

**Seminar Outline: New Testament Survey**  
**Seven (7) lessons**  
**By Bob Young**

This survey is based on seven fundamental concepts, each connected with and illustrated by a specific section of the New Testament. This provides a convenient way to introduce the concepts and summarize the New Testament. This is not intended to suggest that the concepts are not limited to one section of Scripture; they flow through the New Testament as a part of God's plan for humanity.

When these seven lessons are used in a seminar, the ideal is to have seven hours of teaching during the weekend, based on the schedule that is best for the local church. The seminar can also be done in a single day on Saturday, but participation is usually better with a two or three day schedule. The Sunday morning Bible class can be used as one of the seven sessions. I prefer to use the sermon to focus on the importance of honoring and understanding the Word of God.

**The Gospels: In Jesus Christ, we receive the REVELATION of God's "Good News" Plan**

- Jesus came as a part of the eternal plan of God.
- In Jesus Christ, we have the revelation of God's plan. Jesus is the living word, even as Scripture is the written word. Jesus is the "word"—God's communication. Jesus reveals God's nature, characteristics, and eternal plan and purpose.
- God's plan is consistent with God nature, honoring God's justice, holiness, and gracious love.
- The gospels tell of the Christ who came teaching/preaching/healing, dying.
- Jesus came to die and be resurrected.
- A general outline of the gospels is as follows: (1) identity stories, (2) early ministry, (3) ministry climax—feeding of 5000, (4) later ministry, organized around three predictions of his death, (5) final week—death and resurrection, (6) post-resurrection
- In Jesus' death, God deals with the sin problem (the blood of bulls and goats could not remove sin)

**Acts: RE-CREATION—Church established through preaching of gospel**

- In Acts, God's plan is preached with the result that the people of God are redeemed and recreated. God creates (re-creates) new spiritual persons, a new people of God.
- The church is the re-created people of God.
- This process occurs in stages (Acts 1:8; six summaries)
- The preaching of the gospel, when received, results in people saved, blessed by the presence of the Spirit, and added to the church

### **Romans: REBIRTH and RENEWAL—the presence of God’s Holy Spirit**

- The rebirth and renewal of God’s people is possible through the presence of God’s Holy Spirit within and among his people. [Titus 3:3-7]
- God’s plan through the gospel, 1:16
- The wrath of God, the righteousness of God, two ways to deal with the sin problem (1:17-3:20)
- The righteousness of God, 3:21-4:25
- The results—conquest of sin and death (5-7), the presence of God’s Holy Spirit (8)
- [9-11, how God used Israel for his purposes, rejecting then blessing]
- The renewed life, 12-16

### **Paul’s Letters and Hebrews: RECONCILIATION—the Ministry of the gospel in the New Covenant**

- The renewal comes through the reconciliation made possible under the New Covenant.
- Galatians—three options
- Ephesians—God’s purpose to unite, reconcile, and reveal his glory
- Philippians, Colossians—seeing Jesus clearly
- Corinthians, Philemon, Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus—guiding the daily life of God’s reconciled people in the context of the church, how to deal with problems

### **Luke, General Epistles: REVERSED Living—Authentic Discipleship**

- God’s redemptive work redefines what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Authentic discipleship turns the world upside down.
- Luke—a gospel of reversals, what is the source of genuine honor

### **John (Gospel and Letters): RIGHTEOUSNESS—the gift and work of God in our lives**

- Half a century after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the primary question of the church was not doctrinal but practical—how does a Christian live?
- John goes back beyond the beginning of time, his is a cosmic, philosophical presentation, conflict and resolution
- John answers the question in the Gospel by giving details of how Jesus encountered and ministered to various persons during his ministry, in a series of miracle stories.
- The focus of John’s letters is on living out God’s righteousness in our lives.

### **The Revelation: RESURRECTION—the gospel of living “Anew”**

- The contrast between the old and the new, the earth and the heavens, the persecutors and the persecuted is clearly focused in Revelation.
- A literal reading of a figurative book has led to many strange ideas—at times even among well-meaning people of God.