

Overview of the Epistles: Give an example of a letter (epistle) in the New Testament that was written to an individual, to an individual church, and to a group of churches. Briefly explain the format of the letter. Use the categories for Paul's epistles described by Pastor Huffman below and give some examples for each one.

Epistles to individuals 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Epistles to church Ephesians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians

Epistles to group of churches Galatians

The early epistles: 1&2 Thessalonians, Galatians

The major epistles: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians

The prison epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

The pastoral epistles: 1&2 Timothy, Titus

Who wrote the majority of the New Testament books?

Paul

What were the General Epistles?

1&2 Peter, Jude, James, 1, 2, and 3 John, Hebrews

How many books are there in the New Testament?

27

How many epistles?

21

Apostle Paul: When was Paul probably born?

5 AD

What was Paul's original training and purpose, and what event changed his life direction?

Paul was trained to be a Pharisee and his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road changed his direction in life

What represented the change in Paul's life?

Paul was made blind and then could see when the scales fell off of his eyes

What were some of the “firsts” of Paul?

Paul was the first and greatest theologian

What was Paul’s purpose?

Paul’s purpose was to spread the word of God through his revelation of Jesus

Why is Paul called the first and greatest missionary in the Church?

What do we see in the character of Paul?

The character of Paul changed greatly by becoming on fire for God and turning from his wicked ways

What sustained Paul?

Sustained by his revelation from God and sticking tight to Jesus

What perspective should we have?

We should spend time with God in prayer to hear from him.

Apostle Peter: Was Peter probably fairly prosperous as a fisherman?

Peter was a prosperous fisherman as seen by his home and area that he was located in Capernaum

Did the disciples know that they would have a world-wide impact? How does this apply to us?

They did not. This applies to us because we never know the impact we can make on the world by spreading the Gospel.

The Early Epistles - 1 Thessalonians: According to Pastor Huffman, what are the key verses of 1 Thessalonians?

5:16

Where did Paul probably write the letter to the Thessalonians?

Corinth

What is the theme of this epistle?

Theme of persevering through suffering

What does Acts 17 tell us about the situation?

Depiction of riots in Thessalonica

How did Paul relate to their suffering and address it?

Paul used example of his persecution and encouraged them to rely on Jesus

What doctrine were the Thessalonians confused about?

Eschatology

What is eschatology?

The study of end times

Who did Paul send to the Thessalonians to encourage them?

Timothy

The Early Epistles - 2 Thessalonians: What is one of the important themes of this epistle?

Understanding end times events

What were some of the problems resulting from the wrong ideas of the Thessalonians?

The Thessalonians quit working and paying certain debts causing economic issues.

What were some of the eschatological events described by Paul in 2 Thessalonians?

The description of the anti-christ and the order of end times events.

The Early Epistles - Galatians: What is an important theme in Galatians?

Christian freedom from mosaic law

Who was it addressed to?

The churches of Galatia

What was the reason for the letter?

To speak out against the Judaizers

What were the Judaizers doing that frustrated Paul?

Judaizers were trying to have Christians follow mosaic law despite their freedom given by Jesus

What is true circumcision?

True circumcision is killing your own flesh and spiritually circumcising the heart.

What doctrine does Paul really address in this epistle?

That justification comes from true faith not works

What must we do to overcome the desires of the sinful nature?

Live by the spirit

Overview of 1 Thessalonians Chart - What are the five major sections in 1 Thessalonians and what is the major point of each section?

The pastor's heart-Thanksgiving, The pastor among the flock, personal concern

The pastors burden-Live holy lives, encourage each other.

According to Swindoll, what is the major theme of Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians?

"The hope of Christ's return comforts us and motivates us to godly living"

Overview of 2 Thessalonians Chart - What are the three major sections in 2 Thessalonians and what is the major point of each section?

Affirmation amid affliction-condemnation

Explanation of prophecy-correction

Clarification regarding response-clarification

According to Swindoll, what is the portrait of Christ Paul's second epistle to the Thessalonians?

Jesus is the coming judge

Overview of Galatians Chart - What are the three major sections in Galatians and what is the major point of each section?

Personal words from Paul, Doctrinal teaching, Practical exhortations

What is the style of Paul's epistle to the Galatians?

Vigorous, direct, blunt, brief

Epochs in the Life of Paul – Briefly describe the statesmanship of Paul.

Wherever Paul went he carried the burdens of the church with him in his heart, with the overall view of the world in his view to save them through sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

Who were his three enemies?

The pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians

Despite his enemies, how did Paul view Jews and Gentiles?

He loved them so that he might save some of them.

Who helped Paul?

Several individuals, such as Timothy, Titus and Luke

In quoting professor Findlay, what does A. T. Robertson say is the drama of the epistles as "it advances from Galatia to Rome"?

The drama of the epistles are the blows that Paul delivers in the way that he rebukes the churches and enemies of the churches.