

Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach

*“Indeed, the word of God is living and active”*

- Hebrews 4.12

**Week 3**

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# Understanding the Bible

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# Class Objective

To Understand the Bible's:

- History
- Structure
- Reliability
- Purpose
- Meaning

In order that we might more fully engage with the Bible's  
**Message and Importance** for our lives.

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# Understanding the Bible

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# Why Bother?

- Good News!

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

- Jesus, John 3.16-17

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# More Good News!

*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.*

- Paul, 1Timothy 1.15

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# Review: *What is the Bible?*

- A Library, not a Book
- The story of a God who loves us enough to create us, walk with us, rescue us, sustain us and give us eternal life.
- 2 Main Sections: Old Testament (pre-Jesus) and New Testament (Jesus & Early Church)

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# Old Testament

- 39 Books, written between 1200-300BC
- 5 Sections:
  - Pentateuch (Books of Moses) - 5 books
  - History - 12 books
  - Poetry & Wisdom Literature - 5 books
  - Major Prophets - 5 books
  - Minor Prophets - 12 books

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# New Testament

- Jesus and after
- 27 Books, written between 50-100AD
  - 3 Sections:
    - Gospels & Acts (5 books)
    - Letters(Epistles) (21)
    - Revelation (1)

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# New Testament

- Gospels & Acts
- Narrative: Tell the story of Jesus and the early church.
  - 4 Gospels
    - Matthew, Mark, Luke/Acts (synoptics)
    - John

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# New Testament

- Most scholars think that Mark was written first
- Written for different audiences
  - Matthew: Jewish audience
  - Luke: Gentiles

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# New Testament

- Letters (Epistles)
  - 13 Pauline Epistles
    - Romans
    - 1&2 Corinthians
    - Galatians
    - Ephesians(?)
    - Philippians
    - Colossians(?)
    - 1&2 Thessalonians(2?)
    - 1&2 Timothy(?)
    - Titus(?)
    - Philemon

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# New Testament

- 13 Pauline Epistles
- Written to specific people/time/place - very focused
- Purpose:
  - Explain Gospel - Good News of Jesus Christ
  - Encouragement/Rebuke
  - Address Division, Encourage Love, Patience, Reconciliation
    - Jew/Gentile, Christian/Pagan
  - Moral/Ethical Guidance

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