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New Testament Fluency

in 12 Weeks

Workbook

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***Acts & Letters of Paul***

**Acts & Letters of Paul**

Chorus

**I am not ashamed of the gospel**

**It is the power of God to save**

**I am not ashamed of the gospel**

**The gospel that is by faith**

*Be able to recognize Romans 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man will live by faith.”*

**Acts**

1. “Acts continues Luke’s account”

*Acts is actually part two of the book that Luke began when he wrote the Gospel of Luke. (The rest of the verses in this song apart from Acts are about letters that Paul wrote.) Read Acts 1:1-11. What promises do the disciples receive in this section?*

1. “The Spirit comes at Pentecost”

*The Day of Pentecost was part of the Feast of Weeks, one of the festivals that God instructed the people of Israel to celebrate. It occurred 50 days after the Passover. (See Leviticus 23:15-21 and Deuteronomy 16:9-12 for more background.) But in our song, it refers to a day when something important happened to the earliest disciples of Jesus.*

*Read Acts 2:1-42. What happened on the Day of Pentecost to the earliest disciples? Then what happened after Peter preached his sermon?*

1. “Peter in prison”

*Read Acts 4:1-4 and 5:17-26 and 12:1-5. How did the religious leaders in Jerusalem respond to the preaching of Peter and other early Christians?*

1. “Stephen stoned”

*Read Acts 6:8-15 and 7:51-60. Why was Stephen put to death?*

1. “Saul [called]”

*Read Acts 9:1-22. What surprising event happened to Saul [his other name in Acts is Paul] as he traveled on the road to Damascus? How was Saul different after this event?*

1. “And Cornelius called”

*Read Acts 10:1-8 and 10:44-48. Was Cornelius a Jew or a Gentile (see 10:1)? What happened to Cornelius and those in his household when Peter spoke the truth about Jesus?*

1. “Paul embarks on three journeys”

*A large portion of Acts is concerned with Paul’s [Saul’s] three missionary journeys (through many parts of modern-day Turkey and Greece—see Acts 13-21).*

*Read Acts 13:1-4; 15:36-41; 18:22-23. From which church was Paul (and his companions) sent out for their missionary work?*

1. “Stops at Corinth”

*Read Acts 18:1-11. How long did Paul stop and minister in Corinth during his second missionary journey?*

1. “And Ephesus”

*Read Acts 19:8-10. How long did Paul minister out of the school of Tyrannus in Ephesus on his second missionary journey?*

*Read Acts 20:31. How much total time did Paul spend teaching and preaching in Ephesus?*

1. “Imprisonment in Palestine”

*Paul was imprisoned in Palestine (Caesarea) after almost getting killed in a riot at Jerusalem. Read Acts 24:27. How long was he in prison during the time that Felix was proconsul in Caesarea?*

1. “Waiting for trial in Rome”

*After Paul’s appeal to Caesar, he was taken to Rome and put under house arrest. Read Acts 28:16 and 28:30-31. How long was Paul under house arrest in Rome? What level of freedom did he have?*

**Romans**

1. “In Romans; all of us have sinned. The gospel shows God’s righteousness. God will justify in Christ everyone who believes”

*The first five chapters of Romans lay out the gospel that Paul preached. This includes the sinfulness of humans, the vindication of the righteousness of God through Christ, and justification by faith.*

*Be able to recognize Romans 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous shall live by faith.’”*

*Be able to recognize Romans 3:23, “…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

*Be able to recognize Romans 3:21-22, “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed to by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.”*

*Read Romans 1:16-17 and 3:21-26. What is the good news (gospel) according to Romans 3:21-26? (You may need to use a dictionary if you come across any unfamiliar words in this section).*

1. “We died and rose and live in Christ”

*Read Romans 6:1-7. Paul compared our new life in Christ Jesus with what?*

*Be able to recognize Romans 6:1-4, “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*

1. “The Spirit helps us overcome”

*Read Romans 8:1-27. What do we learn about life lived under the power of the Holy Spirit from this passage?*

1. “The Gentiles also grafted in”

*Read Romans 11:17-18. Paul addressed the “wild olive branches” (the Gentiles) and reminded them that they have been grafted into God’s plan of salvation (which some thought was only for Jews, but Paul made clear was for Gentiles also). What sort of attitude did Paul tell the Gentiles that they should avoid as a result of their being grafted in alongside the believing Jews?*

*Be able to recognize Romans 11:17-18, “But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.”*

1. “Let us build each other up”

*Read Romans 14:19. What does it mean to “build each other up”? (For more help on answering this question, look at what Paul instructs in Romans 12:9-16.)*

*Be able to recognize Romans 14:19, “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”*

**1 Corinthians**

1. “First Corinthians records problems”

*The first six chapters of 1 Corinthians are Paul’s response to problems that were apparently present in the Corinthian church, including divisions, lawsuits, incest, and other immoralities. (There is no question for this line.)*

1. “And divisions”

*Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 and 11:17-19. What was one of the biggest problems at the church in Corinth?*

*Be able to recognize 1 Corinthians 1:11-12, “For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, ‘I am of Paul,’ and ‘I of Apollos,’ and ‘I of Cephas,’ and ‘I of Christ.’”*

1. “Lawsuits”

*Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8. Why was Paul unhappy with lawsuits at Corinth?*

*Be able to recognize 1 Corinthians 6:1, “Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?”*

1. “Immoralities”

*Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 and 6:15-20. What are the two types of immoralities that Paul had to write about?*

1. “Then to questions moves”

*Read 1 Corinthians 7:1; 7:25; 8:1, 12:1; 16:1; 16:12. What expression gets repeated in each of these verses—an expression that shows us that Paul was responding to questions that had been addressed to him by the church in Corinth?*

1. “Marriage issues”

*Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16. Suppose a person believed in Jesus Christ who was already married, but whose spouse remained an unbeliever. Did Paul teach that the new believer should leave his or her unbelieving spouse? Why or why not?*

1. “Idol meat”

*Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Did Paul write that the Corinthian believers should definitely NOT eat meat that was first sacrificed to idols? Did he write that believers definitely CAN eat such meat? Or did he write something different altogether?*

*Be able to recognize 1 Corinthians 8:4, “Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.”*

1. “Covered heads”

*Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-16. What does the line “covered heads” mean?*

1. “The Bread and Wine”

*Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. What was wrong with the way the Corinthians were celebrating the Lord’s Supper (see especially verse 20-22 and 33-34)?*

1. “Gifts and roles”

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31. What problem was Paul writing about in this section?*

1. “The greatest love”

*Read* *1 Corinthians 13. Notice especially verses 4-7. Is “love” simply a feeling for Paul? How can you tell from this passage?*

*Be able to recognize 1 Corinthians 13:13, “But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

1. “Resurrection, too”

*Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-19. It looks like some people at Corinth were claiming that there was no resurrection of the dead. How does Paul respond to that?*

**2 Corinthians**

1. “Second Corinthians records many of Paul’s sufferings”

*Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 and 11:23-33. What types of sufferings did Paul experience as a servant of Christ?*

1. “We are only jars of clay”

*Read 2 Corinthians 4:7. Why did Paul compare himself and his co-workers with clay jars?*

*Be able to recognize 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.”*

1. “The covenant is new”

*Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-18. How is the new covenant different from the old covenant?*

*Be able to recognize 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, “And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*

1. “Collections for Jerusalem”

*Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and 9:1-5. What did Paul seem to be asking the Corinthian believers to do for the church in Jerusalem (which was suffering under poverty)?*

1. “Defending Paul’s apostleship”

*Read 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. In Corinth was a group of self-styled” super-apostles” who claimed Paul wasn’t really an apostle. To what or whom does Paul compare these men?*

1. “The thorn in Paul reminds him that the power is from God!”

*Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. We’re not certain what Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” actually was. What did Paul say that he learned from this area of suffering (note especially verse 9)?*

*Be able to recognize 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, “And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And he has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”*

**Galatians**

1. “Galatians says a false gospel calls you to be circumcised”

*Read Galatians 1:6-9 and 5:2-12. Paul was opposing some sort of false teaching in Galatians. What was being taught that Paul was so upset about?*

1. “Paul recounts some history”

*Read Galatians 1:11-2:10. Did Paul claim that his teaching was in agreement with the teaching of the apostles in Jerusalem like James, Peter (Cephas), and John; or did he claim that his teaching was altogether different from what they were teaching?*

1. “His gospel is from Christ!”

*Read Galatians 1:11-12. Where did Paul claim that he received the message of the gospel that he preached to others?*

1. “Salvation is by faith in Christ”

*The main message of Galatians 2-3 gets summarized in Galatians 2:16. Read Galatians 2:16. How can a person be made right with God (justified)?*

1. “The law of Moses guides to him”

*Read Galatians 3:23-26. What did Paul compare the law of Moses to in this passage? What does this comparison mean?*

1. “Called to freedom”

*Read Galatians 5:1 and 5:13. According to these verses, if you are now free in Christ, what should you NOT do?*

*Be able to recognize Galatians 5:1, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”*

*Be able to recognize Galatians 5:13, “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

1. “Fruit will come as the Spirit leads”

*Read 5:22-23. What did Paul mean by the word “fruit”?*

*Be able to recognize Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

**Ephesians**

1. “Ephesians says that God chose us long before the world was made”

*Read Ephesians 1:3-14. When did God decide to save us?*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 1:4, “…just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”*

1. “By grace you have been saved through faith”

*Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How is a person saved? Also, salvation is NOT a result of what?*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”*

1. “The nations are Paul’s call”

*Read Ephesians 3:1-13. What was the ministry that God called Paul to do?*

1. “Walk in love and unity”

*Read Ephesians 4:1; 4:17; and 5:15. Why do you think Paul compared the Christian life to walking? (Note that you might be using a translation that has translated the Greek word for “walk” as “live.”)*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 4:1-3, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

1. “Spirit-filled and singing”

*Read Ephesians 5:18-20. In these verses, Paul wrote that we should be filled with the Spirit instead of with what? How should that filling impact the meetings of Christians when they gather together?*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 5:18-19, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.”*

1. “Subject to each other”

*Read Ephesians 5:21-33 (note that the section on submission continues until 6:9). What are wives specifically encouraged to do in relation to their husbands? What are husbands specifically encouraged to do in relation to their wives?*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 5:21, “…and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”*

1. “Put the armor on!”

*Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What is “the armor of God”?*

*Be able to recognize Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*

**Philippians**

1. “Philippians—in prison, Paul writes of joy in suffering”

*Read Philippians 1:18-20 and 2:17-18. What was Paul’s attitude toward his suffering in prison?*

1. “Have the attitude of Christ who humbled himself”

*Read Philippians 2:5. Paul says that we should “have the attitude of Christ.” What attitude was he writing about? (Figure it out from the surrounding verses.)*

*Be able to recognize Philippians 2:5-7, “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”*

1. “All I count as loss for Christ”

*Read Philippians 3:4-14. Many people in Paul’s day would have been glad to possess the personal history Paul wrote about in Philippians 3:4-6. But Paul said that he counted it all as “loss.” What were the things from Paul’s past that he “counted as loss” for the sake of Christ?*

*Be able to recognize Philippians 3:7-8, “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.”*

1. “Rejoice always in the Lord”

*Be able to recognize Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”*

*Did Paul write that we should only rejoice when things are going well? When else should we rejoice according to Philippians 4:4? (Don’t forget where Paul was when he wrote this.)*

1. “I can do all things through him”

*Be able to recognize Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”*

*Did Paul think that anything was too difficult for the Lord to accomplish? Look at Philippians 4:13.*

1. “All my needs supplied”

*Be able to recognize Philippians 4:19, “And my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”*

*Did Paul write in Philippians 4:19 that God will supply everything that you want? What did he say God would supply?*

**Colossians**

1. “Colossians sets eternal Christ over and before all things”

*Read Colossians 1:15-20. What do we learn about Jesus Christ in these verses?*

*Be able to recognize Colossians 1:15-18, “And he is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that he himself might come to have first place in everything.”*

1. “Don’t be taken captive by false philosophy”

*Read Colossians 2:8 and 2:16-23. Paul is opposing false teaching that is a problem for the church in the town of Colossae. Look at these verses and try to figure out what the false teachers were teaching.*

*Be able to recognize Colossians 2:8, “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”*

1. “If you have been raised with Christ set your mind on things above”

*Read Colossians 3:1-17. Paul tells us to keep our minds focused on the things above. Then he explains the difference this can make in our lives. According to this passage, how will keeping our minds set on things above change the way we live?*

*Be able to recognize Colossians 3:1-2, “If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”*

1. “Philemon gets a separate note. The slave’s your brother now”

*The little letter of Philemon appears to have been sent at the same time as Colossians and so is included in this section of the song. Read the entire letter (found in your Bible between Titus and Hebrews). Paul was writing to his friend Philemon with an urgent request about someone named Onesimus. Who was Onesimus, and what was Paul’s request?*

**1 & 2 Thessalonians**

1. “Thessalonians includes Paul’s reply to challenges. He doesn’t preach for wealth or fame; he truly cares for them”

*It appears that after Paul’s departure from Thessalonica, some people accused Paul of preaching for money (then leaving with the money). Paul described his ministry among the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Make a list of what Paul says he DID do among them and what he DIDN’T do among them from these verses.*

1. “Those who’ve died will be with Christ. The Coming hasn’t happened yet. When it does we’ll all be raised. Live with this in mind”

*In Thessalonica, Paul apparently had told them to expect Christ to return soon. So when some of the believers died before Christ had returned, their friends became disturbed, wondering what would happen to their friends who had missed Christ’s return.*

*Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. What did Paul say would actually take place in the future (as encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians 4:18)?*

*2 Thessalonians includes more of Paul’s teaching about the future to the Thessalonians. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 and 2:1-12. What do we learn about the future from these passages?*

**Pastoral Letters, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus**

1. “Letters called Pastorals for Timothy and Titus. Words for younger ministers”

*The Pastoral Letters contain personal correspondence from Paul, the mentor, to his younger friends and co-workers, Timothy and Titus. A large portion of these letters (especially 1 Timothy and Titus) deal with how to manage the congregations in which Timothy and Titus were ministering. (There is no question on this line.)*

1. “Paul’s end is near”

*Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. It appears that these letters were written toward the end of Paul’s life. 2 Timothy appears to be the last letter he wrote. In 2 Timothy 4:6-8 what did Paul say about how he finished his life?*

1. “Teaching about leadership”

*Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. Why do you think it is important for a church’s overseers (pastors/elders) to meet the qualifications in these lists before being appointed to their offices?*

1. “Church responsibilities”

*Read 1 Timothy 1:5; 1:18-20; 2:1-8; 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; 4:1-5; Titus 3:1-2; and 3:8-11. What are some of the “church responsibilities” Paul charged Timothy and Titus to take care of?*

1. “Widows’ care”

*Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16. Which categories of widows did Paul say the church should be helping to support?*

*Be able to recognize 1 Timothy 5:3-4, “Honor widows who are widows indeed; but if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.”*

*Be able to recognize 1 Timothy 5:9-10, “Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.”*

1. And “faithful words”

*There are numerous places in the Pastoral Letters where Paul says, “It is a trustworthy statement” or speaks of holding fast the “faithful word.” (There is no question on this line.)*

1. “A crown of righteousness”

*Be able to recognize 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.” (There is no question on this line.)*