



**Reading the Bible
in a Year
—chronologically**

NOVEMBER

THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

This month, after finishing the Gospels, we start on *Acts*, slotting the *Letters* (or Epistles) into the storyline as we go along.

The Gospels take us up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. *Acts* begins with his *ascension* to heaven and his pouring out of the *Holy Spirit* at Pentecost to empower his

ACTS: Geographical and Biographical Outline				
A.	Chapters 1-12	Ministry of PETER	Witness in Jerusalem	Chapters 1-7
			Witness in Judea and Samaria	Chapters 8-12
B.	Chapters 13-28	Ministry of PAUL	Witness throughout the Roman world	

servants for their mission: to carry the Good News to every nation. This

took place chiefly through the ministry of *Peter*, the apostle to the Jews, and *Paul*, the apostle to the Gentiles.

THE N.T. LETTERS

James was written by *James the brother of Jesus*, who did not believe in him until after his resurrection. Eventually he became the main leader of the church in Jerusalem.

GALATIANS		
A.	1:1-10	Introduction
B.	1:11 - 2:21	The gospel of grace defended autobiographically
C.	3:1 - 5:12	The gospel of grace defended theologically
D.	5:13 - 6:10	A warning about the misuse of Christian freedom
E.	6:11-18	Conclusion

His highly practical letter has a distinctly *Jewish flavour* and was probably written while the church remained within the general circle of Judaism. It jumps from one topic to another with little obvious structure.

Galatians is a plea from Paul to avoid the perils of *legalism*, that is, requiring certain Jewish laws and rituals to be practised in addition to putting faith in Christ. Paul is extremely strong in his condemnation of this approach.

1 & 2 Thessalonians were written by Paul only six months apart. They are highly *personal* letters, since Paul himself had been responsible for establishing the church in Thessalonica. They are also highly *practical*, dealing with the application of Christian principles to

1 CORINTHIANS		
A.	1:1-9	Introductory greeting
B.	1:10 - 6:20	Answer to the report from Chloe's household
C.	7:1 - 16:4	Answer to questions in their letter
D.	16:5-24	Closing requests and greeting

everyday living, especially in the light of *Christ's expected return*.

1 Corinthians, another of Paul's letters, deals with many of the issues faced by a pioneer church as it sought to establish and uphold *Christian standards* in a society with totally opposite standards. Paul tackles each issue in a fairly informal way, as if he were sitting with the church leaders.