

PAUL | THESSALONIANS, PHILIPPIANS, 1 CORINTHIANS
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT
2/17/16 – UPDATED 3/2/16

PAUL'S MISSION

- Self-Understanding as Apostle to the Gentiles
- Called or Converted? (Pauline bio info found in Gal 1 and Philp 3). Cf. Acts 9:1-31; 22:1-21; 26:9-18
- Was a Pharisee
- Changed view of what time it is in history. Jesus raised = end of history. Jesus is first fruits of the resurrection (see Romans 8 and 1 Cor 15) In other words, one way Paul is transformed is that he became apocalyptic as a result of his experience of Christ.

1 THESSALONIANS

- Reason for writing
 - Persecution Theory. (See 1:6; 2:2; 2: 14; 4:11-13.)
 - Alternative Theory – Alternative way to pose the question: Why does Paul begin to write letters at all? (See 2:17-20-3:1-10.) Letter writing becomes a strategy for Paul to maintain the role of teacher, even though he cannot be physically present.
- The Interminable Thanksgiving – Affectionate relationship
- Parousia, Eschatology, and Apocalypticism – 4:13-17
- Writing to gentiles (mention of past idolatry and exhortation to chaste sexual behavior – see chaps. 1 & 4 especially; language of holiness and purity)
- It is possible that 2:14-16 is an interpolation. 1Thess is considered one of the undisputed epistles, but these verses may not be authentic.

PSEUDONYMITY AND THE DEUTERO-PAULINE LETTERS

How many letters in NT by Paul?? There are 7 undisputed epistles, but there are another six that are attributed to Paul: Deutero-Pauline and Pastoral Epistles. Historically Hebrews was thought to be authored by Paul or a student of Paul's but it is anonymous.

What is Pseudonymity?

- Definition: Someone who writes under someone else's authority
- May be different conceptions of authorship in antiquity, though Ehrman recently argued for seeing pseudonymous epistles as forgeries.
- Not to be confused with pseudepigrapha, which refers specifically to literature—usually of Jewish provenance—written between 200 BCE-200 CE where authorship is attributed to a biblical figure. (“Pseudepigrapha” however increasingly refers to all the non-canonical literature produced during this period, except the apocrypha.)

What are the criteria scholars use to discern authentic from inauthentic letters?

- External Evidence

- Manuscript collections
- Citations by others
- Internal Evidence
 - Stylistic Features
 - Vocabulary and Phraseology
 - Attitudes/Theology
 - Peculiar Information

1 CORINTHIANS

- Long history of correspondence between Paul and the Corinthians. Like Philippians, we have evidence of rival missionaries. In 2 Cor, Paul is very hostile to some figures he ironically calls “super apostles.” Seems to have had a rocky relationship (in contrast to Philippians).
- In this letter Paul is clearly responding to questions they have written to him in a letter as well as oral reports. Various topics addressed...
 - Factionalism
 - Sexual immorality
 - Lawsuits
 - Marriage and divorce
 - Celibacy
 - Conflicts over worship
 - Prophetic gifts
 - Resurrection
 - Meat sacrificed to idols
- A close-up look at chaps. 5, 7 regarding sexual morality, purity, marriage, divorce, and the ways apocalyptic affects Paul’s ethical teachings.

TERMS

From last time: *paraclete* (translated “Advocate” in NRSV)

Apostle to the Gentiles

Gospel

Pseudonymity

Internal evidence

External evidence

~~Interpolation~~

Deutero-Pauline letters

Pastoral Epistles

Monotheism

Christology

Christ Hymn

Parousia

Resurrection

Apocalyptic

Purity

Sexual immorality

“peace and security”

Contingency & coherence

INTRODUCTION TO PAUL'S THEOLOGY – DANNY YENCICH

Contingency – Coherence

Grace >> Faith>>Spirit>>Freedom from

Sin>>Gratitude/Love>>Suffering/Joy>>Hope>>Stand at the Parousia