

# NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire  
New Testament in a year.

- One Chapter each day,  
Monday-Friday.
- Daily reading notes  
& reflection questions.
- Excellent for  
Small Group discussion.

## Guide #9

Weeks 33-36

2 Corinthians Chapter 12  
to Colossians Chapter 2



NEW HORIZON  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?
- What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?
- In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?

### WEEK #33: II CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 12-13;

#### GALATIANS CHAPTERS 1-3

##### Chapter 12

1. Although we don't know what Paul's "thorn in his flesh" was, we know God's response: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (vs.9). How might this promise apply to a "thorn" you are presently struggling with?
2. Paul proclaims, "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak then I am strong" (vs.10). In what ways has God helped you find contentment? In what ways are you discontent today?
3. Paul claims that everything he did was to strengthen others (vs.19). What strength do you receive from others? What strength do they receive from you?

##### Chapter 13

1. Paul encourages his readers to examine and test themselves to ensure that "Jesus Christ is in you" (vs. 5). What might this self-examination look like? As you examine your heart before God, in what ways are you challenged to grow?
2. As Paul closes his letter, he calls the church at Corinth to "Rejoice, aim for restoration, comfort one another..." (vs.11). Does your life exhibit rejoicing? Do your actions towards others promote restoration and comfort? In what ways are you challenged by Paul's exhortation?

**Galatians**—On his first missionary journey, Paul established several churches in southern Galatia (modern day Turkey). After he left, some Jewish believers began to teach that non-Jewish believers must also submit themselves to Jewish laws *in addition* to believing on Christ. Paul's passion for Christ is evident in his surprise and anger that many Galatian Christians acceptance these false teachings. True freedom comes from faith alone in God's grace through Jesus Christ. Christian liberty means that we have been set free from sin and are now free to love and serve one another.

##### Chapter 1

1. Paul is astonished that some in the church have turned to a false gospel (vs.6). What do you think would astonish Paul about Christian doctrine today?
2. Paul so strongly believed in the traditions of his Jewish upbringing that he violently persecuted early Christians before his conversion (vs. 13-14). What beliefs or traditions from your upbringing have you struggled to put aside as you grow in following Christ?
3. Many believers praised God when they heard of Paul's dramatic conversion and life-change (vs.22-24). What praise-

worthy changes has God made in you? What changes have others noticed?

##### Chapter 2

1. Paul and Barnabas were asked to continue to "remember the poor" in their ministry (vs.10). How are you involved in remembering the poor?
2. Though he knew better, Peter let his fear of what others would think cause him to act hypocritically (vs.11-13). When have you done the same?
3. "A person is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ" (vs. 16). Do you have a confidence that your faith in Christ has justified you, or do you still feel you need to earn God's forgiveness?

##### Chapter 3

1. "Those who believe are children of Abraham... so those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham" (vs.6&9). In what ways have you experienced God's blessings through your faith in Christ?
2. Until delivered by faith in Christ, "the whole world is a prisoner of sin" (vs.22). How have you experienced the imprisoning power of sin? How have you experienced being set free? How does God need to free you from the power of sin today?
3. Name some of the privileges of baptized believers (vs.26-29). How have you experienced these? Which do you appreciate most?

### WEEK #34: GALATIANS CHAPTERS 4-6; EPHESIANS CHAPTERS 1-2

##### Chapter 4

1. "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son..." (vs.4-5). The coming of Christ was in keeping with God's perfect timing. When have you experienced God's timing to be different from your own? How have you experienced God's timing to be best?
2. In vs. 7, Paul tells us that as followers of Christ we are no longer slaves, but children of God and heirs to His Kingdom. How have you experienced "slavery"—perhaps to habits, attitudes, fears, etc.? How have you experienced freedom as an adopted child of God in Christ?
3. Paul is distressed that believers were "turning back" from their faith in Christ (vs.9). Who do you know who has turned from their faith? Is there anything you might do to help them return to God?

##### Chapter 5

1. Christ-followers have been set free to "serve one another in love" (vs.13). In what ways have you experienced the freedom and joy of serving others?
2. "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (vs.6). If you self-evaluate your faith based upon your love for others, how does your faith measure up? What are daily opportunities to express God's love?
3. We are called to "live by" and be "led by" the Holy Spirit (vs.16,18). When have you experienced the Holy Spirit

prompting or nudging you? When do you feel you've been obedient to the Spirit's leading?

### Chapter 6

1. We are called to help carry each other's burdens (vs.2). In what ways have others helped carry your load? In what ways have you helped others carry theirs?
2. We "reap" what we "sow" (vs.7-8). That means the seed we plant with our actions—both good and bad—will have repercussions. When have you sown both? When have you experienced the fruit of both?
3. Scripture challenges us to be persistent in doing good, and our labors will eventually be fruitful (vs.9). How might you be experiencing weariness as you seek to be faithful? In what ways have you experienced the truth of this Scripture?

**Ephesians**—This is one of the four Letters written by Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome. Ephesus, the capital city of Asia, was one of the five major cities of the Roman Empire. Chapters 1-3 focus on the nature of Christ's church, the living body of Christ on earth, and the role the church plays in the eternal purposes of God. Chapters 4-6 focus on the daily practice of Christ-followers. With their new ethics, they are to rely on the Holy Spirit to serve and build up the body of Christ. Christ-followers are called to live in a manner worthy of their God.

### Chapter 1

1. Believers are "marked" with the "seal" of the Holy Spirit, a deposit "guaranteeing" our salvation (vs.13-14). Do you sense that God has marked you with His Spirit? Do you sense hope and encouragement from being marked?
2. Paul prays that his readers will know "*the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward us who believe*" (vs. 19). How have you experienced God's power in your life? In what ways could you benefit from God's power today?

### Chapter 2

1. God has "prepared" good works for Christ-followers to do (vs.10). When have you done things you feel God prepared for you?
2. Paul tells us that in Christ we are being built into a "dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (vs. 22). In what ways do you sense God's presence and activity in your life? How might you live differently knowing God lives in you?

## **WEEK #35: EPHESIANS CHAPTERS 3-6;** **PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1**

### Chapter 3

1. Paul proclaims the "mystery" of the Gospel that has been revealed to us in Christ (vs.3,6). How would you explain this mystery to others? In what ways is the Gospel still mysterious to you? In what ways has God opened your eyes to this mystery?
2. Paul prays that his readers may be "strengthened with power" through God's Spirit in our inner being (vs.16). When do you pray for God's power in your life? When have you felt His power at work in you?

### Chapter 4

1. Paul calls us to maturing faith so we will no longer be children, deceived by human cunning and false doctrine (vs. 13-14). How has your faith matured recently? What measures are you taking to become a more mature believer?
2. Paul encourages Christ followers to "*put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*" (vs. 24). What is evidence of "the new self" in your life? How are you living differently because of Jesus?

### Chapter 5

1. We are to walk in love after Christ's demonstration of giving Himself for us (vs.1-2). Who has demonstrated self-giving love to you? How do you demonstrate self-giving love to others?
2. We are encouraged to be filled with God's Spirit and offer expressions of love to God and others (v.18-20). How do your outward expressions demonstrate your love for God to others?
3. We're called to submit ourselves to one another in Christ (vs.21). How do you practice submitting to others? Do you typically submit to others, or require that they submit to you?

### Chapter 6

1. Children and parents have relational responsibilities toward one other (vs.1-4). How are you fulfilling your obligations to your parents? If you are a parent, what example do you set?
2. There are dark spiritual powers in this world, and we are defenseless without Christ (vs.10-13). When do you feel you've encountered these powers? How have you experienced God's power "to stand" against them?
3. Notice the place of prayer in standing against spiritual forces (v.18). When do you tend to wrestle against difficulties *without* prayer? What challenges are you up against today that need to be met by prayer?

**Philippians**—Paul wrote this letter to the church he founded in Philippi to thank them for their gift to him and to encourage their faith. Although he is in prison, this letter radiates joy and love for Christ. We, too, are called to live in contentment, and can experience joy-filled life as we humbly serve, generously give and courageously suffer for Christ. To know Christ and pursue Christ-likeness is the ultimate goal of our lives.

### Chapter 1

1. Paul believes his hardships and imprisonment have served to advance the Gospel. (vs. 12-13) When have your hardships helped further God's kingdom? How might your present hardships serve to encourage others?
2. Paul's purpose for living was to serve Christ and others in "fruitful labor" (vs.22). What part does serving Christ play in your purpose for living? How will you be fruitful in living for Christ today?
3. We are reminded that our faith in Christ may also lead to suffering (vs. 29) How have you witnessed others suffering for Christ? How has faith in Christ resulted in suffering in your life?

## **WEEK #36: PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2-4;** **COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1-2**

### Chapter 2

1. Vs. 3 & 4 instruct us to put others before us by looking to their needs as well as our own. In what ways do you do this?
2. Jesus took the form of a servant, humbling Himself and becoming obedient to the point of death (vs. 5-8). In what ways has obedience to God cost you?
3. Paul encourages his readers to "*shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation*" (vs.15). In what ways is your faith evident at work, school, home?

### Chapter 3

1. Paul willingly endured great personal loss for the purpose of knowing Christ more fully (vs.7-8,10). What stands in the way of you knowing and following Christ in greater measure?
2. Paul was able to let go of the past and press forward into God's future (vs.13). What things from your past have you been able to release to God? Which do you still hold on to?
3. Christ-followers are "citizens of heaven," and will one day be healed and whole (vs.20-21). What difficulty are you facing today? How does this truth affect your perspective?

### Chapter 4

1. Prayers and rejoicing overcome anxiety (vs.4-7). When have you experienced Christ's peace overtake your anxieties?
2. We're called to discipline our thoughts (vs.8). What thoughts do you need to discipline today?
3. By God's strength, we can learn to be content in our circumstances (vs.11-13,19). In what ways are you content? When do you struggle with being discontent?

**Colossians**—The letter to the church in Colossae was written by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. He wrote to address the problem of false teachers in their church. To combat their errors, he teaches the absolute supremacy of Christ, Who is Head of the Church. He encourages his readers to commit themselves to Christ's leadership in their daily living.

### Chapter 1

1. Paul calls us to "*walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit... and increasing in the knowledge of God*" (vs. 10). What does such a life look like? How does yours compare?
2. As Christ-followers, God "*has delivered us from the domain of darkness.*" In what ways has Christ "delivered" you from "darkness?"

### Chapter 2

1. Vs.6 tells us, "*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him.*" What does it mean to "walk in Christ?" In what ways are you seeking to do so?
2. Vs.9 is a powerful tenet of the Christian faith: "*In Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form.*" Are you able to believe that Jesus is Divine, God in the flesh? If so, based on Christ's example, how would you describe your God?