

## Pauline Epistles

## Notes

- **Date:**  
The life of Paul. He was born in 5 A.D. and died in 67 A.D. Although there are some discrepancies most of the commentaries agree that 1 Thessalonians was the first Epistle written, 52 A.D. and 2 Timothy was the last Epistle written, 67 A.D.

A young man named Saul was bent on murdering all the Christians he could. He was a Jew, a Pharisee (well-versed in the Law of Moses), a man of knowledge, letters, and spirit. Then Jesus directly intervened. The risen savior appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus—an encounter that completely transformed him. This man Saul became the beloved apostle, saint, evangelist, theologian, and pastor we call Paul. Paul's an important character: out of the 27 books in the New Testament, Paul wrote 13. Out of all the biblical human authors, Paul has written the most books of the Bible. Paul was chosen for a few specific tasks (Ephesians 3:8-9):

- Preach Christ to the Gentiles.
- Convey God's plan for managing the church.

We see Paul doing the first in the book of Acts. We see him doing the second in his letters.

Most of Paul's letters fall into two groups: letters to the churches and letters to pastors.

## Chronology of Epistles

1 Thessalonians	52 A.D.
2 Thessalonians	53 A.D.
Galatians	54 A.D.
1 Corinthians	57 A.D.
2 Corinthians	57 A.D.
Romans	57 A.D.
Colossians	62 A.D.
Ephesians	62 A.D.
Philippians	62 A.D.
Philemon	63 A.D.
1 Timothy	64 A.D.
Titus	64 A.D.
2 Timothy	67 A.D.

## **Pauline Epistles to the Churches**

Nine of Paul's letters were addressed to local churches in certain areas of the Roman empire. On the whole, these epistles tend to deal with three general issues:

1. Doctrine: what Christians should know.
2. Application: what Christians should do with doctrine
3. Logistics: specific instructions, greetings, etc.

Paul's writings on application are usually rather general. You'll see Paul telling children to obey parents, masters to be kind to their slaves, and the like; you won't see Paul giving children a list of things to do, or giving masters a bill of slaves' rights in the church.

## **Pastoral Epistles from Paul**

Three of Paul's letters are addressed to individual pastors. Two are written to Timothy, and the last is written to Titus. Because these letters are for specific individual, they include more specific instructions than the other letters.

Paul considers Timothy and Titus to be his sons in the faith. He trusts them to manage their local churches well and maintain his sound teaching.

## **The Pauline Epistles' role in the Bible**

Unlike the Gospels and Acts, the Pauline epistles hardly contain any narrative. These are primarily correspondence: Paul sends greetings, instructions, encouragement, and background information.

Because of this, the epistles contain the majority of Christians; theology. This is where the story of Jesus described in the Gospels is explained in greater detail. It's also where we learn how Christians should live in response to Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

## **Notes**