

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Discovery # 27 – Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

Notes – The New Life

April 21 & 22

Romans 12:1-21, Transformed Lives
Galatians 5:16-6:10, The Fruit of the Spirit
Ephesians 4:17-5:2, The New Life
Colossians 3:1-17, The New Life
2 Timothy 2:1-26, A Loyal Soldier
James 2:14-26, Faith and Actions
1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-22, A Living Hope
1 John 4:7-21, God Is Love

INTRODUCTION

1. The New Israel became conscious that it was now free in a deeper sense than its forefathers had been after the first Exodus. They came to see that they were also freed from the stranglehold of the Law and the damnation that threatened those who failed to observe its niceties.
2. From the first, it was clear that the old dichotomy between religious belief and daily behavior had long since disappeared. For the citizen of the Kingdom, living by the power of the Spirit, Christian belief and Christian practice were two sides of the same coin.
3. The first followers of Jesus were Jews. Everyone, Jew and Gentile alike, is new to the Christian way of believing, worshipping, and acting.
4. Paul and the other leaders elaborate on the new life in Christ in every letter they write to the churches.

**(Out of all the letters attributed to Paul, there are only seven what is called “confirmed letters of Paul.” The other letters are thought to be disciples of Paul, or, in the case of Timothy, a second-century writer. Confirmed letters from Paul include Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon.*

SCRIPTURES

5. Romans 12:1-21 is a key passage in Paul's letter, urging believers to live as "living sacrifices" that demonstrate true worship.

- Transformation over Conformity
- Sincere Love
- Unity in Diversity
- Worship as Life

6. Galatians 5:16-6:10 focuses on walking by the Spirit to overcome selfish desires ("flesh"), resulting in a life characterized by love, freedom, and mutual support rather than legalism.

a. In Galatians, Paul emphasizes active, community-focused transformation, producing fruit through service sowing into the Spirit, which leads to eternal life and restoration.

- Spirit vs. Flesh
- Freedom for Service
- Community Restoration and Burden-Bearing
- The Law of Sowing and Reaping
- Transformation Over Legalism

7. Ephesians 4:17-5:2 calls believers to abandon their former, futile, and corrupt way of life (the "old self") and embrace a new life in Christ.

- The Great Exchange (Old Self vs. New Self):
- Renewed Mindset
- Community and Ethical Living
- Living in Love and Unity

8. Colossians 3:1-17 calls believers to live out their new identity in Christ by setting their minds on heavenly realities rather than earthly desires.

- A New Reality (v. 1-4)
- Putting to Death the Old Self (v. 5-9)
- Putting on the New Self (v. 10-14)
- Community and Unity (v. 11, 15)
- Christ-Centered Worship and Life (v. 16-17)

9. 2 Timothy 2:1-26 challenges followers to endure hardship, maintain doctrinal purity, and mentor faithful leaders, using imagery of a soldier, athlete, and farmer to illustrate dedication.

- A Charge to Train Others (2:1-2)
- Three Illustrations of Endurance (2:3-7)
- The Basis of Endurance (2:8-13)
- A Worker Approved by God (2:14-19)
- Vessels of Honor (2:20-21)
- Guidelines for Ministry (2:22-26)

10. James 2:14-26 argues that genuine saving faith inevitably produces good works, asserting that "faith without works is dead".

- The Definition of Dead Faith (v. 14-17)
- The Example of Demons (v. 19)
- The Examples of Validated Faith (v. 20-25):
- Faith and Works Relationship
- Analogy of Life and Death (v. 26)

11. **1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-22** encourages believers enduring trials by highlighting their secure "living hope" through Jesus' resurrection, a guaranteed inheritance, and a call to holiness.

- Living Hope & New Birth (1:3-5)
- Trials & Refined Faith (1:6-9)
- Call to Holiness & Hope (1:13-16)
- Reverence & Redemption (1:17-21)
- Fervent Love (1:22)

12. **1 John 4:7-21** commands believers to love one another because love originates from God, who is defined as love itself.

- This passage emphasizes that sacrificial love—modeled by sending Jesus—
- Proves knowledge of God,
- Casts out fear of judgment,
- And makes God's invisible nature visible through the community of believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From Romans 12:17-21. What does it mean to live peaceably with everyone "*as far as it depends on you*"?

2. Which of the commands, found in Romans 12: 9-21, do you find most difficult to follow?

3. Looking at the "works of the flesh" (Galatians 5:19-21), why do you think Paul emphasizes selfish ambition and strife alongside sexual sins?

4. In Ephesians 4:17-5:2, Paul speaks of being "renewed in the spirit of your minds." How can we actively renew our minds in a culture filled with conflicting messages?

5. What is one area of your life where you feel God is calling you to move from the "old way" to the "new way" this week?

6. From 2 Timothy 2: 20-21: How does focusing on being "clean" or available for "good works" (serving others) transcend the idea of personal worthiness?

7. In studying James, how can communities of faith move from merely saying "I will pray for you" to acting as the tangible hands of God in addressing systemic needs?

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Primary Source: Discovering the Bible: A New Generation, published by The Kerygma Program, Pittsburgh, PA. Boyd Lien, author.