

Lecture 3: The Pauline Epistles (Part 1)

Introduction:

1. The thirteen Pauline Epistles can be further divided into 4 smaller sections:
 - a. The Capital Epistles: Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians (so called because of their size and foundational doctrinal importance)
 - b. The Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (written by Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome)
 - c. Thessalonian Epistles: 1-2 Thessalonians
 - d. Pastoral Epistles: 1-2 Timothy, Titus (instructions to Paul's young ministry partners about pastoral ministry and church order)
2. The historical background for these epistles can be found in the book of Acts, recorded by Luke, Paul's sometime companion in travel.

I. Paul's Background and History (an overview)

A. His importance

B. His birth and family life:

C. His history before conversion

D. His early Christian experience

E. His Ministry at Antioch and Apostolic Journeys

- Paul's Ministry and Writings

Event	Scripture	Time	Books Written
Ministry in Antioch			
First Missionary Journey			
In Antioch			
Jerusalem Council			
Second Missionary Journey			
Third Missionary Journey			
First Imprisonment (2 years in Caesarea, 2 years in Rome)			
Period of Travel (Fourth Journey)			
Second Imprisonment and Death			

II. The Epistle of Romans (The Gospel of God's Righteousness)

A. The Background of the Book

B. Paul's concerns in writing to the church at Rome

C. Purpose and Themes

D. The Presentation of Paul's Theme (1:16-17)

1. The glory of the gospel

2. The power of the gospel

3. The universality of the gospel

4. The content of the gospel

5. The principle of the gospel

6. The OT text of the gospel

E. Major Divisions of the Book

1. By content

2. By topic

F. Outline of the Book

1. Introduction and Theme (1:1-17)

a. Greetings (1:1-7)

b. Paul's purpose in writing (1:8-15)

c. Paul's theme: the Gospel of God's Righteousness (1:16-17)

2. The Heart of the Gospel (1:18—4:25)

a. The Universal Reign of Sin (1:18—3:20)

- i The condemnation of Gentile civilization (1:18-32)
 - ii The condemnation of human morality (2:1-16)
 - iii The condemnation of Jewish self-righteousness (2:17—3:8)
 - iv Universal condemnation by the Law (3:9-20)
- b. Justification by Faith (3:21—4:25)
 - i The Revelation of God's Righteousness (3:21-31)
 - ii Old Testament Examples of Justification by Faith (4:1-12)
 - iii The Old Testament Proof of Justification by Faith (4:13-25)
- 3. The Hope of the Gospel (5:1—8:39)
 - a. The Hope of Salvation (5:1-21)
 - b. Freedom from Bondage to Sin (6:1-23)
 - c. Freedom from Bondage to the Law (7:1-25)
 - d. Assurance of Eternal Life in the Spirit (8:1-39)
- 4. The Defense of the Gospel (9:1—11:36)
 - a. The Explanation for Israel's Rejection of Christ (9:1-33)
 - b. Israel's Present Unbelief (10:1-21)
 - c. The Future Salvation of Israel (11:1-36)
- 5. The Power of the Gospel (12:1—15:13)
 - a. For Life in the Church (12:1-21)
 - b. For Life in the World (13:1-14)
 - c. For Strong and Weak to Receive One Another (14:1—15:13)
- 6. The Closing of the Letter (15:14—16:27)
 - a. Paul's Past Ministry and Future Plans (15:14-33)
 - b. Paul's Personal Greetings to Believers in Rome (16:1-24)
 - c. Paul's Benedictory Prayer (16:25-27)