

PAULINE EPISTLES OUTLINE

1. According to Subject Matter & Style...4 Groups: Coming, Cross, Christ, Church
2. According to Chronology and Location...3 Groups: Travel, Captivity, Pastoral

Paul's History: Conversion – 35AD, 1st Missionary Journey 46-48AD, Arrest & trial 59-62AD, Confinement-62-64AD, Execution-68AD

COMPLETE GROUPING:

*Chronological Order shows Paul's Maturity in Revelation Knowledge & Ministry

**Every book directly or indirectly refers to Paul's personal revelation of Gospel...direct refs noted by +

Group 1

Eschatology – COMING / Early Travel

2nd Missionary Journey 50-52AD

Acts 15:35-36...Acts 18:23

(1st Journey=Acts 13:4-6...Acts 14:28)

Key verses: 1 Thess 4:16-17; 2 Thess 2:3-15

Group 2

Soteriology – CROSS / Evangelical Travel

3rd Missionary Journey 55-56 AD

Acts 18:23...Acts 22:1-21

Key Verses:

1 Cor. 1:17-18; 12-14

2 Cor. 3:7-4:18

Gal. 3:1-9; 5:11; 6:12-14

Ro. 1:14-18; 8:1-12; 12

Group 3

Christology – CHRIST / Captivity

1st Roman Imprisonment 60-62 AD

Acts 24:10...Acts 28:30

Key Verses:

Col. 2:6-19; 3:1-17

Eph. 1:20-2:10; 4

Philip. 2:9-11; 3:12-21

Group 4

Ecclesiology – CHURCH / Pastoral

2nd Roman Imprisonment/Death 62-68 AD

No record in Acts...pieces of info in Epistles

Key Verses:

1 Tim. 1:12-20; 3 esp. v.16; 4:1

Titus 2:1, 7

2 Tim. 1:6-7; 2:1-13; 3:1, 10; 4:1

Heb. 1:1-3; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-11:3; 12:1-11

1 & 2 Thessalonians +

Written from Corinth

Themes: "Extending the Church" Comforting words of praise & promise to new believers, with sobering call to remain faithful, assured of Christ's 2nd coming, willing to deal with rebellion. Missionary in nature.

1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans +

Written from Ephesus, Macedonia, Antioch

(Galatians probably was not written as 1st epistle as some think, before 49AD, being closer in content to Romans), Corinth.

Themes: "Body of the Church"...Common life of the Body of Christ, apostolic ministry, the Cross in the Christian experience, the Gospel of God. (1Cor 11-12 are 1st "Body" references).

Ephesians+, Philippians, Colossians+, Philemon

Written from Rome

Themes: "Head of the Church" ... Mystical revelation...Paul uses his imprisonment to penetrate the profoundly Deep things of God & further the Kingdom cause. Key phrase: "IN CHRIST"...in communion & community ... atmosphere & membership. Even here, Paul balanced Truth with practical substance.

1Timothy +, Titus, 2Timothy +, Hebrews

Written from Macedonia, Ephesus, Rome

Themes: the "Continuing Church" Paul the veteran "pastoring" his younger trusted proteges and advising them about how to practically administrate God's Body as a working spiritual unit, able to operate effectively in the natural world. Hebrews is maybe greatest letter of all...convincing unsigned Gospel to Jews.

+ 1 Thess. 1:5-10; 2:4; 2 Thess. 2:13-14, 1 Cor. 5:1-11; 2 Cor. 3:1-6, Gal. 1:5-24; 2:1-10, Ro. 15:14-21
Col. 1:23-29, Philemon 17-19, Eph. 3:1-13, Philipp. 1:12, 27-30; 2:19-22, 1Tim. 1:12; 3:14-16, Titus 1:1-3, 2Tim. 1:9-11; 2:8-10; 3:12-14, Heb. 1:1-2; 13:22-24

COMMENTARY:

- Paul's letters touch on all Basic Bible Doctrines... *God's interpreter of the Church Age*... see attached
- Every Book reflects Paul's 2-fold Approach to Teaching a) Doctrine & b) Principles to Apply
... *Example*: Hebrews phrase "Let Us" used 16 times, always followed by applicable instruction.

3 Overriding Principles of Paul's Revelation:

1. What God did for us "in Christ" in His great plan of Redemption.
2. What the Holy Spirit through the Word can do in us in the New Birth & being filled w/H.S.
3. What Jesus is doing for/with us now at the right hand of Father through the Church.

Highlights of Paul's Teaching:

1. *Justification by Faith*

Paul's Central Theme of which he himself was to be history's prime example! Originated with Christ (Mt. 9:13) and in the prophets of O.T. (David – Ps 51:14-19, Isaiah – 1:10-20 etc). Galatians 3 & Romans 8... this message was in sharp contrast to the prevailing thought of both Jews & Gentile in that day. Faith is not a magic wand or a mystical agent in the hand of a believer, but a description of the relationship God demands with those who would walk with Him. By it, Christ's substitution becomes our identification!

2. *The Body of Christ*

One of several Images Paul uses to illustrate the reality of God's Kingdom, as it integrates heaven and earth. He interprets what Jesus first revealed in Himself and extended through Pentecost. The unity of believers grows in these Epistles, beginning with the mention of membership in the "Body" in 1 Corinthians, then expanding to reveal its universal "Head" in Ephesians and Colossians. We are God's Plan (Mt. 16:13-20; Eph 3:1-12, Col. 1:24-29... His "Intended Mystery," which exposes His cosmic wisdom to all creation. In it, we are called into communion with Christ and the service of His community, sharing God's life, exercising spiritual authority and manifesting an oneness that tears down walls of race, reason & religion. In particular, Israel is defined as having membership in this spiritual elect but also remaining separate as a nation with whom God still deals practically.

3. *The Person of Christ*

Paul outlines the universal scope of Jesus' influence, contrasting Him with the "first Adam" in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 45-50 & Romans 5:12-21. Through His atoning blood sacrifice we are recovered and reconciled... He is both all "Supreme" and our own complete "Salvation" or deliverance, having defeated all enemies at the Cross, even though the conflict continues to be enforced by Him through the faith and patience of His Church. In all things we are "in Him," finding our life, peace, development and ultimate future in the Son of God, Who mysteriously is also the Son of Man. In being, "predestined to be conformed to His likeness" (Ro. 8:29) we can only really find ourselves hidden with Christ in God... He is our hope of glory (Col 1:26-27)!

4. *The Work of the Holy Spirit*

Paul teaches us that, although we do not yet see everything placed beneath Jesus feet (Hebrews 2:8-9) we have been given a down payment on our purchased promise, the guarantee of the

Comforter (John 13:26), the Guide (John 16:13), our Intercessor (Romans 8:26)! The Holy Spirit's role is to recall and reveal the things Jesus has said (John 16:13-14). What things "have been" accomplished "in Christ" are carried out in us now through our faith and willing obedience to the leading of the Spirit. True sonship is the direct result of following the Holy Ghost (Rom 8:14), as is our ability to remain free from legalistic forms of religion (Gal. 5:18). He is our source for Christian living...the origin of all true spiritual revelation (Eph 6:17) fruit, and gifting (Gal 5 & 1 Cor 12). Paul describes the Holy Spirit as THE Christian Resource!