



■ ROME

ITALY

MACEDONIA

■ Philippi

Thessalonica ■

(GREECE)

ACHAIA

ASIA MINOR

GALATIA

ASIA

SICILY

ADRIA

Corinth ■

Ephesus ■

■ Colossae

CILICIA

Tarsus ■

Syrian Antioch ■

SYRIA

SEA

Melita/Malta

CRETE

CYPRUS

MEDITERRANEAN

SEA

Nazareth

SAMARIA

JUDEA

JERUSALEM +

0 scale 250miles 400km

## Chronological order of Paul's letters

Date	Name	Location of authorship
c. 48	Galatians	Antioch (uncertain)
c. 49–51	1 Thessalonians	Corinth
c. 49–51	2 Thessalonians	Corinth
c. 53–55	1 Corinthians	Ephesus
c. 55–56	2 Corinthians	Macedonia
c. 57	Romans	Corinth
c. 62	Ephesians	Rome
c. 60-62	Philippians	Rome
c. 60-62	Colossians	Rome
c. 62	Philemon	Rome
c. 62–64	1 Timothy	Macedonia
c. 62–64	Titus	Nicopolis
c. 64–67	2 Timothy	Rome



# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

A UNIQUE WINDOW INTO PAUL'S HEART & MIND

- HE SAW HIS LIFE AS A REENACTMENT OF JESUS' STORY
- HIS AWARENESS OF JESUS' LOVE & PRESENCE GAVE HIM HOPE & HUMILITY
- KNOWING JESUS IS DEEPLY PERSONAL & TRANSFORMATIVE

### 1:1-11 OPENING PRAYER

I THANK GOD WHEN I REMEMBER YOU! (1:3)

I'M CONFIDENT THAT THE ONE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL COMPLETE IT. (1:6)

### 1:12-26 PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT

PAUL SURE IS GETTING THE JESUS' TREATMENT!

JESUS REALLY LOVES YOU GUYS?

not so bad!

EXECUTION

OR

RELEASE

START MORE JESUS COMMUNITIES

BETTER FOR OTHERS

FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE

FOR ME, LIFE IS THE MESSIAH, AND SO DYING WOULD BE A GAIN! (1:21)

PRESENCE WITH JESUS GREAT FOR PAUL...

EXECUTION

OR

RELEASE

START MORE JESUS COMMUNITIES

BETTER FOR OTHERS

FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE

### 1:27-2:18 FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE

CAESAR IS SAVIOR & LORD!

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS...

"YOUR LIFE AS CITIZENS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE MESSIAH." (1:27)

### 2:6-11 THE MESSIAH POEM

ALTHOUGH HE EXISTED IN THE NATURE OF GOD, HE DID NOT REGARD HIS EQUALITY WITH GOD AS A THING TO BE EXPLOITED. RATHER, HE EMPTIED HIMSELF, TAKING UP THE NATURE OF A SERVANT: HE WAS BORN AS A HUMAN; & RECOGNIZED AS A HUMAN; HE HUMILED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.

EQUALITY WITH GOD

MINE!

ALTHOUGH HE EXISTED IN THE NATURE OF GOD, HE DID NOT REGARD HIS EQUALITY WITH GOD AS A THING TO BE EXPLOITED. RATHER, HE EMPTIED HIMSELF, TAKING UP THE NATURE OF A SERVANT: HE WAS BORN AS A HUMAN; & RECOGNIZED AS A HUMAN; HE HUMILED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.

THEREFORE, GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, IN HEAVEN, ON EARTH, OR UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS:

JESUS the MESSIAH is LORD! To the GLORY of GOD the FATHER!

EXPRESSES PAUL'S CONVICTION OF WHO JESUS IS...

...OFFERS AN EXAMPLE to follow

### 2:19-30 TWO EXAMPLES

19-21 TIMOTHY

LORD, PLEASE KEEP THE PHILIPPIANS SAFE.

25-30 EPAPHRODITUS

"HE CAME CLOSE TO DEATH TO SERVE THE MESSIAH."

...HE'S OKAY!

### QUOTING ISAIAH 45:33

PAUL'S POINT: the One True God consists of GOD the FATHER & the LORD JESUS

### 4:10-23 CLOSING THANKS

IN NEED & PROSPERITY, IN POVERTY & PLENTY, I'VE LEARNED THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT: SIMPLE DEPENDENCE ON THE ONE WHO STRENGTHENS ME. (4:12-13)

### 4:2-9 CHALLENGE TO LIVE THE EXAMPLE

EUODIA & SYNTICHE

"MAKE YOUR NEEDS KNOWN TO THE GOD OF PEACE WHO WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS & MINDS." (4:6-7)

"I PLEAD WITH YOU TO BE UNIFIED IN THE LORD." (4:2)

### 3:1-4:1 PAUL'S EXAMPLE

ZELOUS & SELF-RIGHTEOUS

PAUL'S PAST

(SEE GALATIANS)

"I REGARD IT ALL AS FILTH IN COMPARISON TO KNOWING THE MESSIAH." (3:8-10)

"OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN & WE'RE AWAITING OUR ROYAL SAVIOR TO COME FROM THERE." (3:20)

NOT THIS!

JESUS AS KING OF THE WORLD

JUSTICE LOVE NEW CREATION

# Philippians

- Written by Paul while he was in “house” prison in Rome, around 61 AD
- Brief letter to the Philippian Christians to thank them for the gift they sent him upon learning of his detention, to respond to their concern for his safety, to commend Timothy and Epaphroditus to them, and to warn them against the Judaizers (legalists) and antinomians (libertines) among them
- Philippi was a Roman colony; not enough Jews there to permit establishment of a synagogue and probably the reason why Paul does not quote the Old Testament in his letter
- The theme of the book is joy; the words “joy” and “rejoice” are found sixteen times in it

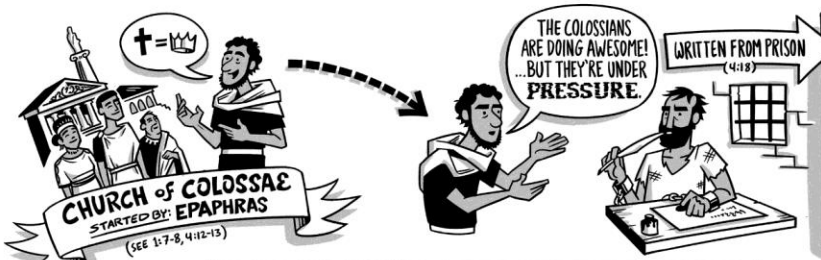
# Philippians

- Chapter 2 contains one of the New Testament's most significant Christological statements (Phil 2:5-11)

*Jesus is God, who surrendered the prerogatives of deity to enter the human race, died for our sins, and then became exalted once again to be Lord of all*

- Paul's chains advanced the Gospel; a dramatic irony made possible by the power of God's Word
- Paul's "credentials" strengthened his authority
  - Saul, prior to his conversion, was a Pharisee; highly educated in the Jewish religion; zealous for the letter of the Law; a Hebrew of Hebrews (Phil 3:5-6)
  - Paul's firm convictions and willingness to give up his life were a remarkable and striking testimony to the change Christ had worked in him; all those "credentials" meant nothing now that he had 'gained' Christ (Phil 3:7-8)





# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

NO PART OF HUMAN EXISTENCE REMAINS UNTOUCHED BY THE LOVING & LIBERATING RULE OF JESUS.

WE'RE INVITED TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT AS IF THE **NEW CREATION** ARRIVED WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

## 1:1-23 THE EXALTED MESSIAH

WE THANK GOD FOR YOUR **FAITH, Love, and HOPE.** (1:3-5)

WE PRAY FOR GREATER **WISDOM** and *Spiritual Understanding.* (1:9-10)

### 1:15-20 THE MESSIAH POEM

HE IS THE **IMAGE** OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, **FIRSTBORN** OVER ALL CREATION, FOR IN HIM ALL THINGS WERE **CREATED**, IN THE HEAVENS & ON EARTH, THINGS VISIBLE & INVISIBLE, THRONES OR KINGDOMS, POWERS OR AUTHORITIES. ALL THINGS WERE **CREATED** THROUGH HIM & FOR HIM, AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS COHERE.

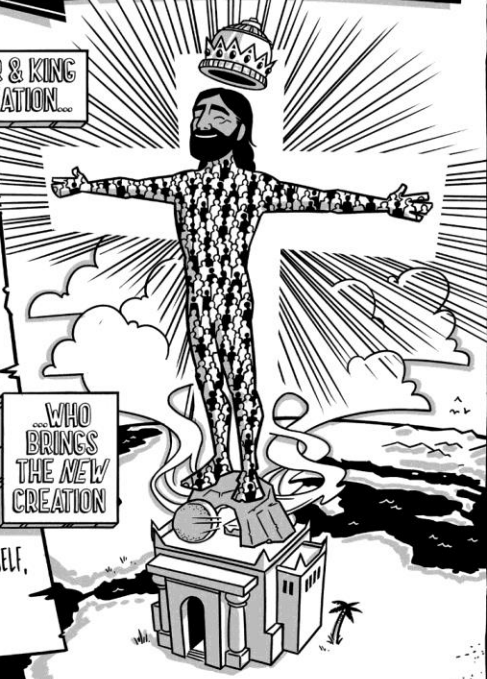
AND HE IS THE **HEAD** OF THE **BODY**, THE CHURCH. HE IS THE **BEGINNING**, **FIRSTBORN** FROM AMONG THE DEAD, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS HE WOULD HOLD THE HIGHEST ROLE. FOR GOD WAS PLEASED FOR HIS FULL **PRESENCE** TO DWELL IN HIM, AND THROUGH HIM TO **RECONCILE** ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF, WHETHER IN THE HEAVENS OR ON EARTH, MAKING PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS **CROSS**.

**FULL OF ECHOES OF:** - GENESIS 1 - PSALMS 2, 8, 68 - EXODUS 40 - PROVERBS 8

AUTHOR & KING OF CREATION...

SHARES THE IDENTITY OF THE ONE CREATOR GOD

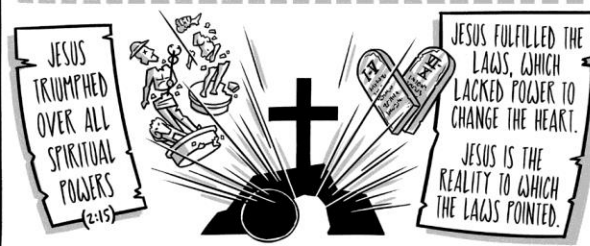
WHO BRINGS THE NEW CREATION



## 1:24-2:5 THE SUFFERING APOSTLE



## 2:6-23 THE PRESSURE TO TURN AWAY



## 3-4 THE RESURRECTION LIFE



**CHALLENGE:** LIVE IN THE PRESENT AS THE KIND OF HUMAN YOU WILL BECOME

**OLD HUMANITY:** DISTORTED SEXUALITY & DESTRUCTIVE SPEECH

**NEW HUMANITY:** MERCY! GENEROSITY! FORGIVENESS! LOVE!

"HERE NO ONE'S GREEK OR JEWISH, CIRCUMCISED OR UNCIRCUMCISED, SLAVE OR FREE: THE MESSIAH IS ALL & IS IN ALL PEOPLE." (3:11)



PAUL RESHAPE THE ROMAN HOUSEHOLD AROUND JESUS, WHO RULES WITH SELF-GIVING LOVE.



# Colossians

- Paul wrote it during his first “house arrest” in Rome; approximately 60 AD
- Although Paul never explicitly describes them, many Pauline scholars believe he was trying to warn the Church in Colosseum against certain heresies
  - that Jesus either did not become a true human being or He was not God
  - that spirituality is essentially a matter of the mind and inner being
  - that one must punish or deprive the physical nature to strengthen the spiritual; asceticism
  - ceremonialism
  - angel worship
  - an early form of Gnosticism, claiming “secret knowledge”/human wisdom, mixed with an extreme form of Judaism/tradition

# Colossians

- Paul's responses
  - Jesus Christ is God; “by Christ’s physical body through death” our salvation was won; God not only entered the material world, but it was what He did in the world that accomplished salvation
  - “fullness in Christ” (Col 2:10)
  - describes the way Christians are to live out their spirituality in everyday life



## Colossians 1:26

- “Mystery” is God’s plan of salvation now disclosed; not a “secret” to be revealed to only a select few (cults)
- Fullness of God’s plan revealed in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection; in grace, God extends the blessing of salvation, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the whole earth, Jews and Gentiles alike

## Colossians 2:8

- Any teaching that promises answers to life’s ultimate questions outside of Christ is deceptive and dangerous; no human philosophy, no matter how elegant or sophisticated, can add anything to the Gospel truth of God’s grace and love for sinners made perfect in Christ
- The heresy with which the Colossians struggled included a mixture of Jewish ideas and pagan philosophy; taught strict adherence to specific rules about foods, festivals, and circumcision; boasted of some “secret knowledge

## Colossians 2:14

Paul is speaking of the Mosaic Law and the guilt that breaking the Law brings. Both of these are cancelled/"exaleipho"/"washed out"/dismissed/annulled by the Cross

## Colossians 3-4

- Believers came from various ethnic groups and social classes; Greeks were well educated and cultured and looked down on anyone who did not share their worldview; Jewish believers embraced Jesus Christ as the Messiah of God's chosen people, boasting and arrogant about their heritage
- The belief that circumcision, the outward sign of God's covenant, was necessary for salvation, made the Greek believers, who were typically not circumcised, ineligible for salvation

Paul emphasized the oneness all believers share in Christ (Col 3:11); God's grace in Christ knows no barriers



# 1 THESSALONIANS

Holiness Love Future Hope

FOLLOWING JESUS PRODUCES A COUNTER-CULTURAL **HOLY** WAY OF LIFE...

...THAT RESPONDS TO HOSTILITY WITH **LOVE** & GENEROSITY.

...THAT IS MOTIVATED BY **HOPE** IN THE COMING KINGDOM OF JESUS.

## 1-3 A CELEBRATION OF FAITHFULNESS

## 4-5 A CHALLENGE TO GROW

**1-5** THANKSGIVING PRAYER  
I THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, LOVE, and HOPE!

**1:6-10** THE THESSALONIANS' CONVERSION  
"YOU TURNED AWAY FROM **IDOLS** TO SERVE THE LIVING & **TRUE GOD**, AND ARE WAITING FOR THE COMING OF GOD'S SON FROM HEAVEN." (1:9-10)

**2:1-12** PAUL'S MISSION IN THESSALONICA  
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS & LOVING SERVICE.

**3:11-13** PRAYER FOR ENDURANCE  
MAY GOD INCREASE YOUR **LOVE, HOLINESS, & HOPE!**

**2:1-12** PAUL'S MISSION IN THESSALONICA  
"WE WERE HAPPY TO SHARE NOT ONLY THE GOOD NEWS FROM GOD, BUT **OUR VERY SELVES**, BECAUSE WE CAME TO DEARLY LOVE YOU." (2:8)

**1:1-8** HOLINESS & SEXUAL PURITY  
FOLLOWING JESUS' TEACHINGS ON **SEX & MARRIAGE** (MATTHEW 5:27-32, 19:1-12)

**4:9-12** COMMITMENT TO **LOVE & SERVICE**  
WORKING HARD SO THAT YOU CAN BE GENEROUS TO OTHERS (SEE 2 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13)

**5:23-28** PRAYER OF HOPE  
MAY GOD KEEP YOU **HOLY** AS YOU AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF JESUS.

**1:13-16** FUTURE HOPE OF JESUS' RETURN  
WHAT'S THEIR FATE WHEN JESUS RETURNS?  
THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE MESSIAH WILL RISE. (4:16)

PEACE & SECURITY!

CAESAR'S ARRIVAL MET BY HIS DELEGATES  
JESUS' ARRIVAL MET BY HIS PEOPLE. (4:17)

**2:13-16** THEIR COMMON PERSECUTION  
THEIR SUFFERING IS A WAY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE STORY OF JESUS.

**2:17-3:10** PAUL'S ANGUISH...  
THE THESSALONIANS ARE SUFFERING!  
SEND TIMOTHY!  
I'M ON IT!  
...& TIMOTHY'S DISCOVERY  
WE'RE GOING STRONG!  
AND WE MISS PAUL!

**5:1-11** THIS HOPE SHOULD MOTIVATE FAITHFULNESS  
THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BRING THEIR SUDDEN RUIN... (5:2-3)  
...SO LIVE IN THE **PRESENT** AS IF THAT DAY IS ALREADY HERE. (5:4)

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# BACKGROUND OF THE THESSALONIAN LETTERS

(Concordia Study Bible, pp. 1832)

- Paul (and Silas) fled from Thessalonica to Berea (Acts 17:5-10)
- Paul fled from Berea to Athens (Acts 17:14)
- Timothy was sent by Paul to Thessalonica (1 Thess 3:1-5)
- Paul moved on to Corinth (Acts 18:1)
- Paul wrote 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians (51 AD) and sent it to the church
- About six months later (51/52 AD) Paul sent 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians to the church

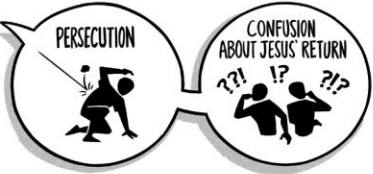
# 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

- Written by Paul to the church at Thessalonica
- One of the earliest New Testament epistles
- Paul had a deep longing to see the Thessalonian Christians again, making repeated plans to journey there, but, according to 1 Thess 2:18, Satan “stopped” him, derailing his plans
- Sent Timothy, his closest assistant and trusted messenger, to go in his place; Timothy returned with the good news that the believers were standing firm in their faith



# 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

Paul arrived in Thessalonica in AD 49. While in Thessalonica, he spent three Sabbaths in the synagogue (Acts 17:2). During this time, Paul worked as a tentmaker (1 Thess 2:9; cf. Acts 18:3) and received financial gifts from the Philippians as well (Phil 4:16). Abruptly, Paul left Thessalonica, leaving those recent converts from paganism (1 Thess 1:9) with little support in the midst of persecution. When Timothy returned from Thessalonica, reporting on their efforts despite continued persecution, Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to encourage them (1 Thess 3:3-5), to give instruction concerning godly living (1 Thess 4:1-8), to urge them not to neglect daily work (1 Thess 4:11-12), and to give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns. In the final chapter, Paul writes of the return of Christ for His Church



# 2 THESSALONIANS

BELIEF IN JESUS' RETURN & HOPE FOR FINAL JUSTICE

NOT SPECULATION ABOUT TIMELINES



INSPIRED HOPE & FAITHFULNESS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WHAT YOU HOPE FOR SHAPES WHAT YOU LIVE FOR.

## 1 HOPE DESPITE PERSECUTION

**1:1-3** THANKSGIVING PRAYER  
I THANK GOD FOR YOUR FAITH, Love, and ENDURANCE.

**1:4-12** SUFFERING = PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

PERSECUTION HAS INTENSIFIED

JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOW THEIR **VICTORY** THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE & ENDURANCE

THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY

"THEY WILL BE BANISHED AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD & FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER." (3:13)

**JESUS RETURN = FINAL JUSTICE**

**1:11-12** MAY THE LORD JESUS BE HONORED THROUGH YOU.

## 2 THE DAY OF THE LORD

PAUL SAYS: THE **DAY OF THE LORD** IS **ALREADY UPON US!!!**

GOD'S FINAL JUSTICE ON EVIL

DID JESUS COME 'LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT?' (SEE THESSALONIANS 5:2)

JESUS HAS ABANDONED US!!!!

I NEVER SAID THAT!

REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU...  
...THE WORLD WILL KEEP PRODUCING RULERS WHO REBEL & EXALT THEMSELVES ABOVE GOD...

WILL WREAK VIOLENCE & HAVOC ON GOD'S WORLD...

THE REBEL

WILL CONFRONT THE REBEL...  
...& DELIVER HIS PEOPLE.

BUT NOT FOREVER...

THE POINT:  
- IS NOT TO FUEL APOCALYPTIC SPECULATION  
- IS TO COMFORT THE THESSALONIANS & RECALL JESUS' TEACHINGS (SEE MARK 13)

THE EVENTS LEADING TO JESUS' RETURN WILL BE **OBVIOUS!** YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED.

PHEW!

**2:10-17** MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

## 3 CHALLENGE TO THE "IDLE"

NOT LAZY, BUT IRRESPONSIBLE & REFUSING TO WORK (SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 4:10-12, 5:14)

POSSIBLE:  
JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY MOMENT!  
WHY WORK? I QUIT!

MORE LIKELY:  
ROMAN 'PATRONAGE'  
"CLIENTS" (like personal assistants) FETCH ME SIX EGGS.  
FETCH ME SIX PROSTITUTES. !?

"...SOME OF YOU ARE LEADING A DISORDERED LIFE, NOT WORKING, BUT MEDDLING IN THE BUSINESS OF OTHERS." (3:11)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE!

IMITATING JESUS' SELF-GIVING LOVE

PROVIDING FOR HIMSELF TO SERVE OTHERS FREE OF CHARGE

THE IDEAL:

**WORKING HARD SO THEIR LIVES CAN BENEFIT OTHERS**

**3:16-18** MAY THE LORD OF PEACE GRANT YOU PEACE

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

- Current scholars say that 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians was written by Paul, as a follow-up to 1 Thessalonians
- Written to correct reported misunderstandings about Christ's Second Coming and what might happen at history's end
  - to counter the teachings of false teachers, some of whom were even speaking in Paul's name
  - to dispel the belief that Christ had already returned
- In Chap 1, Paul reminds them, that when Christ does return, a very public judgment will take place
- In Chap 2, Paul reminds them that certain events must happen just before Christ returns to earth, and, clearly, these had not yet occurred (2 Thess 2:1-8)