

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT:
LAUNCHING, LEARNING, LIVING

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Twenty Reasons Christianity Should Have Failed:

Christ

1. Very little is known about his early life (90% of his life is unknown)
2. An executed criminal is the Son of God
3. An executed criminal was without sin and is the Savior of the world
4. No one but his followers, for the most part, witnessed him in a resurrected state
5. This resurrected executed criminal now dwells at the right hand of God
6. This resurrected criminal will one day return as Judge and the Lord of History

The Committed

7. Those who represented this Savior were woefully unprepared and unqualified to do so
8. For the most part, they were theologically untrained
9. They had a track record of failure when their hero was not with them
10. Some of the strongest adherents were women in a misogynistic culture
11. Many of the adherents were not open to outsiders or persons of other races and ethnic groups

The Culture

12. They preached a life of holiness in a hedonistic world
13. They preached radical monotheism in a pagan world
14. They preached change and risk rather than comfort and convenience

The Crisis

15. The adherents were rejected by the religious leadership of the faith that spawned them
16. The world's most powerful political empire considered them seditionists and traitors and martyred them
17. There were no written texts or scriptures to follow
18. There were no visible temples or formal houses of worship in which to assemble
19. There were no financial means of support other than true sacrificial giving
20. Preaching and praxis of faith threatened certain economic interests (religious and local economies)

Definition of New Testament:

27 Lessons on how to Launch a faith by Learning as we Live it

The Gospels: The Kerygma

Preaching/proclamation

The Synoptic Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke

The Gospel of John

What is the Gospel?

Matthew 3: 17

Mark 1: 15

Luke 4: 16-20

John 3: 16
I Timothy 1:15

Acts: Record of Early Growth

Pauline Epistles: Letters for Learning the Faith in Context
Doctrine that emerges from living contexts

Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

General Epistles: Letters for Building the Faith and Equipping the Saints in Context
James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John

Faith That Overcomes the World
Revelation