

Letters Written by the Apostle Paul

ORDER, STRUCTURE, AND PURPOSE

Some Key Thoughts

Forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us
DEMONSTRATION

Defending the faith in word and example
UTILIZATION

Serving the Living God while waiting for His Son from Heaven
EXPECTATION

Seeking those things which are "ABOVE" where CHRIST is seated
CULMINATION

The upward call of God "IN CHRIST"
SUBORDINATION

Seated in the heavenlies with Christ and "IN CHRIST"
EXALTATION

Not LAW, but "LIBERTY IN CHRIST"
LIBERATION

Not human wisdom, but the "WISDOM OF GOD"
SANCTIFICATION

RIGHTEOUSNESS: Not by works, but by "FAITH"
JUSTIFICATION

PHILEMON
The love of Christ at work
(An appeal to a friend)

I & II TIMOTHY and TITUS
Church organization and leadership
Sound doctrine
(Letters to individual church leaders)

I & II THESSALONIANS
Correction and instruction about
the rapture and how to live until that time
(Letters to a questioning church)

COLOSSIANS
A warning of lost rewards
1-2 Warnings 3-4 Practice
(A letter to a wavering church)

PHILIPPIANS
A call to service
1-2 The mind of a servant 3-4 Application
(A letter to a giving church)

EPHESIANS
Explaining the Body
1-3 Doctrine 4-6 Practice
(A letter to a stable church)

GALATIANS
Reproof and correction for perverting the Gospel of Grace
(A letter to a legalistic church)

I & II CORINTHIANS
Reproof and correction for the abuse of our liberty in Christ
(Letters to a carnal church)

*** ROMANS ***
The foundation of the revelation of the dispensation of The GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST
1-8 Doctrine 9-11 Dispensations 12-16 Practice
(A letter to a far away church)

The General Purpose

INTERCESSION

Gives an example of a godly attitude and demonstration of love through Paul's petition on behalf of the unprofitable runaway slave, Onesimus.

EXHORTATION

Provides instructions for church leadership with a charge to teach and defend "sound doctrine" and to admonish believers to zealously maintain "good works" while looking for our "BLESSED HOPE."

ENCOURAGEMENT

To encourage believers to live godly even while enduring times of persecution. Corrects false teaching concerning the rapture or "catching away" of the "Body of Christ."

ADMONITION

Colossians warns against the danger of not holding fast to the Head of the Body. Because any departure from the truth will result in loss of rewards believers are to set their "affection on things above, not on things on the earth".

SERVANTHOOD

Philippians explains that true joy is found in serving Christ. Faithful service requires believers to be like-minded with Christ who was "obedient unto death".

IDENTIFICATION

Ephesians explains the heavenly position and oneness of the Body of Christ and challenges believers to live accordingly.

REPROOF

To rebuke and call the Galatian church to repentance for their departure from the Gospel of Grace to return to the Law.

CORRECTION

To correct divisions among the brethren and the abuse of spiritual gifts and immortality in the church at Corinth. Paul also defended his apostleship and taught on the resurrection.

EXPLANATION

Romans explains the "Grace of God" and the temporary setting aside of Israel.

The book of Romans gives us the fundamental truths necessary to understanding the plan and purpose of the Dispensation of the Grace of God revealed through the Apostle Paul. These truths are found only in Paul's writings and are essential to knowing in full the position, walk, commission, and hope of the Body of Christ.