

# An Introduction to the Four Gospels



Lay Ministry Institute - Upper Susquehanna Synod  
11 March 2017  
Mark Vitalis Hoffman

## An Introduction to the Four Gospels

### SCHEDULE (approximate)

8:30 Introduction  
9:30 Mark  
11:00 Matthew  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Luke  
2:00 John and Closing



#### SCHEDULE and RESOURCES

**Recommended Resources for Further Study** – Bibles, reference works, introductions, Bible study software (online and free programs)

##### Other Web Resources for Further Information

- [The Four Gospels](#) - Revised Common Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links - Links to everything
- [BibleProject](#) - Free audio sermons - Excellent resource with commentaries on texts used in the RCL and Narrative Lectionary
- [The Holy Bible](#) - One of the first places to start
- [CrossMarks.com](#) - Bibles and resources
- [Bible Gateway](#) - Bibles and resources
- [Four Gospels, One Way to Live](#) - My introduction to the Gospels with a View of Stewardship as a Way of Faithful Living - online course

[www.CrossMarks.com/4Gospels](http://www.CrossMarks.com/4Gospels)

2	Gospel of Matthew	Matthew (1:03:00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">New Testament Commentaries: The Gospel of Matthew</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Matthew Sermons and Matthew Study</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Matthew Study</a></li> </ul>
3	Gospel of Luke	Luke (1:20:00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">New Testament Commentaries: Luke &amp; Acts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Luke Sermons and Luke Study</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Luke Study</a></li> </ul>
4	Gospel of John	John (1:40:00)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">New Testament Commentaries: The Gospel of John</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">John Sermons and John Study</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">John Study</a></li> </ul>

Closing

The best online version of the network by Petrus that I used in the final section is available [HERE](#).  
For a more description of the work, study [HERE](#).



#### Recommended Resources

##### Reading, Watching, Listening to the Gospels

For study, I provide the New Revised Standard Version and recommend any of the following Bible texts. (Clicking on the image will take you to the NRSV or the CEB (Common English Bible), NIV (New International Version), or for something more more - Revised Common Lectionary - English Version)

##### Matthew

- [Downloadable outline of the CEB version](#)

##### Mark

- [Downloadable outline of the CEB version](#)

##### Luke

- [Downloadable outline of the CEB version](#)

##### John

- I highly recommend that you watch the Gospel of John movie. It is highly available on YouTube. It is a relative production.

- [Downloadable outline of the CEB version](#)

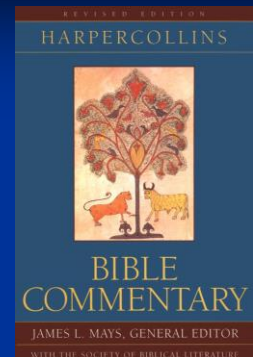
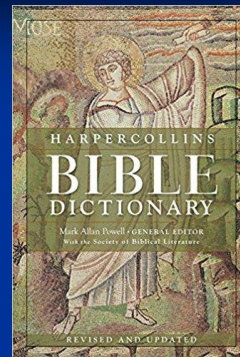
##### Study Bibles



## Recommended Bibles

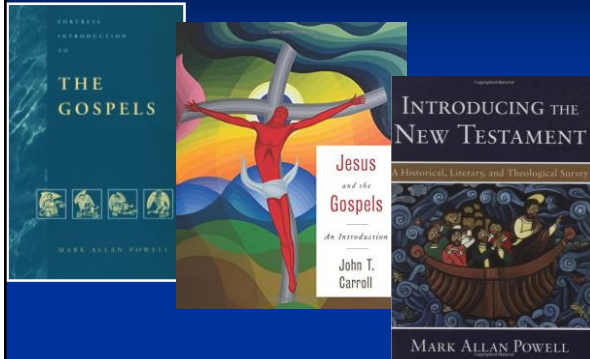


## Recommended Books





## Recommended Books



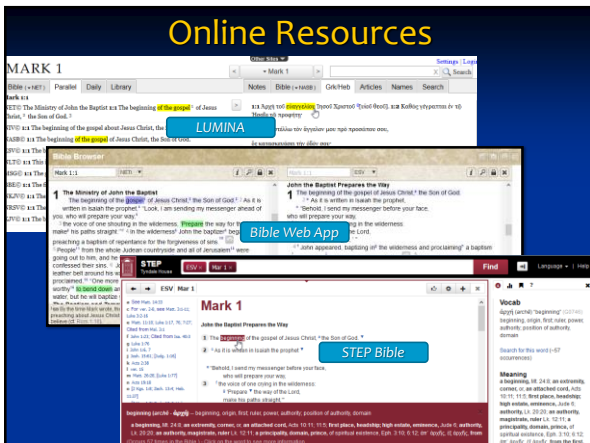
## Bible Software

- Commercial
  - BibleWorks
  - Logos
  - Accordance
  - Other
- Online & Freeware

### Bible Study Software

- ONLINE BIBLE SITES
  - [Lumina](#): Especially check this site. It gives you access to the helpful NET Bible notes. Use the Gk/Heb tab in the right column, and you will see how it highlights the matching English and Greek words. Double-click on a Greek word to get a rudimentary lesson entry. Use the Parallel tab on the left to see NET, NIV, NASB, ESV, NLT, MSG, NRSV, and KJV together.
  - [Bibles](#): A nice collection of resources. The Atlas alone is quite helpful.
  - [Bible Web App](#): A quick Bible browser that can show two parallel Bibles (ESV, KJV, NASB, NET, Greek/Hebrew)
  - [The Bible App](#): Up to six Bibles in parallel with linked study resources
  - [YouVersion](#): This is the online site. Many free English versions to compare
  - [STEP Bible](#) (Tynndale): A variety of English, Greek, Hebrew texts, lessons, notes
  - [Tynndale Tool Bar](#): Provides access to texts and articles
- FREE DOWNLOADABLE PROGRAMS if you don't already have [BibleWorks](#), [Logos](#), or [Accordance](#)
  - [The Word](#): Quite a full featured program, the best free one you can get. (Win or Mac with emulator)
  - [e-Sword](#): Another nice, free Bible software program for Win and iOS
  - [LaParola](#): Does a nice job of creating concordance lists and working with text variants
  - [MySword](#): The Android app I most often use (along with [YouVersion](#))
  - [YouVersion](#): Available for Windows and just about any mobile device
  - [FaithLife Study Bible](#): It's free and available for just about all platforms. It's a Logos product and uses their rather literally translated Lexham Bible. It comes from a conservative perspective, so you need some discernment, but many of its study features can be helpful. (E.g., go to Phil 1.1 for The List of Paul's greetings.)

## Online Resources



## Questions?



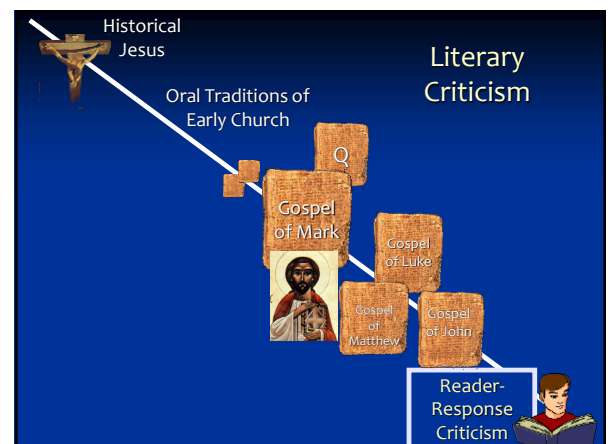
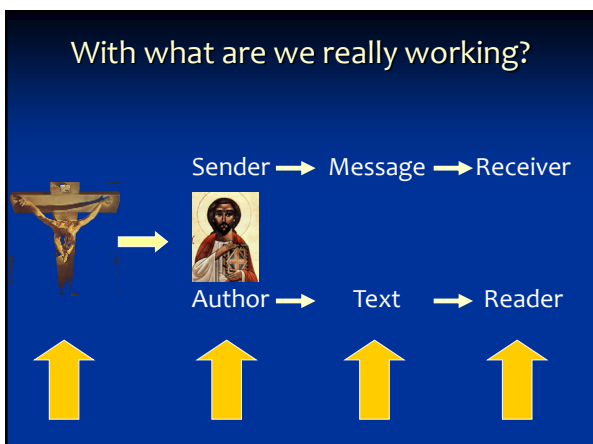
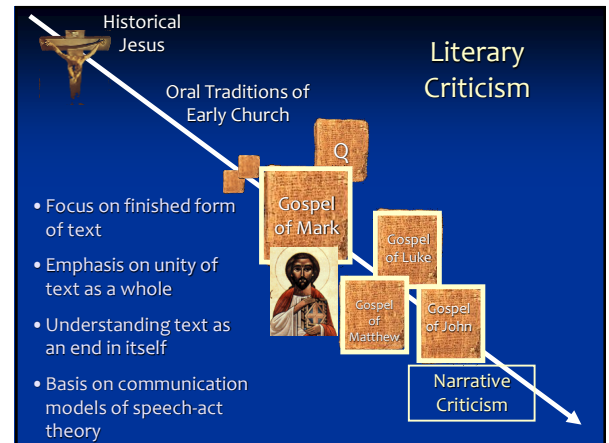
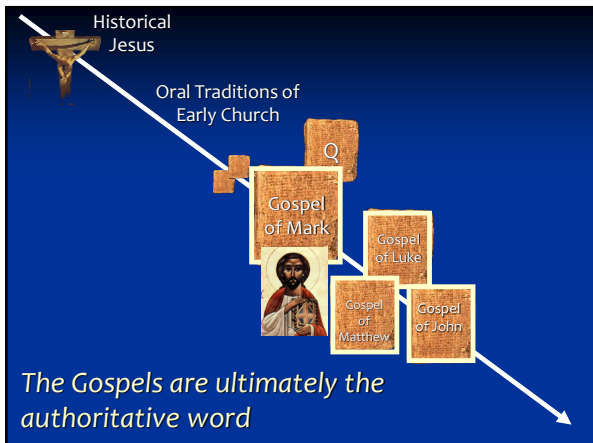
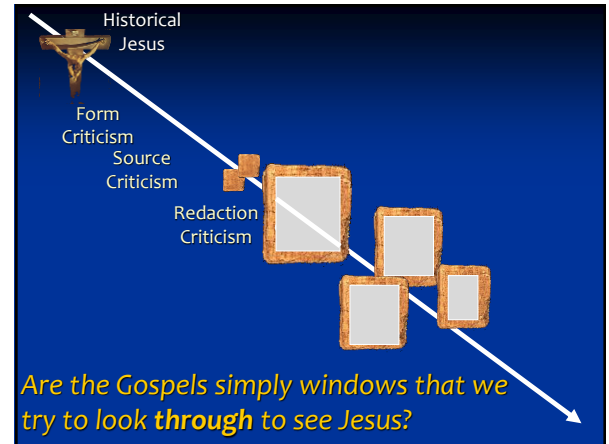
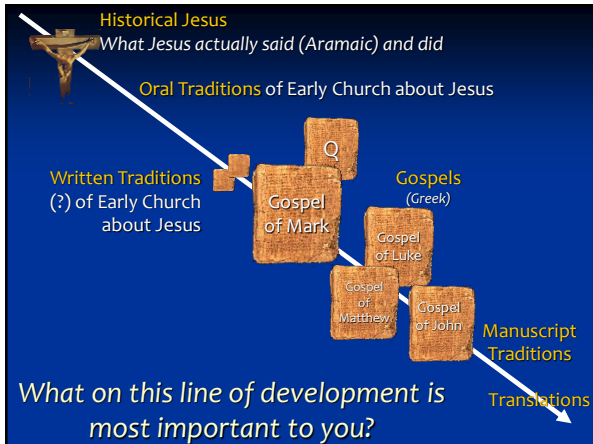
## Why study the Gospels?

- “We wish to see Jesus” (*John 12.21*)
- The Monkey Business Illusion  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK\\_ZfY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGQmdoK_ZfY)
- What we are trying to avoid:
  - “The Bible is like TV Guide. We use it to see what we want to see.”
- BUT... why four gospels?
  - A composite picture of Jesus or
  - Four portraits of Jesus?
- How do we see Jesus in the four gospels?

## Why study the Gospels?

- How do we study the four gospels?
- How do we see Jesus in the four gospels?







## How does one approach the Gospels?

- Getting back to Jesus...
- Ultimately the concern of the NT is 'getting' Jesus to the reader...

... of proclaiming the Gospel

## The Witness of the Gospels

What is a Gospel?

εὐαγγέλιον  
εὐ – αγγέλιον  
eu-angelion  
good news

## The Witness of the Gospels

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the  
Good News / Gospel  
of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ [υἱοῦ θεοῦ].

## The Witness of the Gospels

What is a Gospel?

- Content of Jesus' preaching
- Content of early Xn preaching re: Jesus
- What Jesus said was good news about God and what Xns said was good news about Jesus
- A 'book' about Jesus >>  
"The Four Canonical Gospels"

## What are these Gospels we are studying?

- Theological narratives
- Fashioned from selected traditions
- Central story is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Testify to the presence of the Dominion of God in Jesus as part of the larger story of God in history
- Rhetorical (persuasive) compositions intending to change and transform their readers

■ Adopted from James Bailey and Lyle Vander Broek, *Literary Forms in the New Testament, A Handbook* (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1992), p. 91



## An Introduction to the Four Gospels

*But why FOUR Gospels?*

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John  
discuss the birth of Jesus



Welcome to

# Bible Talk!

Today's Guests:

Matthew, Mark,  
Luke, and John!