



# The Pauline Epistles



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# INTRODUCTION

St. Paul wrote 14 Epistles (14/27):

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- Romans
  - 1st and 2nd Corinthians
  - Galatians
  - Ephesians
  - Philippians
  - Colossians
  - 1st and 2nd Thessalonians
  - 1st and 2nd Timothy
  - Titus
  - Philemon
  - Hebrews
-



# Epistles

What is an epistle?

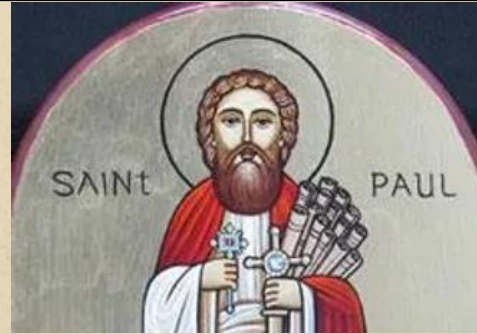
- Letters/messages being sent in a written or verbal format

Why were epistles written?

- Give precise explanation of ideas and teachings discussed
- Way of conserving teachings and bringing the whole church together under the authority of the Holy Spirit
- Due to the growth in faith, verbal teachings became more difficult, leading to a written form

# St. Paul

- Born in 5 A.D. with the name of Saul
- Harshly persecuted Christians in Jerusalem & consented to the death of the first martyr: St. Stephen
- On his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus, a light shone and he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
- Got imprisoned 7 times but never gave up until he was martyred in Rome in 64/65 AD



- Spent three years of seclusion in the desert praying and studying the Old Testament, wrote 14 epistles as he traveled since his conversion





# Romans


When:

- Around 57 A.D.

Why:

- Deal with the dispute between Jews & Proselytes (new converts)

What:

- Emphasizes that God has no partiality (bias)
  - Everyone is judged according to their faith and deeds
  - Clarifies that there is death in sin and life through the Holy Spirit.  
[Romans: 7-8].
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# 1ST & 2ND CORINTHIANS


When:

- Around 57 A.D.

Why:

- Teaches in Corinth, Greece for 18 months because the people were divided

What:

- He encourages the Corinthians to unify as one body
  - Christian person can live in true love in dark societies, Resurrection
  - Many repented and Paul was happy so he sent them a letter
  - Importance of living by the Spirit and not by the letter, blessing of giving the poor in Jerusalem.
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# Galatians


When:

- Around 57–58 A.D.

Why:

- St. Paul visited Galatia in Asia Minor under the Roman Empire many times to explain the new life in Christ Jesus

What:

- No longer need for Jewish traditions since the Cross and Christ's Salvation are everything for the salvation of the soul
  - Also defended his apostleship.
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# Ephesians


When:

- Early 62 A.D.

Why:

- In Ephesia for two years to expand his service and founded a church

What:

- Church is the body of Christ, her members must be ready to fight the devil by putting on the whole armor of God
  - Do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [Eph 6:11-12].
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# Phillipians


When:

- Early 63 A.D.

Why:

- Founded church in Philippi, Macedonia in 52 A.D. Wrote Phillipians before the end of his imprisonment

What:

- Focus: the life of joy and unity with all; men and women altogether
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# Colossians


When:

- Early 62 A.D.

Why:

- Written during St. Paul's first imprisonment in the city of Colosse, Rome

What:

- Did not talk about the prison because he did not care about it
  - Talked about heaven, Christ the Head of the Church, and the life giver
  - Response to a new move to go back to Judaism and the works of Law saying that it obscures the eternal glory and dignity of Christ
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# 1ST & 2ND Thessalonians


When:

- 52-53 A.D.

Why:

- Strengthen & encourage them to confront hardships and persecutions

What:

- First of his writings in the New Testament, written in Corinth
  - Talked about the joys of Heaven and the second coming of Jesus Christ
  - Sent his disciple Timothy, talked to them about his fatherly love for them
  - (2) Reform understanding of second coming, many stopped working, second coming after antichrist
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# 1ST & 2ND Timothy


When:

- 65 A. D.

Why:

- Servant's deeds inside and outside the Church

What:

- Believed at the hands of Saint Paul during his first preaching journey, Timothy was full of love for the church
  - St. Paul taught Timothy the ministry of the Bishops
  - Encouraged the Church to tolerate suffering because it will fill the life of the believers with joy.
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# Titus


When:

- Early 67 A.D.

Why:

- Titus' belief/conversion from paganism, went to Jerusalem w/ St. Paul

What:

- Talked to Titus about the church's work and that it is not necessary to return to Judaism
  - Talked to him about baptism and the second birth as well as the importance of obedience in the Christian life
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# Philemon


When:

- 63-64 A.D.

Why:

- Wrote this epistle to make clear that he was ready to pay the debts of Onesimus and send him to Philemon, reemphasize the importance of tolerance and acceptance.

What:

- Philemon had a slave whose name was Onesimus.
  - Stole money of his master and went to Rome where he met with St. Paul and converted to Christianity.
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# Hebrews


When:

- 62-64 A.D.

Why:

- Wrote this epistle to the Christians of a Jewish origin who were expelled from the Jewish Synagogue, without writing his name

What:

- Wanted to make clear to them the greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Some consider that the four Gospels talk about our Lord Jesus and His ministries on earth while the Epistle to the Hebrews talk about the act of Christ as a Heavenly Priest forever
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