

# BIBLE INTRODUCTION #5

## NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

#### DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT<sup>4</sup>

GOSPELS<sup>1</sup>  
HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

PAULINE EPISTLES<sup>2</sup>  
GENERAL EPISTLES<sup>3</sup>  
PROPHECY<sup>3</sup>

MATTHEW-JOHN  
ACTS  
ROMANS-PHILEMON  
HEBREWS-JUDE  
REVELATION

<sup>1</sup>Chart 4   <sup>2</sup>This chart   <sup>3</sup>Chart 6   <sup>4</sup>Old Testament charts 1-3

#### THE PAULINE EPISTLES

##### ROMANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; cf. 11:13; 15:15-20; Acts 22:21; 26:17-18); Tertius was Paul's amanuensis [the one who wrote Paul's words] (16:22)
- From: Corinth, for Phebe was from near Corinth (16:1) and Gaius (16:23; I Corinthians 1:14) and Erastus were from Corinth (16:23; II Timothy 4:20)
- Date: Around A.D. 54, for this preceded Paul's return through Macedonia on his way to Jerusalem on his third journey (15:25-26; Acts 19:21; 20:3; cf. I Corinthians 16:1-6)
- Audience: The congregations of the Lord's church in Rome (1:7)
- Purpose: To help the Roman Christians to appreciate the superiority of the new law over the old and thereby to answer the Judaizers threatening them
- Keys:
  - Words: Faith, Law, Flesh, Spirit, Called, Righteousness, Obedience
  - Phrases: "What shall we say then," "God forbid"
  - Verse: 1:16 (Not ashamed)
  - Passages: 1:18-32 (Humanism exemplified); 12:1-2 (Reasonable service), 12:9-21 (Christian behavior)
  - Chapter: 6 (Whom to serve)
- Lessons:
  - A congregation may be known throughout the world for its good works (1:8; 16:19)
  - All owe debts that will never be repaid (1:14)
  - Ingratitude is one of the first steps to apostasy (1:21)
  - One must judge righteous judgment (2:1-3; cf. John 7:24)
  - All need the Gospel (3:23; cf. 1:15)
  - One must not use grace as an occasion to sin (6:1-2)
  - Baptism precedes newness of life (6:3-4)
  - One can be sure of his salvation (8:1)
  - Christians can and must have hope (8:25-26)
  - Providence does exist (8:28)
  - The love of Christ is immeasurable (8:35-39)
  - Works alone are not sufficient to save (9:31-32)
  - Zeal alone is not sufficient to save (10:2-3)
  - Belief and obedience are both necessary for salvation (10:9-17)
  - The wisdom and knowledge of God are immeasurable (11:33)

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#### THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- There is one body (12:4-5; cf. I Corinthians 12:12,27)
- The Christian must respect authority (13:1-7)
- Peace and edification must be Christian motivators (14:19)
- Though no longer binding, the Old Testament is worthy of study (15:4; cf. Acts 7:2-53; I Corinthians 10:1-12)
- Sometimes opportunity to do good must take precedence over opportunity to do one's own will (15:24-25,28)
- Some who appear to be serving God are serving themselves (16:18)
- Miscellaneous: There were numerous congregations in Rome (16:3-15)

##### I CORINTHIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); the uninspired postscript credits Stephanas, Fortunatas, Achaicus, and Timothy as the amanuenses, but it is equally likely—perhaps even preferable—to accept Sosthenes in that role (1:1)
- From: Ephesus (16:8), though the uninspired postscript says Philippi
- Date: Around A.D. 54, for Paul would leave Ephesus around April or May of his last year there (16:8), and this was likely later rather than earlier in his time there due to the errors which had to have had time to develop
- Audience: The church at Corinth (1:2)
- Purpose: To help the Corinthians get away from the doctrines of men and back to the Doctrine of Christ
- Keys:
  - Words: Called, Wisdom, Body, Charity
  - Verse: 15:14 (What if no resurrection?)
  - Passages: 1:10-13 (Against division); 2:9-13 (Inspiration); 11:23-26 (The Lord's Supper)
  - Chapters: 13 (Love); 15 (Resurrection's victory)
- Lessons:
  - Division is terrible (1:10-13)
  - Preaching is God's means of reaching the lost (1:18; cf. Titus 1:3)
  - Man is a poor judge of true wisdom (1:19-27)
  - The Message is more important than the messenger (2:1-5)
  - Stewards must be faithful (4:2)
  - Anyone who is righteous is worthy to be followed as an example (4:16; 11:1; cf. Philippians 3:17)
  - Church discipline has its place (5:1-7); and will always be successful when properly practiced (II Corinthians 2:1-11; 7:7-16)
  - The Christian has to be in the world; however, he does not have to be like it (5:9-10; cf. Romans 12:1-2)
  - One can turn from sinfulness (6:9-11)
  - Just because one can do something does not mean he should (6:12; 8:9; 10:33)
  - Those who work for the Lord as evangelists are worthy of pay (9:6-14)
  - Self-discipline is necessary to achieve victory (9:24-27)
  - Temptation can be overcome (10:13; cf. Matthew 4:1-10)
  - Man's every action should glorify God (10:31)

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# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (I CORINTHIANS continued)

- o Love is essential (13; 16:14)
- o The Christian has hope in the next life because of the resurrection of Christ (15:19-20)
- o One must choose his relations carefully (15:33)
- o Labor in the Lord is not vain (15:58)
- Miscellaneous: Some have suggested other meanings translation-wise, but it is possible that Paul refers to an earlier letter to the Corinthians (5:9); whether Paul did or did not is inconsequential, the Holy Spirit did not deem it necessary to include it, for if it needed to be in Scripture it would have been

## II CORINTHIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); perhaps Titus (7:6) was Paul's amanuensis, though the uninspired postscript suggest Lucas, Luke, as well
- From: Macedonia (2:13; 7:5-7; 8:1; 9:2-4)
- Date: Around A.D. 55, for a year after Paul's first letter to Corinth (8:10; 9:2)
- Audience: The church at Corinth (1:1)
- Purpose: To build upon the first, very successful (2:1-11; 7:7-16), epistle and to substantiate Paul's apostolic authority (11:5)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Repent, Comfort
  - o Phrase: "We faint not"
  - o Verse: 2:14 (Triumph is in Christ)
  - o Passage: 7:8-10 (Repentance had taken place)
  - o Chapters: 8-9 (Contribution)
- Lessons:
  - o Consolation is in God (1:3-8)
  - o Satan blinds some to the Truth (4:3-4)
  - o Suffering in this life (4:18-5:8; cf. 11:23-28; 12:7-10) is light compared to the reward of eternity (4:17; cf. Matthew 5:10-12)
  - o All will stand before God in judgment (5:10)
  - o Fear can be a motivator (5:11)
  - o One in Christ is a new creature (5:17; cf. Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27)
  - o The church must be distinct from the world (6:14-7:1)
  - o Giving starts with self (8:5)
  - o Giving should be liberal and voluntary (9:6-7)
  - o Our giving should be a response to God's giving (9:15)
  - o The church is the bride of Christ (11:2)
  - o Christians must examine and prove themselves (13:5)

## GALATIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 5:2); there was no amanuensis (6:11)
- From: Probably Macedonia (e.g. Philippi) or Greece (e.g. Corinth); the uninspired postscript suggests Rome, but that might have been too late for this book
- Date: Probably A.D. 50s, probably earlier rather than later, but it was at least a while after the meeting in Jerusalem of around A.D. 46 or 47 and the events following in Antioch (2:1-14)
- Audience: The churches in the region of Galatia (probably would include the churches in the southern cities of Antioch, Derbe, Iconium, Lystra; perhaps also the churches in the northern cities of Amaseia, Ancyra, Parnassus, Seleucia, and Tavium if churches were in those places by this time)
- Purpose: To respond to the work of the Judaizers who quickly threatened the churches in Galatia
- Keys:
  - o Words: Faith, Law, Flesh, Bondage
  - o Verses: 4:4 (Fulness of time); 5:1 (Stand in liberty)
  - o Passage: 4:21-5:6 (Allegory of Hagar and Sarah)
- Lessons:
  - o There is only one effectual Gospel (1:6-9)
  - o The Old Law could not measure up to the New Law in providing righteousness/justification (2:16-21; 3:16-17; 4:21-31)
  - o Christians must be crucified with Christ (2:20)
  - o One can frustrate the grace of God (2:21)

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## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- o The blessing promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) flowed through Christ (3:29), and is received through being put into Christ (3:28) in baptism (3:27)
- o Jesus came when God had finished preparing for His coming (4:4)
- o One should not blame the messenger for the message that comes from God (4:16)
- o One cannot sin in order for grace to abound (5:13; cf. Romans 6:1)
- o The fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23) is at contradistinction to the works of the flesh (5:19-21)
- o One must humbly help, not hinder, those who are fallen (6:1)
- o One must help others in matters too heavy for them (6:2), and help himself in areas over which he may have control (6:5)
- o What man sows he shall reap (6:7)
- o The reward is for the worker who never retired (6:9)
- o One must aid all men! (6:10)
- o The church is God's nation--He does not need another (6:16; cf. John 18:36)

## EPHESIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 3:1); Tychicus was likely Paul's amanuensis (6:21)
- From: A Roman prison (3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Ephesus (1:1), though some feel this was a letter intended for a number of congregations (cf. Colossians 4:16)
- Purpose: Tychicus was on his way to Colossae (6:21), so Paul saw a good opportunity to encourage the Ephesians (6:22)
- Keys:
  - o Words: Walk, Body, Unity, One, Love
  - o Phrases: "In heavenly"
  - o Verse: 1:3 (Blessings in Christ)
  - o Passages: 4:1-6 (Unity); 5:22-33 (Christ and the church); 6:10-17 (Panoply of God)
  - o Chapter: 4 (Unity)
- Lessons:
  - o The church is the body of Christ (1:22-23)
  - o Grace and faith are necessary for salvation (2:8-9) but so are works (2:10)
  - o Men can know the meaning of the mystery (3:3-5): The Gentiles can be fellow-heirs (3:6; I Timothy 3:16)
  - o No one is so great that he need not be humble (3:8)
  - o God had an eternal purpose for His church (3:11)—there have been no contingency plans needed
  - o God only receives glory in the church (3:21)
  - o God is a God of unity (4:1-6, 12-16; cf. John 17:21-23)
  - o The Truth should be preached in love (4:15)
  - o Anger is not sin (4:26)
  - o The Christian must guard his speech (4:29) and his actions (4:31-32)
  - o One can understand the Will of the Lord (5:17)
  - o When singing, one makes the melody in his heart (5:19; cf. Colossians 3:16)
  - o Family relationships must be based on love, understanding ones role, and mutual respect (5:22-6:4); relationships in workplace must be based similarly (6:4-9)
  - o Christians are involved in spiritual warfare (6:10-17; I Thessalonians 5:8; cf. II Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Miscellaneous: One will note that the predestination of 1:5 is not individual but corporate; that is God predestined the group to be saved—those in Christ (1:3-4)—and the Lord adds to that group those who obey (Acts 2:47) thus leaving their sinful state (2:1-2,5)

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# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

### PHILIPPIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1); Timothy appears to have been Paul's amanuensis (1:1), though Epaphroditus delivered the epistle (2:25-30; 4:18) and may have been the amanuensis
- From: A Roman prison (1:7,13-14; cf. Acts 28:30-31) with access to Caesar's household (4:22)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (1:7,13-14; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Philippi (1:1; 4:15)
- Purpose: To respond to the kindness of the church in Philippi (4:18) and to reassure them as to the health of Epaphroditus who was from Philippi (2:25-30)
- Keys:
  - Words: Rejoice, Joy
  - Verse: 4:4 (Rejoice)
  - Passage: 1:21-24 (To live or to die)
- Lessons:
  - Christians should pray for their brethren (1:3-4,9-10)
  - A mind of humility ought to exist in Christians (2:5-8)
  - Man must work out his salvation (2:12)
  - Any cost should be paid to be righteous (3:7-9; cf. Matthew 16:26)
  - The Christian's work is never done (3:12-15; cf. Luke 17:10)
  - The Christian is a citizen of heaven (3:20)
  - Christians should always rejoice (4:4)
  - The Christian should be thankful before he makes request of God (4:6)
  - Christians must think on wholesome things (4:8)
  - Christians must be content (4:11; cf. 2:14-16)
  - The Christian's strength is in Christ (4:13)
  - God is the source of all blessings (4:19)
- Miscellaneous: It is interesting that Paul accepted support from Philippi (4:15-16), but not Corinth (I Corinthians 9:11-12; II Corinthians 11:5-9)—the Philippians respected his apostleship, the Corinthians were to some degree suspect

### COLOSSIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1,23; 4:18); Timothy appears to have been Paul's amanuensis (1:1), though Tychicus (4:7) and Onesimus (4:9) delivered the letter and may have been amanuenses
- From: A Roman prison (4:3,18; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (4:3,18; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: The church at Colossae (1:2)
- Purpose: To answer Judaizers and Gnostics regarding Jesus' authority
- Keys:
  - Word: "Christ"
  - Phrase: "All fulness"
  - Verse: 3:4 (Christ, our life)
  - Passage: 2:9-10 (Christ is God incarnate and therefore is authoritative)
- Lessons:
  - The kingdom is in existence (1:13)
  - Salvation is connected to the blood of Christ (1:14; cf. I Peter 1:19; Revelation 1:5; Acts 20:28)
  - Christ is the Head of the body (1:16-18; 2:9-10)
  - One who has been saved can so sin as to be lost (2:18)
  - The Christian must live above the world (3:1-8)
  - There are no distinctions regarding the class of Christians (3:11)
  - One must have authority for all he does (3:17)
  - Christians must take heed of their time (4:5)
  - Christians must take heed of their tongues (4:6)

### I THESSALONIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 2:18); perhaps Silvanus and/or Timotheus were
- (continued next column)**

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

- amanuenses (1:1)
- From: Corinth which was in Achaia (1:7-8; cf. Acts 18:5), although the uninspired postscript suggests Athens
- Date: Around A.D. 49 or 50 (Acts 18:11)
- Audience: The church at Thessalonica (1:1)
- Purpose: Given the opposition the Thessalonians were facing, Paul unable to be their in person sent his epistle to give them strength to withstand the pressure
- Keys:
  - Words: Hope, Comfort, Coming, Walk
  - Phrase: "Without ceasing," "Ye became followers"
  - Verse: 1:9 (Thessalonian repentance)
  - Passages: 4:16-18 (Comfort for those who lose Christian loved ones); 5:15-22 (Christian behavior)
- Lessons:
  - Others know what the faithful accomplish for the Lord (1:8)
  - The Word of God is Truth (2:13)
  - One can fall from grace (4:1-8)
  - Christians must live like Christians (4:11-12)
  - Jesus will never touch this earth again (4:17)
  - Christians should know and esteem those in authority over them (5:12-13)
  - Christians should be aware of spiritual danger at avoid it (5:14)
  - Christians should help any who need help (5:14)
  - God keeps His promises (5:24)
  - Christians should desire the prayers of others (5:25)

### II THESSALONIANS

- Author: Paul (1:1; 3:17); perhaps Silvanus and/or Timotheus were amanuenses (1:1)
- From: Corinth which was in Achaia (Acts 18:5), although the uninspired postscript suggests Athens
- Date: Around A.D. 50 (Acts 18:11), perhaps just months after I Thessalonians
- Audience: The church at Thessalonica (1:1)
- Purpose: To clear up misconceptions some had regarding the Second Coming after receiving I Thessalonians (2:2)
- Keys:
  - Word: Coming
  - Verses: 2:2 (Second coming not necessarily imminent); 3:5 (Patiently wait)
  - Chapter: 3 (Continued responsibility)
- Lessons:
  - Righteous judgment brings reward and punishment—rest or tribulation (1:4-9)
  - Some traditions are good (2:15)
  - One capable of working, must work (3:10)
  - Even through church discipline (3:6), one can handle those who are wrong tactfully (3:14-15)

### I TIMOTHY

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: While some suggest Philippi, Corinth, or Laodicea; there is equal possibility that this could have been written from somewhere like Nicopolis in Epirus (Titus 3:12) or like the region of Illyricum where Paul had labored previously (Romans 15:19; cf. II Timothy 4:10)
- Date: Early A.D. 60s, between imprisonments in Rome
- Audience: Timothy (1:2,18; 6:20-21)
- Purpose: To encourage Timothy through reminding him that an apostle sent him (1:1), to guard against the spread of false doctrine (1:3,6,7,18-20; 4:1-5; 6:3-6,20-21), and to show Timothy how to behave in the church (3:15)
- Keys:
  - Words: Worthy, Must
  - Phrase: "This is a true/faithful saying"
  - Verse: 4:12 (Be an example)

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# NEW TESTAMENT: PAULINE EPISTLES

## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (I TIMOTHY continued)

- Chapter: 3 (Church office qualifications)
- Lessons:
  - Law is not designed to punish the righteous (1:9-10)
  - Christ came to save sinners (1:15)
  - Church discipline can help those who are disciplined (1:20) and those who see (5:20)
  - Christians are to pray for all—even wicked governments (2:1-2)
  - God wants all to be saved (2:4)
  - There is one Mediator: Jesus (2:5)
  - Women are valuable, but are limited (2:8-15)
  - Qualifications must be met to please God (3)
  - The church is God's building (3:15)
  - Some will just do and promote that which is wrong (4:1-3)
  - Godliness should be the Christian's emphasis (4:8; 6:6)
  - Men must provide for their own (5:8)
  - Good elders are worthy of honor (5:17) and financial support (5:18) and the benefit of the doubt (5:19)
  - Sin will be punished (5:24)
  - The love of money is dangerous (6:10)
  - The eternal is superior to the temporal (6:11)
  - The righteous must fight for God (6:12)
  - Riches can be destructive or beneficial (6:17-19)

## II TIMOTHY

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: A Roman prison (2:9)
- Date: A.D. 67 or 68 during Paul's second imprisonment (2:9), probably A.D. 67 due to Paul's pre-winter request (4:9,13,21)
- Audience: Timothy (1:2)
- Purpose: To again encourage Timothy through reminding him of who had sent him, an apostle (1:1), and of from whence he had come (1:5-6; 3:15)
- Keys:
  - Words: Faith, Word
  - Verses: 2:2 (The same commit), 2:15 (Study for approval); 3:16 (All Scripture inspired)
  - Passage: 4:1-5 (Preach the Word)
- Lessons:
  - Just because conscience is not the standard does not mean it can be violated (1:3)
  - The source of miraculous ability was the laying on of an apostle's hands (1:6; cf. Acts 8:18)
  - God did not originate fear (1:7; cf. I John 4:18)
  - Man's salvation was purchased and prepared in the eternal past (1:9)
  - There is no shame in suffering for Christ (1:12)
  - God's Word provides a pattern for man (1:13)
  - Even the great need encouragement (1:16-18) and help (4:11)
  - One can wrongly divide Truth, so he has the responsibility to study (2:15)
  - One who is faithful need not worry if the Lord will be (2:19)
  - Being "a little" godly is not enough (3:5)
  - All righteous will be persecuted to some degree (3:12)
  - The Scriptures are sufficient to lead one to salvation (3:15-17)
  - Christians are responsible for spreading the Gospel (4:1-2; cf. II Corinthians 4:5-7)
  - The righteous will be rewarded (4:7-8)
  - God will always encourage the righteous (4:17-18)

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## THE PAULINE EPISTLES (continued)

### TITUS

- Author: Paul (1:1)
- From: As with I Timothy, some suggest numerous locales; however, more likely could be Titus' having been written from somewhere like the region of Illyricum where Paul had labored previously (Romans 15:19) and which would be in the vicinity of Nicopolis—in Epirus rather than the Nicopolis in Macedonia/Thrace mentioned in the uninspired postscript—to which Paul headed (3:12)
- Date: Mid A.D. 60s, between imprisonments in Rome; though not at the same time as I Timothy as some reason, for at that time Titus was in Dalmatia (II Timothy 4:10)
- Audience: Titus (1:4)
- Purpose: To give Titus further instruction with regard to appointing elders and general affairs of the church in Crete (1:5,12)
- Keys:
  - Word: Doctrine
  - Verse: 3:1 (Put them in mind)
  - Passage: 1:5-9 (Qualifications of elders)
- Lessons:
  - Truth is objective (1:1)
  - False teachers must be silenced (1:11)
  - Teachers may use outside sources for illustration (1:12; cf. Acts 17:28)
  - Additions do not aid Truth (1:14)
  - Lip service is not true service (1:16)
  - All have responsibilities (2:1-10)
  - God shed His grace on men through Christ (2:11-15; 3:7)
  - One can joyfully look for the Second Coming (2:13)
  - Some would undo the good they teach through the bad they do (2:15)
  - Even bad governments like Rome's must be obeyed (3:1-2)
  - Once lost does not mean always lost (3:3)
  - Washing is required for cleansing (3:5; cf. Acts 22:16; Ephesians 5:26)
  - The best way to solve problems is to avoid them (3:8)
  - Some things are better left alone (3:9)
  - One who is disfellowshipped has already disfellowshipped himself (3:10-11)

### PHILEMON

- Author: Paul (1,9,19), perhaps Onesimus was an amanuensis as the uninspired postscript says—that would depend upon the exact meaning of "written it" in 19
- From: A Roman prison (1,9,10,13,23)
- Date: Around A.D. 57-59, the same time as Colossians which was carried by Tychichus and Onesimus to Colossae, for Paul was apparently serving his first prison sentence in Rome (1,9,10,13,23; cf. Acts 28:30-31)
- Audience: Philemon (1)
- Purpose: To urge Philemon to treat his runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother (16)
- Keys:
  - Words: Receive, Beloved, Bowels
  - Verse: 11 (Unprofitable to profitable)
- Lessons:
  - Sometimes it is more effective to ask than to demand (8-10)
  - One never knows how providence may play a role (15)

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