

"Paul's Letters"

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (February 16, 2014)

Introduction: As we read through the book of Acts we can clearly see the influence of the apostle Paul. He made a significant impact on the early church. Let's consider his letters together...

Discussion:

I. Paul's Letter to the Romans

Date: This book was written from Corinth in the mid to late 50's AD (**Acts 20:2-3**).

Theme: The theme of the letter is that we are justified by faith (**Romans 3:21-8:39**).

Audience: The letter is written to Roman Christians who Paul intended to visit.

II. Paul's Letters to the Corinthians

Date: Spring of 57 AD and the Fall of 57 AD (**I Corinthians 16:8, II Corinthians 8:10, 9:2**)

Theme: I Corinthians is about maturity and II Corinthians is hope.

Audience: The intended audience is the church in Corinth.

III. Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Date: Either as late as 57 AD (**Acts 16:6**) or as early as 49 AD (**Acts 18:23**).

Theme: The theme of the book seems to be the doctrine of justification by faith.

Audience: The intended audience is the churches of Galatia.

IV. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Date: Paul wrote it around 60-62 AD while in a Roman prison (**Ephesians 3:1, 4:1, 6:20**).

Theme: This letter is about Christian unity and reconciliation in Christ.

Audience: The intended audience is the church in Ephesus.

V. Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Date: Paul wrote it around 60-62 AD in a Roman prison (**Philippians 1:12-20**).

Theme: This letter is about living a joyful Christian life.

Audience: The church of Philippi was the intended audience.

VI. Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Date: Paul wrote it around 60-62 AD in a Roman prison (**Colossians 4:4, 18**).

Theme: This letter is about the supremacy of Christ.

Audience: The church of Colossae was the intended audience.

VII. Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians

Date: I Thessalonians was written around 49-51 AD and II Thessalonians around 50-51 AD.

Theme: I Thessalonians is about the second coming and II Thessalonians about judgment.

Audience: The church of Thessalonica was the intended audience.

VIII. Paul's Letters to Timothy

Date: I Timothy was written around 62-64 AD and II Timothy around 64-65 AD.

Theme: I & II Timothy deal with church problems.

Audience: I & II Timothy were meant to encourage the young preacher, Timothy.

IX. Paul's Letter to Titus

Date: It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 62-65 AD from Macedonia.

Theme: Paul encourages Titus to keep working steadfastly.

Audience: The letter is personally addressed to Titus (**Titus 1:4**).

X. Paul's Letter to Philemon

Date: Paul wrote it around 60-62 AD in a Roman prison (**Philemon 1, 9-13, 23**).

Theme: This letter is about brotherly love and forgiveness.

Audience: The letter is addressed to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus and the church in their house.

Conclusion: Will you follow in Paul's footsteps? Will you consider his words? Will you serve the Lord?