

Shirley Paulson, PhD, of Early Christian Texts shares insight about the *Gospel of Thomas* with members of your church or organization!

Introductory class offered in-person or online

Shirley Paulson, PhD



Shirley Paulson's exploration and research into the 'Bible and Beyond' began with her Master of Theological Studies work at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, which led to her PhD in Religion and Theology from the University of Birmingham (UK).

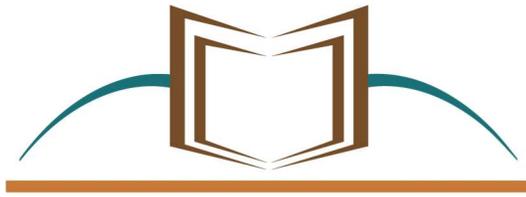
The unique contribution of Shirley's work is the combination of her contemporary ecumenical work with research in early Christian thought and writings. Combining her experience in healing, theological scholarship, and Practical Theology with research in Biblical and extracanonical texts evokes ever-new questions and conversations for scholars, spiritual seekers, and Bible enthusiasts. The foundational text for her research is the *Secret Revelation of John*.

Shirley has over three decades of experience presenting lectures, classes, and workshops on early Christian texts, plus her Christian Science lectures. Since 2017 she has been the driving force behind Early Christian Texts (earlychristiantexts.com), an organization offering an assortment of online educational programs including a newsletter, articles, blog, podcast, discussion series, and adult learning courses.

Her first book, *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John*, was published by Cascade Books in April of 2022.

Bible and Beyond Presentations by Shirley Paulson of Early Christian Texts

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Class Description

Introduction to the *Gospel of Thomas* with Special Interest for Christian Scientists

Mary Baker Eddy mentions a “marvelous coincident” in reference to her discovery that an unusual statement from the *Gospel of Thomas* was almost identical to something she had written in *Science and Health* before she ever saw the fragment from the ancient Gospel.

She thought it was wonderful.

The whole gospel was discovered in 1945 among 51 other texts in the Nag Hammadi collection, and it has been controversial since its discovery. Its contents include sayings that are strikingly similar to many of the biblical parables and other teachings of Jesus, but also others that are unfamiliar to us now.

How the Classes Work

Onsite presentations are composed of a live lecture and follow up discussion taking approximately 90 minutes total.

Online presentations include distribution of a 30-minute prerecorded video presentation which participants can watch at any time, and a scheduled 60-minute interactive Zoom meeting for discussion.

Classes are offered throughout the year, either at your location or online. You choose the venue, time, and date of your event. Please contact Shirley for availability.



What Is Included

Organizations sponsoring classes are provided with materials needed to promote and host a successful event, including:

- 20 Printed flyers to post or distribute.
- Text and images you can post on your website and use in your email newsletters.
- 2 copies of the book by Shirley Paulson, *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light*, to use as gifts or registration incentives.
- Handout materials relevant to the subject.
- An online registration form (if requested – collecting registration payments is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization).
- Online courses additionally include:
 - Access to a private web page with information about the class, handouts, and the pre-recorded lecture.
 - The link to the Zoom discussion.

Costs

The all-inclusive honorarium for a Bible and Beyond presentation is \$350 for a Zoom event, or \$500 for an in-person event (plus reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses for venues outside the Chicagoland area). Organizations set and collect their own registration fees for participants. Please email connect@earlychristiantexts.com for additional information.