

~~~ **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE** ~~~

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Facts about the Bible's New Testament

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*(Scroll down to pages 2 and 3, for the correct answers)*

- T F 1. The New Testament contains four different Gospels of Jesus Christ.
- T F 2. Only one of the Gospels of Christ specifically record the Nativity of Jesus but all of them tell us about the Passion and Death of Christ.
- T F 3. Jesus chose 12 Apostles because there were 12 Tribes of Israel.
- T F 4. Whenever mention is made of the sea in the New (or Old) Testaments, it represents the dwelling place of the evil one (the devil) on earth.
- T F 5. In the Gospels, "the boat" or "the barque" symbolically refer to the Christian Church.
- T F 6. Mark's Gospel is the longest Gospel in the New Testament
- T F 7. Luke, who was a physician and an artist was also one of the 12 Apostles.
- T F 8. St. Luke wrote the 'Gospel of Luke' and the 'Acts of the Apostles' as a sequel to it.
- T F 9. The 'Book of the Acts of the Apostles' is a history of the early Christian Church.
- T F 10. Paul was a former Pharisee who knew Jesus when he was physically present here on earth.
- T F 11. Paul's many missionary travels brought him to places like Crete, Malta and Rome.
- T F 12. All the 'Epistles' or 'Letters' in the New Testament are attributed to St. Paul.
- T F 13. James the Younger, who wrote the Letter of James, advises many in his community not to become teachers.
- T F 14. It was the Letter of James which inspired the French university student, Frederic Ozanam to found the St. Vincent de Paul Society in 1833.
- T F 15. The last Book of the Bible, which is called the Book of Revelations, was written in code form and uses confusing symbolic language.

## THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR PARISH QUIZ

- 1. TRUE** The Gospel of Mark: written in approximately, 45-47 A.D.  
The Gospel of Matthew: written in approximately, 70 A.D.  
The Gospel of Luke: written in approximately, 80 A.D.  
The Gospel of John written in approximately, 90 A.D
- 2. FALSE** Actually two of the four gospel writers recount the story of the Nativity of Christ, Luke and Matthew. Mark's Gospel makes no specific mention of it and John's Gospel briefly alludes to it in the one sentence, "and the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us" (Jn. 1:14). However, it is true that all of them specifically tell us about the Passion and Death of Christ.
- 3. TRUE** The 12 Apostles were chosen by Jesus in the New Testament to symbolically replace the 12 tribes of Israel of the Old Testament.
- 4. TRUE** Most Jews believed this and the Gospel writers who were familiar with this 'common' knowledge of the time had it in mind especially when they tell us about storms at sea. For them these storms were caused by the power of evil, intent on destroying Jesus and His Community of Apostles.
- 5. TRUE** The early Christians often used this image as a symbol of the Church of Christ with St. Peter at its helm, steering it safely through the 'storms' of a world that was often hostile towards the Christian Church!
- 6. FALSE** Even though Mark was the first to write a Gospel of Christ, his is the shortest of the four, with only 16 chapters in it. The longest was Matthew's version, which contains 28 chapters from start to finish!
- 7. FALSE** It is true that Luke was a physician and probably also an artist but we know that he was not one of the 12 Apostles. He was however a follower or disciple of Jesus, who probably received much of the information that he records in his Gospel from St. Peter, his friend and perhaps even from the Virgin Mary. The names of the 12 Apostles were, Peter, Andrew, James (the older), John, Matthew, Simon, Jude, James (the younger), Bartholomew, Phillip, Thomas and Judas Iscariot.
- 8. TRUE** The Gospel of Luke recounts the story of Jesus' life while He was here on earth. The New Testament Book called, 'The Acts of the Apostles', which also written by Luke, is an historical account of how the Apostles continued to do the work of Jesus after His Ascension.

9. **TRUE** Luke wrote it as an historical sequel to his Gospel, to show how the early Christians continued to preach about Jesus and to continue His work on earth.
10. **FALSE** It is true that Paul was a Pharisee who was an expert in Jewish Law, but he actually never met Jesus while He had been physically present on earth since he lived in far-off Tarsus. Instead, Paul was confronted years later by a vision of the risen Christ, while he was on his way to Damascus, to continue persecuting and executing the followers of Christ (see: *Acts of the Apostles 9: 1-21*). It was then that Paul himself was converted to the Christian Faith.
11. **TRUE** Paul travelled to these and to many other places on his missionary journeys. These were the three places he visited on his way to Rome, where he was sent in 60 A.D. to be tried by the Emperor. On his journey he and a large crew were shiprecked on the island of Malta. The Maltese were very hospitable to Paul and many became converts to Christianity. To this day, Malta remains a Christian nation and the main Basilica in its capital city is named after St. Paul.
12. **FALSE** Most, but not all. Of the 21 'Epistles' or 'Letters' that are contained in the New Testament, 13 are attributed to St. Paul. The other 8 were written by:  
- an unknown author who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews (1);  
the Apostle John (3); the Apostle Peter (2); the Apostle James the Younger (1); and, the Apostle Jude (1)
13. **TRUE** He believes that not many should become teachers because he thinks that, "teachers will be judged with greater strictness" (see: *James 3:1*).
14. **TRUE** At the Sorbonne University in Paris, Frédéric Ozanam and some friends had gathered together to discuss religious matters. After reflecting on a passage of St. James' Letter, (see: *James 2:14-26*), Frédéric felt that Christians in France were not doing enough to help the many poor and hungry men and women who were begging for a handout. The part of this passage that said, "faith without good works is dead", inspired him and his companions to form a benevolent society to help the poor, naming it after another great man, St. Vincent de Paul, who was recognized as the Patron Saint of charitable organizations.
15. **TRUE** It was written in code form language so that the early Christians but not the persecuting Romans would readily understand its content.