



The Epistles Of St. Paul

The Epistles of St. Paul

- The Pauline Epistles
- The history of St. Paul's epistles
- The 'now' of St. Paul's epistles

Where do the Epistles fit?

- **Old Testament - Preparation for salvation**
- **New Testament - Realisation of salvation in the Person of Jesus Christ**

New Testament

- **Gospels & Acts**
- **The Epistles**
- **Revelation**

The Epistles

- **Pauline Epistles - 14**
- **Catholic (General) Epistles - 7**

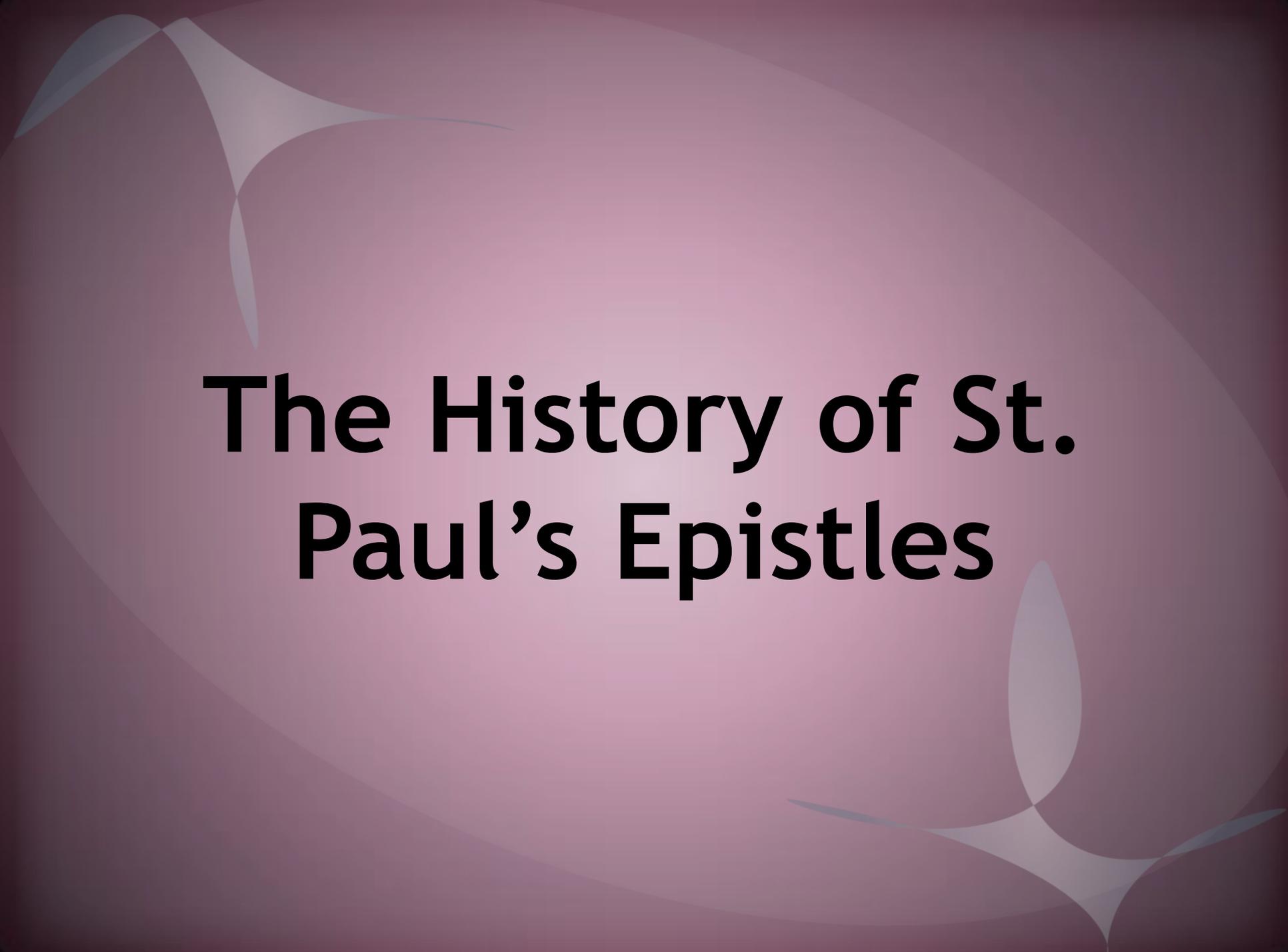
The Pauline Epistles

The First 7 Pauline Epistles

- Romans
- 1st & 2nd Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians

The Second 7 Pauline Epistles

- **1st & 2nd Thessalonians**
- **1st & 2nd Timothy**
- **Titus**
- **Philemon**
- **Hebrews**



The History of St. Paul's Epistles

Romans

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	Paul did not visit the Church in Rome yet. But he sent this epistle to the Christian there either from Jewish origin or Gentile origin to prepare them to the faith he preach.
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~57 AD from Corinth in the third mission.
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	Christian from Jewish origin felt that they are better than the others from Gentile origin and vice versa
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	God's RIGHTEOUSNESS revealed in CHRIST for our SALVATION

1st & 2nd Corinthians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church in Corinth which St. Paul established in the 2nd. Mission (Acts 18:1-11)
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~55 from Ephesus during St. Paul 3rd. mission
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Church disunity2. Moral failure3. Dealing with Pagan religion4. Wrong teaching about Spiritual gifts , Eucharist and resurrection of the bodies
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Application of Christian principles to the problems occurring in Corinth .2. Establish the theology of :<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Spiritual gifts+ Eucharist+ Resurrection of the bodies

1st & 2nd Corinthians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church in Corinth which St. Paul established in the 2nd. Mission (Acts 18:1-11)
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~56 AD from Macedonia after St. Paul received a report from Titus about the effect of the 1st. epistle on the church at Corinth
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	1. Some attacked the Apostleship of St. Paul , and his equality to the other Apostles.
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	1. Reconciliation to the Corinthian church . 2. St. Paul defense of his apostolic credentials and authority.

Galatians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	<p>To the Churches in the province of Galatia in Asia Minor.</p> <p>He visited these Churches in the 2nd. mission (Acts 16:6) and also on the 3rd. mission (Acts18:23)</p>
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	<p>~56 AD from Ephesus or Macedonia</p>
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	<p>The Galatians churches were taken over by Jewish teaching of returning back to the law of Moses for salvation.</p>
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	<p>The true gospel vs. the false gospel .[Sufficiency of the true faith in Christ for salvation.]</p>

Ephesians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church of Ephesus in Asia Minor ,where he spent about 3 years (Acts 18:19-20 ; 19:8,10 ; 20:17,31) in his 2nd and 3rd. missions.
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	The riches of Christ in the Church. [The Church is the Body of Christ. This Body is the center and life of all.]

Philippians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church of Philippe which is the 1st. city St. Paul preached in Europe in his 2nd. mission (Acts 16:11-40) . He visited again in his 3rd. mission (Acts 20:1-6)
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	The dynamic of our life in Christ [JOY]

Colossians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church of Colossi. Colossi was a minor city near Ephesus. The Church- most probably- was found by Epaphras , a native of Colossi, Philemon was its largest financial supporter and the church was in his home.
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	Heresy which was a blend of Jewish and Oriental ideas. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Christ is not unique.2. Angels are superior to Christ3. Sin resulted from lack of knowledge4. Salvation can be gained through ritual and ascetic practices.
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	Living by the will of God vs. dying by false human schemes. [Preeminence of Christ in all things.]

1st & 2nd Thessalonians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	To the Church in Thessalonica . Thessalonica was the most prominent city of the province of Macedonia. St. Paul established the Church in his 2nd. mission (Acts17: 1-8)
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~50-51AD from Corinth as a response to St. Timothy's report.
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	A holy life leads to eternal life. [Jesus next coming]

1st & 2nd Thessalonians

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	<p>To the Church in Thessalonica .</p> <p>Thessalonica was the most prominent city of the province of Macedonia. St. Paul established the Church in his 2nd. mission (Acts17: 1-8)</p>
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	<p>~ 51AD from Corinth ,few months after the 1st. epistle.</p>
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	<p>False speculations about the next coming of the Lord.</p>
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	<p>Stand fast through Apostolic teaching [Understand the day of the Lord]</p>

1st Timothy

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	St. Timothy ,the beloved son of St. Paul and the Bishop of Ephesus
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~64-65 from Macedonia
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	Pastoral care of the faithful

2nd Timothy

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	St. Timothy ,the beloved son of St. Paul and the Bishop of Ephesus
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~65-67 from Roman prison near his execution
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	Overcoming hardship in the ministry

Titus

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	Titus was a gentile converted by St. Paul , received an approval of the Apostles in Jerusalem to remain uncircumcised (Gal. 2:1-5). Appointed by St. Paul to be the Bishop of Crete.
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~63-65 from Corinth
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	Overseeing the Church according to the true faith.

Philemon

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	Philemon had been converted by St. Paul, and was a member of the Church in Colossi
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	Onesimus was a slave of Philemon, who stole from his master and ran away. He was then captured. Somehow, reached St. Paul and was converted to Christ. St. Paul returned him back to his master with this letter. Our brotherhood in Christ
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	Our brotherhood in Christ

Hebrews

<i>To whom it was sent</i>	The Greek speaking Jewish Christian mainly in Palestine .
<i>Date & place of writing the epistle</i>	~ 64-68 AD
<i>Problems need to be solved</i>	As Jewish Christians were dismissed from the Temple , they started to feel the sense of loss of the Jewish customs and traditions. They started to have a low view of Christ and Christianity
<i>The theme of the epistle</i>	The superiority of Christ

In Summary

- **The Pauline epistles show us what it means to have life & health in the body of Christ**
- **Very practical guide to being in Christ & Christ in us**