

Stacy's New Testament FAVORITES

I LOVE The New Testament because it is the story of Jesus Christ—his birth, life, teachings in parables, miracles, persecutions, atoning sacrifice, death and resurrection—and that's just the first four books! From there we follow along as his apostles and disciples spread His gospel and nurture the early saints. There's the crazy awesome conversion of Paul and his call to serve incredible missions to the gentile people. Thankfully we have many of his letters, brimming with counsel that still applies today. We also have wisdom recorded from Peter, James and John and of course a few thoughts from Jude before the incredible revelation of John wraps it all up.

It would be impossible for me to share every chapter and verse I love, but here are a few of my favorites to get you started, beginning with ...

Luke 2 which of course is not the beginning, but it is the most famous version of the Christmas story. More details can be found in **Matthew 1:18—2:15**.

Matthew 5-7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount where Christ opens with his teachings on happiness—in case you didn't know, beatitudes mean, "to be happy" so you can read them like, "Happy are the poor in spirit (or humble) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." And so forth. After this, Jesus shares new insight on the laws or commandments as delivered by Moses. This is good stuff, like turn your other cheek, go the second mile and love your enemies. I especially love 5:19-20 and 33, which was my Grandma Hall's favorite verse.

Matthew 7:7-8 Because these verses just might be the most oft repeated in all scripture!

Matthew 22:37-40 Christ response when he was asked what the great or most important commandment is, and speaking of greatness, be sure to ponder chapter 23, verse 11.

Matthew 25 Records three of my most favorite parables, if that's even possible! Pay special attention to verses **34-40**.

Matthew 26:26 Because I'm so grateful for the opportunity I have to remember the Savior each week as I also take bread and a small cup and renew my baptismal promises. See also **Luke 22:19-20**.

Matthew 28:18-20 Because Christ was triumphant in his mission and has now called us to share the good news!

Luke 6:31 Because it's golden!

Luke 10 Start in verse 25 and read through those most important words, "Go, and do likewise."

Luke 12:27 Because I LOVE flowers.

Luke 18:18-23 I have a framed picture of this encounter in my bedroom. It is a great reminder!

Luke 22, starting in verse 31 is the story of Peter denying Christ three times, which I love because I struggle to live and witness as I should and I know that Peter repented and continued to learn and grow and testify—and hello? Chief apostle in the making!

Luke 24:5-8 Perhaps my MOST favorite ... "Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

John 10:11-16 The good shepherd and His other sheep, some of which we can learn about in The Book of Mormon!

John 17 Because to read Jesus Christ praying for us is amazing.

John 21 Read verse **25** and then go back and read **20:31**

Acts 2:14-40 and 3:10-12 The testimony of Peter, who just a few chapters back had been overcome by fear. Not anymore!

Acts 7 is another of my favorite chapters because it's a big picture overview by Stephen. It doesn't end well for Stephen, but it's the beginning for Saul, who is later Paul (see chapter 9).

Romans chapter 8 is another of my most favorite chapters—verses **31-32, 35, 38-39** Wow!!

1 Corinthians 13 Just read it!

Galatians 5:16-23 Because we can know how we are doing by the fruits of our efforts.

Ephesians 6:11-18 Put on your armor and say your prayers!

Philippians 4:7, 8 and 13 Because the peace of God does exceed all understanding and we can have it as we think on and seek after good things, knowing that we can do all things through Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 4:8 Because it was my favorite verse when I studied exercise physiology in college!

1 Timothy 6:7 Because it's a great reminder for this season of gift-giving!

2 Timothy is only 4 chapters long and yet it's totally AWESOME. **1:7,16, 23-24, 3:1-7, 14-16, 4:2-5, 7-8** God has not given us the spirit of fear, so we can fight the good fight and finish our course!

Hebrews 11 Because it is one of the greatest sermons on FAITH, who has exercised it and why we should too. But, you have to keep reading into chapter 12 so you get the wherefores in verse 1-2 and 12.

James 1:5 Because we all lack wisdom AND because this verse is very meaningful to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of which I am one. Ask me and I'll tell you more!

James 1:27 Because religion sometimes gets a bad rap, but this is a reminder of what pure, undefiled religion is and it is a very good thing! And in case you're wondering why our world tends to hate religion so much, keep reading in James—the answer is in chapter 4 and so is my favorite definition of sin.

3 John 1:4 Because it defines my greatest JOY.

Jude 1:25 Yep!

Revelations 22:14-end is the end of the prophecy of John and the last invitation recorded to come and take the water of life freely. Ok, I will.

There is the END of the Bible as we know it, but there is SO MUCH MORE (thankfully) 📖 ❤️