CHALLENGE E

ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

Desert Creek Fellowship

Pastor Rod Warembourg

"The New Testament Challenge!" Journal

Are You Up to it?



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INTRODUCTION TO "The New Testament Challenge!"

"The New Testament Challenge!" Are you up to it?

Have you ever read the entire New Testament? Do you know what it actually says or have you been told by someone else? Do you know the major players, the central themes or the key issues? Do you know where in the New Testament to turn to read about Jesus, the church, or Christ's second coming? Wouldn't you like to know what it really says? Are you up to the challenge to read it for yourself?

Perhaps you have read it cover to cover. Maybe you have studied it in depth. How long has it been since you've simply read it from beginning to end? Are you ready for a fresh look?

"The New Testament Challenge!" is an opportunity to read the entire New Testament in twelve weeks. Twenty seven small books including four gospels written by eight authors all pointing to one person. The reading schedule is organized into six days of reading per week. This journal provides the opportunity to jot down some of your ideas as you read.

You may be surprised by pragmatic and relevant teachings, covering topics such as relationships, marriage, money management, children, community living, caring for the poor, racial prejudice, dealing with grief, etc. Of course, a myriad of spiritual issues are also included such as angels, prayer, worship, prophecy, the incarnation, Christ's return, Church policy, the Holy Spirit, and most importantly, eternal life!

One word of caution: it is not possible to embark on this challenge without it impacting your life (not to mention your eternal destiny).

Are you up to the challenge?!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROD

The Bible is unlike any book you have ever read. Few have walked away from its pages unchanged, even thousands of years after it was penned. While some would say that the Bible is not relevant for our current generation; I have found just the opposite to be true. In fact, I have found the New Testament to be remarkably up to date and relevant for the days we live in.

Like its author, the Bible is not static; rather, it is a book that has an uncanny ability to speak right to your heart in a fresh and vibrant way, even though you may have read it many times before. (Some who read the Bible for the first time comment that they almost feel like the Bible is reading them! Truly, a remarkable Book of Books)

Many read the Bible in just a few verses, or maybe chapters, at a time. The purpose of this journal is to help you with the discipline of a fuller daily reading schedule, as well as a place for you to make notes and comments. This journal can be used in many different ways: personal devotions, husband & wife devotions, family devotions, small group Bible study, etc. The journal is simply a tool to help you find success and I encourage you to use it in the way that works best for you.

Along these lines, many find it quite helpful to have a set routine to do their daily Bible reading and journaling. Those who find success in completing the challenge typically do their reading at the same time and in the same place each day. It is always best to get away from distractions like the television, computer, phone, etc.

It is my prayer that as you engage in "The New Testament Challenge!" reading and journaling, the Holy Spirit will touch your heart and draw you into a deeper and more consistent daily walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Rod

DAILY REA	DING AND REFLECTION	PLAN		
Week 1		Week 2		
Day 1	Matthew chapters 1-6	Day 1	Mark chapters 1-3	
Day 2	Matthew chapters 7-11	Day 2	Mark chapters 4-6	
Day 3	Matthew chapters 12-15	Day 3	Mark chapters 7-9	
Day 4	Matthew chapters 16-21	Day 4	Mark chapters 10-12	
Day 5	Matthew chapters 22-25	Day 5	Mark chapters 13-14	
Day 6	Matthew chapters 26-28	Day 6	Mark chapters 15-16	
Week 3		Week 4		
Day 1	Luke chapters 1-3	Day 1	John chapters 1-4	
Day 2	Luke chapters 4-7	Day 2	John chapters 5-6	
Day 3	Luke chapters 8-11	Day 3	John chapters 7-9	
Day 4	Luke chapters 12-16	Day 4	John chapters 10-12	
Day 5	Luke chapters 17-21	Day 5	John chapters 13-17	
Day 6	Luke chapters 22-24	Day 6	John chapters 18-21	
Week 5		Week 6		
Day 1	Acts chapters 1-5	Day 1	Romans chapters 1-2	
Day 2	Acts chapters 6-9	Day 2	Romans chapters 3-5	
Day 3	Acts chapters 10-13	Day 3	Romans chapters 6-8	
Day 4	Acts chapters 14-18	Day 4	Romans chapters 9-10	
Day 5	Acts chapters 19-23	Day 5	Romans chapters 11-13	
Day 6	Acts chapters 24-28	Day 6	Romans chapters 14-16	

DAILY REA	ADING AND REFLECTION	I PLAN	
Week 7		Week 8	
Day 1	1 Corinthians chapters 1-5	Day 1	Galatians chapters 1-3
Day 2	1 Corinthians chapters 6-9	Day 2	Galatians chapters 4-6
Day 3	1 Corinthians chapters 10-13	Day 3	Ephesians chapters1-3
Day 4	1 Corinthians chapters 14-16	Day 4	Ephesians chapters 4-6
Day 5	2 Corinthians chapters 1-7	Day 5	Philippians chapters 1-4
Day 6	2 Corinthians chapters 8-13	Day 6	Colossians chapters 1-4
Week 9		Week 10	
Day 1	1 Thessalonians chapters 1-5	Day 1	Philemon chapter 1
Day 2	2 Thessalonians chapters 1-3	Day 2	Hebrews chapters 1-4
Day 3	1 Timothy chapters 1-3	Day 3	Hebrews chapters 5-7
Day 4	1 Timothy chapters 4-6	Day 4	Hebrews chapters 8-10
Day 5	2 Timothy chapters 1-4	Day 5	Hebrews chapter 11
Day 6	Titus chapters 1-3	Day 6	Hebrews chapters 12-13
Week 11		Week 12	
Day 1	James chapters 1-2	Day 1	Revelation chapters 1-3
Day 2	James chapters 3-5	Day 2	Revelation chapters 4-8
Day 3	1 Peter chapters 1-5	Day 3	Revelation chapters 9-12
Day 4	2 Peter chapters 1-3	Day 4	Revelation chapters 13-16
Day 5	1 John chapters 1-5	Day 5	Revelation chapters 17-19
Day 6	2 John, 3 John, Jude	Day 6	Revelation chapters 20-22

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 1

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 1

1. What is the meaning of the name of Mary's child? 1:23	
2. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations? 4:1-11	
3. How many people did Jesus heal? 4:23-25	
4. Which of the beatitudes is your favorite? Why? 5:1-10	

4. What did Matthew do when Jesus told Matthew to follow him? What are some excuses you have heard as to why some choose to not follow Jesus?

1. How did Jesus justify healing someone on the Sabbath? 12:9-13
2. What is the meaning of the parable of the treasure and the parable of the pearl? 13:44-46
3. What happened to John the Baptist? Who did it and why? 14:3-12
4. How did the people respond when they witnessed so many miracles? What would seeing such miracles do to your faith? 15:29-31

1. Who did others say Jesus was and who did Peter say Jesus was? 16:20
2. According to the parable about forgiveness, why should you be so quick to forgive others? 18:35
3. What did Jesus tell his disciples was going to happen to him? 20:17-19
4. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, what did the entire city ask? What would it take to get our entire town to ask the same question? 21:1-11

 What names did Jesus call the teachers of the law and the Pharisees? 23:13-36
2. When will Jesus return? 24:36-44
3. What did Jesus say they had done for Him and when did they do it? 25:34-40
4. In what ways do some of these End Times descriptions reflect what is going on today? 24:4-14

1. What did the chief priests and elders plot to do? 26:1-5
2. What did the soldiers do to Jesus before they crucified Him? 27:26-31
3. What did the angel tell the women? 28:5-7
4. What was Jesus' last command in the Gospel? What are you doing to fulfill this command? 28:18-20

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 2

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 2

1. What did Jesus do for those who were demon-possessed? 1:32-34
2. Why did Jesus eat with tax collectors and "sinners"? 2:15-17
3. As early as chapter 3, what are the Pharisees plotting to do? 3:6
4. Why do you think Jesus attracted such huge crowds so early in His ministry?

1. Which of the four soils in the parable do you think is the most common today? 4:1-20
2. When the man who had been demon-possessed wanted to go with Jesus, what did Jesus tell him to do? 5:18-20
3. How many people did Jesus feed and how many loaves and fish did he feed them with? 6:35-44
4. How many baskets of leftover food was there? Why do you suppose that was the number of baskets? 6:35-44

1. What is it that makes a man "unclean"? 7:14-23
2. How did Peter respond to Jesus' teaching about His death? How did Jesus then respond to Peter? 8:31-33
3. What were the disciples arguing about? 9:33-34
4. Jesus explained to the disciples that he was going to be killed. The next thing we read is that they are arguing about which of them is the greatest. How do you think that made Jesus feel?

1. What did Jesus do with the children who were brought to Him? 10:16
2. What did Jesus do in the temple? Why? 11:15-19
3. What did Jesus say are the two greatest commandments? 12:28-34
4. What is the biggest challenge in loving the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?

1. How can a person keep from being deceived by false prophets and false Christs? 13:21-23
 What did Peter promise Jesus when Jesus told Peter about his denial? 14:27-31
3. What was Jesus' response when he was asked if He was the Christ? 14:60-64
4. Peter did indeed deny knowing Jesus. 14:66-72. Besides verbally, what are some other ways a person can deny knowing Jesus?

1. When Jesus died, what happened to the curtain in the Temple? What do you suppose that symbolized? 15:37-39
2. What did the women who went to Jesus' tomb intend to do? 16:1-3
3. What did the women find in the tomb? 16:4-8
4. What is the most unique cemetery you have ever visited? How many of the occupants have already been resurrected?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 3

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 3

	After Jesus read the Isaiah passage, what did He say about it and what did e mean? 4:16-21
2.	How often did Jesus pray? 5:16, 6:12
3.	What about the Centurion impressed Jesus? 7:1-10
4.	How good are you at obeying Jesus' commands? How can you improve?

1. What were the women traveling with Jesus doing? 8:1-3 2. What two men appeared with Jesus and what did they talk about? 9:28-36 3. In regards to prayer, what does Jesus instruct us to do? 11:5-13 4. What advice would you give others in order to improve their prayer life?

1. What does Jesus teach about the value of material possessions? 12:15-34
2. What was Jesus' justification for healing on the Sabbath? 13:10-17, 14:1-6
3. What is the common theme in the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son? 15:3-32
4. What does Jesus say about serving money? How does one "serve money"? 16:10-13

1. How were the Pharisee and the tax collector different? 18:9-14
2. In the parable of the vineyard, who are the farmers, who are the servants, and who is the son? 20:9-19
3. What is the lesson from the fig tree? 21:31
4. What signs of the End Times does Jesus mention? 21:7-28

1. What did Judas plot with the chief priests ? 22:1-6, 47-48
2. What did Pilate say about Jesus? 23:13-24
3. When did the two men realize they were talking to Jesus? 24:13-35
4. Jesus let his disciples touch him and He ate fish to prove that He was not a ghost but had been resurrected. What convinced you that Jesus is Lord?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 4

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 4

1. What will happen to those who are in their graves when they come out? 5:24-29
2. What were the weather and water conditions when Jesus came to the disciples? 6:16-21
3. When many disciples stopped following Jesus, what did Jesus ask the twelve? What did they answer? 6:66-69
4. If many or most of your friends and family are not Christian, why do you still follow Jesus?

1. 7:	What did Jesus mean when He invited people to come to Him and drink? 37-39
2.	Who did Jesus say could throw a stone at the woman? 8:3-11
3.	What does Jesus say about the devil? 8:44-47
4.	Why are some people so quick to "throw stones" at those who sin?

1. What does the good shepherd do for his sheep? 10:1-18, 25-30
2. What did Jesus say He was and what does that mean for His believers? 11:21-27
3. What did the chief priests plan concerning Lazarus? Why? 12:9-10
4. Although you believe in your future resurrection, do you still have apprehensions about death? If so, why?

What did Jesus say was the reason He washed the feet of the disciples? 13:1-17
2. What will be some of the things the Spirit will do? 16:7-15
3. What did Jesus pray for those who believe? 17:20-21
4. What can we do to increase unity among believers of Jesus Christ?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 5
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WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 5

 How did the twelve Apostles deal with the complaint about the food distribution? 6:1-7
2. What two statements did Stephen make right before he died? 7:54-60
3. What was Saul doing and who met him on the road to Damascus? 9:1-19
4. Why would God use a wicked person like Saul to help further the Gospel of Jesus? (See 1Timothy 1:12-16)

1. In spite of the Jewish laws prohibiting Jews from associating with gentiles, why did Peter go and visit Cornelius? 10:9-29
2. How did the Jewish Christians ultimately respond to gentiles becoming Christians? 11:1-18
3. When those praying for Peter to be released from prison were told that he was at the door, how did they first react? 12:5-16
4. How does racial prejudice inhibit the spread of the Gospel?

1. When the issue of circumcision was brought before the apostles, what did they tell the gentiles they should do? 15:22-29
2. Why were the Bereans considered to be of greater character? 17:10-12
3. How did Priscilla and Aquila deal with the flaw in the teaching of Apollos? 18:24-26
4. What "extra requirements" have you heard imposed upon people who wish to become a Christian?

 What was Demetrius' complaint against the teaching of Paul about Jesus? 19:23-27
2. What did Paul warn the Elders of Ephesus would happen after he departed? 20:25-31
3. What did the Jews who were antagonistic toward Paul pledge? 23:12-15
4. In spite of immense persecution, the church grew tremendously. What were some of the contributing factors to its success?

4. How would you describe the Apostle Paul to a person who has never heard

about him?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 6

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 6

1. How does Paul describe the Gospel? 1:16-17
2. Those who reject the knowledge of God are filled with what kinds of wickedness? 1:28-32
3. What criteria will be used to judge those who do not have the law? 2:12-16
4. With reference to 1:20, what are some things you can deduce about God by examining His creation?

1.	How many people are truly righteous on their own? 3:9-24
2.	Who are those who are blessed? 4:6-8
3.	How did God demonstrate His love for us? 5:8
4.	If we are saved by faith, why do so many try to earn their way to Heaven?

1. What are some of the things baptism symbolizes? 6:1-5
2. What does sin cause Paul to do? 7:14-20
3. What is the result of the focus of your mind? 8:5-8
4. What are some things you can do to help your mind maintain a spiritual focus?

1.	How much of Israel will be saved? 11:26-27
2.	How are those in Christ similar to a body? 12:3-6
3.	What is the only debt that is a continuing debt? 13:8-10
4.	Why is love the fulfillment of the law?

1. Who will stand before God's judgment seat? 14:10-12
2. Why did Paul desire his readers to have a spirit of unity? 15:5-7
3. For what did Paul caution his readers to watch out? 16:17-19
4. What steps can you take to guard against spiritual deception?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 7

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 7

1.	What was Paul's plea to the brother in Corinth? 1:10
2.	What does Paul tell his readers they are? 3:16-17
3.	What will happen when the Lord comes? 4:1-5
4.	"You are God's temple"- how does that truth impact your life?

1. What happens to our sins when we call upon the name of Jesus? 6:11
2. In Paul's opinion, what is the benefit of being single? 7:32-35
3. What was Paul's goal in all he did? 9:19-23
4. What are some things you can do to increase your opportunities to lead others to Christ?

1. What should a person do before they Lord? 11:27-29	eat the bread or drink the cup of the
2. Who has combined the different parts	s of the body of Christ? 12:12-13, 24-26
3. Paul speaks of what love is and what	t love isn't. What is love? 13:4-8
4. What is your favorite verse in chapter	r 13? Why?

1. Which gifts should a person seek? 14:12
2. What does Paul say happens if Christ has not been raised from the dead? 15:12-19
3. What does Paul teach about our resurrected bodies? 15:42-44
4. What is your number one curiosity about heaven?

1. When we have been comforted by God, what should we then do? 1:3-4
2. What ministry did God give us and what does that mean? 5:18-20
3. Why did Paul not regret that he had caused sorrow for his readers? 7:8-11
4. Why is it so difficult to see the potential good that can come out of a difficult situation?

1. Why did Paul praise the Macedonian churches? 8:1-7	
2. Why would Paul boast about his weaknesses? 12:7-10	
3. For what does Paul encourage his readers to aim? 13:11	
4. Why do so many people settle for average instead of striving for perfection or excellence?	

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 8

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 8

 What does Paul say should happen to those who preach a different Gospel? 1:6-9
2. How are we justified? 2:15-16
3. How do we become sons of God? 3:26
4. What do you think is the common belief among non-Christians as to how one gets to heaven?

1. What are in conflict with each other? 5:16-18
2. What are the fruit of the Spirit? 5:22-23
3. What happens to the one who sows to please the sinful nature and one who sows to please the Spirit? 6:7-8
4. Why do we so often yield to the desires of the sinful nature?

1.	Why does Paul give thanks for those in Ephesus? 1:15-16
2.	What did God do because of His great love for us? 2:4-5
3.	What is the Lord able to do? 3:20
4.	What is one of the most amazing things you have seen the Lord do?

 What is the role of Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers? 4:11-12
2. What must not be found among us? 5:3-4
3. Who is our struggle against? 6:10-12
4. What can you do to be more successful in spiritual warfare?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 9

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 9

1. How did the Thessalonians receive the word of God and how did they not receive it? 2:13
2. What will happen to the dead in Christ and what will happen to Christians still alive when Christ returns? 4:14-17
3. Why should we not be surprised on the day of Christ's return? 5:1-5
4. What are some of the things that make you excited about Christ's return?

1. Who will be punished and when will this happen? 1:6-10
2. What will happen before Christ returns? 2:3-4
3. How will the work of satan be displayed? 2:9-10
4. If satan can do counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, how do we know what is truth and what is counterfeit?

1. Why did Jesus come into the world and what does that have to do with Paul? 1:15-17
2. What is it that God wants? 2:3-6
3. How should Christian women dress? Why is this important? 2:9-10
4. In 3:1-7, Paul sets a very high standard for church leaders. Why is this standard so important?

1. What does the Spirit say some will do in the later times? 4:1
2. What are children and grandchildren to do for their parents and grandparents? 5:3-4
3. What does Paul say about contentment? 6:6-8
4. Why do so many people lack contentment?

1.	From whom did Timothy first learn his faith? 1:5, 3:14-15
2.	What does Paul say about Scripture? 3:16
3.	What is Paul's charge to Timothy? Why? 4:1-5
4.	How has God's word impacted your life?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 10

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 10

1. What was the role of the High Priest? 5:1-3	
2. Who is it impossible to bring to repentance? 6:4-6	
3. As a High Priest, how is Jesus described? 7:26-28	
4. Of all Jesus' titles, which do you like best?	

1. How does the new covenant compare to the old covenant? 8:6-13
2. How is Christ's blood superior to the blood of animals sacrificed under the old covenant? 9:13-14, 24-26
3. How have we been made holy? 10:10
4. You are holy! Why then do we still sin?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNAL NOTES	WEEK 11

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 11
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1.	What should we do quickly and what should we do slowly? Why? 1:19-20
2.	What should we do in addition to listening to the Word? 1:22-25
3.	What should always accompany faith? 2:14-26
4.	In what ways are good deeds a reflection of one's faith?

1. What contradictory statements are made with our tongue? 3:9-12
2. How is the wisdom from heaven described? 3:17
3. How do we get the devil to flee from us and how do we get God to draw near to us? 4:7-8
4. How can we do a better job at controlling our tongue?

1.	What words does Peter use to describe his Christian readers? 2:9-10
2.	What should we be prepared to do? 3:15
3.	What is the devil doing? 5:8
4.	What is the danger in not believing in the devil?

1.	What has the Lord's divine power given us? 1:3-4
2.	What will false teachers do? 2:1-3
3.	Why hasn't the Lord yet returned? 3:3-10
4.	How can you differentiate false teaching from true teaching?

1. What is the result of claiming to be without sin? 1:8-10
2. What is God's command? 3:23
3. If you have the Son, what do you have? If you don't have the Son, what don't you have? 5:11-12
4. What would you say to someone who says there are many ways to eternal life? (Other than through Christ)

1. 2	What happens to the one who does not continue in the teaching of Christ? John 9
2.	What gives John great joy? 3 John 3-4
3.	What is it that Jude had to write? Jude 3
4.	What are some ways in which we can contend for the faith?

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 12

WEEKLY MESSAGE/JOURNALING NOTES	WEEK 12

1. What was John told to write, which became the Book of Revelation? 1:19
2. List each of the seven churches and write one good thing each church is doing. 2:1-3:22
3. List each of the seven churches and write one bad thing each church had done. 2:1-3:22
4. List one thing modern churches are doing that they should not do and one thing that modern churches are doing that they should do.

1. Who was worthy to open the scroll and what did he look like? 5:1-6
2. When the first four seals were opened, what came out, what color was each one and what did it represent? 6:1-7
3. What was given to the seven angels? 8:2
4. Living creatures, angels, elders, multitudes of people united in worship. What does worship mean to you personally?

1.	Who were the locusts from the abyss allowed to harm? 9:1-6
2.	What will the two witnesses do? 11:3-6
3.	Who was the war in heaven between? What happened to the loser? 12:7-9
4.	Give some examples of the result of satan's presence on the earth today.

1.	Who will worship the beast? 13:8
2.	What happens to those who worship the beast? 14:9-12
3.	What were the seven angels told to do with their bowls? 16:1
4.	Why will so many be so quick to worship the beast?

1. Why will the Lamb be able to defeat the ten kings? 17:12-14
2. Who is the rider on the white horse? 19:11-16
3. What happened to the beast and the false prophet? 19: 19-20
4. After everything you have read here in Revelation, do you think we are in the End Times? Why or why not?

1.	Who was thrown into the lake of fire? 20:10,15
2.	Who will be allowed to enter the Holy City, the New Jerusalem? 21:27
3.	When did Jesus say He would come? 22:7, 20
4.	Are you yearning for Christ's return? Why or why not?

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JOURNALING/PRAYER NOTES	
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JOURNALING/PRAYER NOTES	

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

