

Through the Bible

OT:

9/4 Law (Gen-Deut)
 9/11 History (Josh-Est)
 9/18 Poetry (Job-Song)
 9/25 Prophecy (Isa-Mal)
 10/2 OT Narrative
 10/9 OT Recap

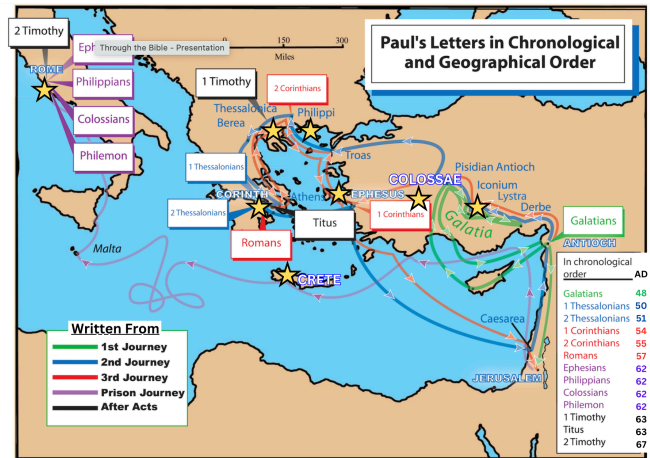
NT:

10/16 Gospels (Matt-Acts)
 10/23 Pauline Epistles (Rom-Phm)
 10/30 Catholic Epistles (Heb-Jude)
 11/6 Apocalyptic (Dan, Rev)
 11/13 NT Narrative
 11/20 NT Recap

Pauline Epistles (Rom-Phm)

Acts Time Chart

Date	30 AD	30-45 AD	45-50 AD	50-52 AD	55-56 AD	60-62 AD	63-64 AD	65-66 AD	66-67 AD?	70 AD
Event	Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension	Peter in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria	Paul's First Missionary Journey and Jerusalem Council regarding Gentiles	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	Paul's Third Missionary Journey	Paul in prison in Rome	Paul's Release from Captivity	Paul's Second Imprisonment in Rome	Paul's Martyrdom?	Destruction of Jerusalem, burning of Temple, and Jewish-Roman wars
Reference	Luke 23-24	Acts 1-12	Acts 13-15	Acts 16-18	Acts 19-21	Acts 22-28	1 Timothy 1:3, Titus 1:5, Titus 3:12, and 2 Timothy 4:20	2 Timothy 1:16, 2:9, and 4:16	2 Timothy 4:6	Revelation 11:2 and Extra-biblical historical records
Paul's Letters			Galatians	1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans	Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians	1 Timothy, Titus	2 Timothy		
Subject of Letters			Pneumatology - Spirit -	Eschatology - Coming -	Soteriology - Cross -	Christology - Christ -	Ecclesiology - Church -	Ecclesiology - Church -		



***Summarize Paul's life:** persecuted Christians, conversion, time in Arabia, almost killed in Damascus and Jerusalem, back to Tarsus, Barnabas brought him to serve at Antioch, 3 missionary journeys, imprisonment in Jerusalem, sent to Rome.

Romans

Setting:

- Jewish Christians founded the early church in Rome in the mid 30s, probably after Pentecost
- The Roman Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome in 49 (likely because conflict over Christianity)
- Gentile Christians ran the church in Rome while the Jewish Christians were gone, losing Jewish customs
- The Jews were allowed to come back in 54, causing conflict between Jew/Gentile Christians in the church
- Paul writes the letter in 57 to work through Jew/Gentile conflict in the church
- The letter covers how salvation works, salvation is available to all people, respecting different practices

Lesson: Salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law.

'Romans road'

- **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Outline:

- **1-4 Justification by faith:** Both Jews and Gentiles are sinful and righteousness only comes through faith in Jesus, illustrated by Abraham's faith.

- **5-8 New life in Christ:** Believers have peace and hope in Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, the assurance of God's love, and victory over sin and death.
- **9-11 God's fulfilled promise:** Lamenting Israel's unbelief, affirming God's faithfulness to His promises, and revealing the inclusion of Gentiles in salvation.
- **12-16 Unity in the Church:** Believers are called to live in unity, use their spiritual gifts, demonstrate love, and address specific issues in the church.

1 Corinthians

Setting:

- Paul founded the church in Corinth for 18 months on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-11)
- Paul, in Ephesus, on his 3rd missionary journey, heard bad reports from Corinth
- Paul is writing to Corinth to address these specific doctrine and behavior concerns

Lesson: The church must pursue unity, love, and holiness, avoiding divisions and immorality.

Key Verse: "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Outline:

- **1-4 Division in the church:** reject divisions and unite under Christ, not human leaders.
- **5-7 Sexual immorality:** a call for purity, addressing issues of sexual sin and giving guidance on marriage and singleness.
- **8-10 Food freedom in Christ:** believers have freedom regarding food, but they should prioritize the conscience of others to avoid causing them to stumble.
- **11-14 Disorder in church services:** instructions for orderly worship, covering the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts, and proper behavior in gatherings.
- **15 The resurrection:** emphasizing the necessity and centrality of the resurrection of Christ, affirming the hope of believers' future resurrection.
- **16 Christian conduct:** practical instructions for living out the faith, including generosity, personal greetings, and final encouragements.

2 Corinthians

Setting:

- Paul founded the church in Corinth for 18 months on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:1-11)
- The church in Corinth rejected Paul's 1st letter, so he had a "painful visit" with them (2 Cor 2:1)
- Paul sent a 2nd 'painful letter' (that we don't have) to them and they listened (2 Cor 1:3-4, 7:8-12)
- Now Paul sends this 3rd letter to reconcile with them, and speak more truth in love

Lesson: God's power is made perfect in our weakness, and ministry requires integrity and endurance.

Key Verse: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Outline:

- **1-2 Reconciliation:** the importance of reconciliation with God and one another, beginning with forgiveness.
- **3-5 Ministry in the New Covenant:** the transformative power of the new covenant and the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to believers.

- **6-7 Apostolic Authority:** Paul defends his apostolic authority and calls the Corinthians to respond to his appeal for holiness and reconciliation.
- **8-9 Give generously:** the Corinthians are encouraged to give purposefully, generously, and cheerfully for the support of the church ministry.
- **10-13 Examine yourself:** the Corinthians are urged to examine their faith and conduct, warning against false apostles.

Galatians

Setting:

- Paul founded the churches in the region of Galatia during his 1st missionary journey (Acts 13-14)
- There was a debate in early Christianity if Christians needed to become Jewish or not (Acts 15)
- Jewish Christians were commanding Gentile Christians in Galatia to live under the OT Law
- Paul is writing this to correct this practice

Lesson: Christians are justified by faith, not by observing the law, and should live by the Spirit.

Key Verse: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Outline:

- **1-2 Experience of the Gospel:** Paul recounts his personal encounter with the gospel and warns against turning to a different gospel.
- **3-4 Theology of faith:** Paul contrasts the works of the Law that condemn to the promise of salvation through justification by faith in Jesus.
- **5-6 Life in the Spirit:** Paul contrasts the fruit of living by the Spirit to the works of the flesh, demonstrating freedom in Christ through love.

Ephesians

Setting:

- Paul strengthened the young church in Ephesus for 3 years during his 3rd missionary journey (Acts 19:1-10)
- Ephesus is a central place of worship of Greek and Roman gods, full of idolatry and temptation
- Paul is writing this letter from prison in Rome to encourage and unify the church

Lesson: Believers are called to unity in Christ and to live in a way that reflects their new identity in him.

Key Verse: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

Outline:

- **1:1-2:10 New life:** the transformative power of grace, highlighting that believers are made alive in Christ and created for good works.
- **2:11-3:21 New community:** the unity of Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ, revealing the mystery of the church - as one new community.
- **4:1-5:21 New ministry:** believers are to live in a manner worthy of their calling, promoting spiritual maturity and the exercise of their gifts for ministry.
- **5:21-6:24 New relationships:** guidance on various relationships, including marriage, family, and work, emphasizing mutual submission and love.
- **6:10-24 New equipping:** believers are to put on the armor of God to stand firm against spiritual challenges and to remain vigilant in prayer.

Philippians

Setting:

- Paul founded the church in Philippi during his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40)
- Philippi was a Roman colony, that was very patriotic, and persecuted Christians
- The church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus with a care package for Paul in prison (2:25-30)
- Paul is writing to thank them and encourage them in their ministry and suffering

Lesson: Rejoice in the Lord always and find contentment and strength in Christ regardless of circumstances.

Key Verse: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Outline:

- **1 To live is Christ:** Paul explains that his life is dedicated to Christ, whether in life or death, and encourages the Philippians to live worthy of the gospel.
- **2 Being like-minded:** Paul urges the Philippians to be united in humility, using Christ's selflessness as the model for their relationships.
- **3 Press toward the goal:** Paul encourages the believers to leave behind worldly confidence and press on toward the goal of knowing Christ and eternal life.
- **4 Rejoice in the Lord:** Paul calls the Philippians to find joy in the Lord in all circumstances, to pray with thanksgiving, and to focus on truth.

Colossians

Setting:

- The church in Colossae was likely founded by Epaphras, one of Paul's co-workers (Colossians 1:7).
- Epaphras visited Paul in prison to update him on what is going well and challenges with the church (4:18)
- for example, Gentile Christians were influenced by polytheism, Jews influenced by OT law (2:6-23)
- Paul writes to encourage them and address these challenges

Lesson: Christ is supreme over all creation and believers are complete in him, no longer needing to follow worldly traditions.

Key Verse: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

Outline:

- **1 The supremacy of Christ:** Paul proclaims Christ as supreme over all creation and the head of the church, reconciling all things through His sacrifice.
- **2 Christ over philosophy:** Paul warns against deceptive philosophies, legalism, and human traditions, affirming that Christ is sufficient for salvation.
- **3 The new person in Christ:** Paul encourages believers to put off the old self and live as new creations, marked by love, humility, and holiness.
- **4 Speak with Christ's wisdom:** Paul urges believers to devote themselves to prayer and to speak with grace and wisdom toward others.

1 Thessalonians

Setting:

- Paul founded the church in Thessalonica during his 2nd journey (Acts 17:1-9), briefly due to persecution

- Paul had to flee from Thessalonica due to persecution, but the church was thriving in persecution
- Paul writes to encourage them, give them future hope, and challenges them to keep growing in their faith

Lesson: Encourage one another as you wait for the return of Christ, living in holiness, love, and future hope.

Key Verse: "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command... and so we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Outline:

- **1:1-10 Greeting the church:** Paul greets the Thessalonian believers, expressing gratitude for their faith, love, and endurance.
- **2:1-2:16 Receiving the Gospel:** Paul recounts how the Thessalonians received the gospel with joy despite suffering and opposition.
- **2:17-3:13 Love from a distance:** Paul expresses his longing to visit the Thessalonians and sends Timothy to encourage them in their faith.
- **4:1-12 Growing in Christ:** Paul urges the believers to continue living in holiness, especially in their personal conduct and relationships.
- **4:13-5:11 The rapture:** Paul reassures the church about the return of Christ and the hope of resurrection for all believers.
- **5:12-22 Church conduct:** Paul provides practical instructions for godly behavior within the church community, emphasizing encouragement and holy living.

2 Thessalonians

Setting:

- Paul founded the church in Thessalonica during his 2nd journey (Acts 17:1-9), briefly due to persecution
- The things Paul wrote about in 1st Thessalonians had gotten worse
- They experienced more persecution and they were more confused about Jesus's return
- Paul writes to clarify the previous letter and encourage them in their faith

Lesson: Stand firm in faith, even in the face of trials, as you await Christ's return and final justice.

Key Verse: "So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you." (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

Outline:

- **1 Hope while suffering:** remain steadfast in faith amidst persecution, suffering is a sign of God's future justice and glory.
- **2 Rebellion against God:** warning against false teachings regarding the Day of the Lord and describes the coming rebellion and the man of lawlessness who opposes God.
- **3 Responsibility of Christians:** encouraging the church to uphold their responsibilities, work diligently, avoid idleness, and maintain fellowship.

1 Timothy

Setting:

- Paul is writing to Timothy who is serving as a leader of the church in Ephesus
- Paul was Timothy's mentor, who served with him and discipled him
- When Paul heard of trouble with Ephesus's leaders, Paul sent Timothy to correct and pastor them
- Paul sent Timothy this letter to instruct and guide Timothy in this role

Lesson: Church leaders must model godliness, sound teaching, and shepherd the church with integrity.

Key Verse: "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16)

Outline:

- **1 Teaching sound doctrine:** Paul urges Timothy to guard the gospel and warns against false teachings.
- **2 Prayer and gender roles:** Paul gives instructions on prayer and the roles of men and women in the church.
- **3 Leadership qualifications:** Paul outlines the qualifications for church leaders and the importance of sound doctrine.
- **4 Threats in the church:** Paul encourages Timothy to be a good minister and to cultivate his gifts.
- **5 Caring for church members:** Paul discusses the treatment of different groups within the church and the importance of respect.
- **6 Humility and generosity:** Paul instructs on contentment and warns against the love of money.

2 Timothy

Setting:

- Paul is writing to Timothy who is serving as a leader of the church in Ephesus
- This is Paul's last letter, in prison, knowing he was most likely going to be killed for his faith
- Paul wants Timothy to come meet him before he is executed, giving him this guidance in the meantime

Lesson: Be faithful to the gospel, endure suffering, and pass on the truth to the next generation.

Key Verse: "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2)

Outline:

- **1 Unashamed of the Gospel:** Paul encourages Timothy to embrace his faith without shame, recalling the power of the gospel and the support of believers.
- **2 Endure hardship:** Paul urges Timothy to be strong in grace and to endure suffering like a good soldier of Christ, focusing on the eternal reward
- **3 Protect the gullible:** Paul instructs Timothy to warn against divisive arguments and to guide those who are misled back to the truth.
- **4 Preach God's word:** Paul exhorts Timothy to remain faithful in preaching the Word and to be prepared for challenges in a time of increasing opposition.

Titus

Setting:

- Paul sent his ministry partner Titus to Crete to strengthen and organize the churches there (Titus 1:5)
- Crete was a central port notorious across Rome as liars, violent, backstabbing, and sexually immoral
- The church in Crete was full of corrupt leaders, this letter is Paul's guidance to Titus for his leadership

Lesson: Appoint godly leaders, teach sound doctrine, and encourage good works among believers.

Key Verse: "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions." (Titus 2:11-12)

Outline:

- **1 Leadership qualifications:** Paul outlines the necessary traits and responsibilities for church leaders, emphasizing the importance of integrity and sound doctrine.
- **2 Christian behavior:** Paul instructs Titus to teach different groups in the church to live according to Christian values, promoting good deeds and exemplary behavior.
- **3 God's transformative love:** Paul highlights the grace of God that brings salvation, teaching believers to live transformed lives in anticipation of Christ's return.

Philemon

Setting:

- This letter is personal, written to Philemon, a leader in the church that met in his house, likely in Colossae
- Philemon had a slave named Onesimus who wronged him and ran away to Paul who is in prison
- Onesimus became a Christian, and Paul sends him back to Colossae in repentance
- But Paul asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus and embrace him as a brother in Christ

Lesson: Forgiveness and reconciliation in Christ should transcend social and personal barriers.

Key Verse: "So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me." (Philemon 1:17)

Outline:

- **v1-3 Greeting a brother:** Paul warmly greets Philemon, emphasizing their shared faith, service, and love within the Christian community.
- **v4-7 The fruit of faith:** Paul expresses gratitude for Philemon's faith and love, noting how he has refreshed the hearts of fellow believers.
- **v8-20 Requesting forgiveness:** Paul appeals to Philemon to forgive and receive back his runaway slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ.
- **v21-25 Confidence in reconciliation:** Paul expresses confidence that Philemon will respond positively to his request, affirming their bond in Christ and closing with blessings.