

# Chapter 17: Letters of Paul

# Paul's Life:

- First Journey (Acts 13-14)
- Wrote Galatians (AD 49)
- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- Second Journey (Acts 16-18)
- Wrote 1&2 Thessalonians at Corinth
- Third Journey (Acts 18-21)
- Wrote 1 Corinthians at Ephesus
- Wrote 2 Corinthians in Macedonia
- Wrote Romans in Corinth
- Journey to Rome (Acts 21-28)
- At Rome AD 61, wrote Philemon, Colossians, Eph., Phil.
- Wrote 1 Timothy
- Re-imprisonment (not recorded)
- Wrote 2 Timothy and Titus
- Martyrdom (AD 65)

# Form of the Letters

- **Introductory Paragraph (Salutation)**
  - Name of the writer
  - Name of recipient
  - Greeting (usually “grace and peace”)
- **Main Message**
- **Concluding Paragraph**
  - Farewell or benediction
  - Messages or greetings from others
  - Signature
- **No date of Letter**

# Characteristics of Letters

- Paul sometimes used an amanuensis or secretary
  - Tertius was one (Romans 16:22)
  - Possibly explains abrupt shifts in writing (Phil 2:30-3:1)
- Amanuensis sometimes used shorthand in a draft
- Paul closed every dictated letter with a few hand written lines
  - Purpose: token of affection and or sign of genuineness
  - 1 Cor. 16:21, Col. 4:18, 2 Thes. 3:17
- In citing the OT, Paul
  - Used his own memory
  - Used the LXX rendering generally
- Paul intended for his letters to circulate to other churches
  - Colossians 4:16, 1 Thes. 5:27
  - No post office existed, so letters were carried by trusted friends

# Characteristics of Letters

- Paul wrote in an authoritative manner
  - In 1 Cor. 2:13&14:37 Paul puts his words on par with a revelation of the Spirit and a command of the Lord, respectively.
  - The basis of his authority is his apostleship by Jesus Christ.
- Each letter normally has two parts:
  - Doctrinal section
  - Practical section
- Paul's letters were much longer than normal 1<sup>st</sup> century letters
  - Private letters: 90 words
  - Literary letters: 200 words (one sheet of Papyrus)
  - Paul's letters: 1,300 words

# Chapter 18: Romans

# Intro thoughts....

- Paul had never been to visit the church in Rome
- Believers from Pentecost started the church in Rome
- Clement in AD 100, first to say that Paul and Peter were Martyred
- Sent Romans to Rome from Corinth
- Host was Gaius (16:23), Tertius scribe, Phoebe messenger (16)
  
- Thoughts from church fathers....
  - John Chrysostom had Romans read aloud to him each week...
  - Martin Luther called it a gospel (mini gospel)
  - John Calvin said that Romans explain the gospel
  - John Wesley accepted Christ after a sermon out of Romans
  - James Racher said the whole Bible leads to Romans

# Audience

- Jewish (Romans 9-11)
  - Based upon Old Testament citations and proofs
  - Gentile dominant book (Rome)
    - Chapter 1:5-6, 1:13, 11:13, 15:15-16
- Paul is encouraging the local Jewish believers to accept the gentile converts, because we are one church. Unity is important!

# Theme/Style

- Theme: “The righteousness of God” 1:17
  - For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
  - Phrase: Justification
    - By God’s grace
    - Faith through the Son
- Style: Most original/Formal
  - Longest letter
  - Numerous OT quotes
  - Argumentative (this makes good sense)

# Outline

- **Theological Outline**
  - **Condemnation 1:18-3:20**
  - **Justification 3:21-8:17**
  - **Sanctification 8:18-39**
  - **Glorification 9-11**
  - **Explanation 12-15**
  - **Conclusion 16**

# Theological Concepts

- Aspects of Atonement
  - Redemption (sin-ward): a slave term (to be purchased at market)
  - Reconciliation (man-ward): change status (enemy to friend of God)
  - Propitiation (God-ward): to appease anger (Rom 4)
- Results of Atonement
  - Justification- to declare “righteous” (legal term)
    - past
  - Sanctification- to set apart
    - present
  - Glorification- perfection of the body (heaven)
    - future