers, but on providing encouragement to those that are suffering persecution and on warning against false teachers.

New Testament Prophetical Book: Revelation

John wrote Revelation while a prisoner on the island of Patmos, approximately 85-95 A.D. Its purpose is to give encouragement and hope for all Christians to continue watching for the return and triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ. It also is to warn of the Final Judgment that nonbelievers will endure on that Last Day.