

Encouraging the Churches

1. Housekeeping →
2. The Purpose of the Epistles ⇒
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. If we have time - Ephesians 1:1-14, 4:17-24

PSA: Here we stand & the Reformation
⇒ volunteer, papyri examples

Housekeeping

1. John Stott disclaimer
2. New classroom arrangement - first impressions?

Bob Dylan

The Purpose of the Epistles

1. Paul couldn't be everywhere at once, with all the churches he had planted, helped, met on his journeys. His solution? Epistles!
2. Epistles - what are they?
 - a. Genre: Letters, not Historical Narrative (gospels or Acts)
 - i. Real letters, written from real people to real people
 - ii. They didn't just appear from heaven, delivered by an angel
 - iii. For me, knowing this has made the NT epistles even more trustworthy (?)
 - b. Written on papyrus (or parchment)
 - c. Usually dictated to an amanuensis (scribe)
 - i. Romans 16:22
 - ii. 1 Peter 5:12, cf. to 2 Peter
 1. How much influence did the scribe have?
 - d. After writing the epistle, typically a copy was made before sending
 - e. After receiving, NT churches started making copies and distributing them, assembling them into collections that would eventually become the New Testament.
 - f. How arranged in the NT
 - i. Pauline epistles
 1. Ordered by size - large to small
 2. Prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
 3. Pastoral epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
 - a. Heavy on church-related information
 - ii. General epistles
 1. Ordered by size - large to small
 - iii. Hebrews - Pauline or not?
3. General characteristics
 - a. Author - why don't we do this???
 - b. Recipient
 - c. Greeting

Chronologized development of thought over 15 years

1. Eschatology
1 & 2 Thess
2. Soteriology
Gal, Rom, 1 & 2 Cor
3. Christology
Eph, Philip, Gal
4. Ecclesiology
1 & 2 Tim, Titus

- d. Body of the letter - questions answered, information passed on, doctrine taught, wrongs corrected, etc.
 - e. Final greetings
4. Let's look at each of the epistles - what are the general characteristics and specific clues about each epistle?
- a. Romans
 - i. 16:1 - who delivered
 - ii. 16:23 - where written
 - b. 1 Corinthians
 - i. 16:8 - where written - Ephesus
 - ii. 16:10 - who delivered
 - iii. 16:21 - Paul's signature
 - c. 2 Corinthians
 - i. 1:16 - where written - Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea)
 - ii. 8:16-18, 22 - who delivered
 - d. Galatians
 - i. 6:11 - Paul's signature
 - e. Ephesians
 - i. 4:1 - where written - prison, in Rome?
 - ii. 6:21 - who delivered - Tychicus
 - f. Philippians
 - i. 1:7, 4:22 - where written - prison, in Rome?
 - ii. 2:25 - who delivered
 - g. Colossians
 - i. 4:18 - where written - prison, in Rome?
 - ii. 4:7 - who delivered - Tychicus
 - iii. 4:18 - Paul's signature
 - iv. 4:16 - letter exchange with Laodicea - expand on this?
 - h. 1 Thessalonians
 - i. 2:2 - jailed in Philippi (Acts 16)
 - ii. 2:17 - Acts 17
 - iii. 3:6 - where written - Corinth (Acts 18:5)
 - iv. 5:27 - don't keep this to yourselves!
 - i. 2 Thessalonians
 - i. 3:17 - Paul's signature
 - j. 1 Timothy
 - i. 1:3 - Timothy in Ephesus, Paul in Macedonia?
 - ii. 6:21 - "you" is plural in Greek - expand on this, ESV footnote
 - k. 2 Timothy
 - i. 1:17 - Paul in Rome
 - ii. 4:12 - who delivered - Tychicus? (sent to Ephesus)
 - iii. 4:22 - "you" is plural
 - l. Titus

- i. 1:5 - Titus is in Crete
 - ii. 3:12 - Paul in Ephesus? Compare "Artemas" to "Artemis"
 - iii. 3:12 - Paul's travel plans
 - iv. 3:13 - who delivered - Zenas and Apollos
 - v. 3:15 - "greetings to you" is singular, "you all" is plural
- m. Philemon
- i. 1 - Paul is in prison, Rome?
 - ii. 10-12 - who delivered - Onesimus? Tychicus, with letters to Ephesians and Colossians? *25 - "your" spirit is plural*
- n. Hebrews
- i. 13:22 - it's a letter (epistle)
 - ii. 13:18-19, 23 - who wrote it?
 - iii. Written to whom? *It doesn't say "To the Hebrews"*
 - 1. 1:1 - "our fathers"
 - 2. 3:1 - "holy brothers (and sisters)"
- o. 1 Peter
- i. 5:1 - "elders" - so...to the churches
- p. 1 John *5:12 - "By Silvanus"*
- i. To whom?
 - 1. 2:1, 5:21
 - ii. Who wrote it? Doesn't say, but tradition, and comparing to gospel of John and Revelation, says "John"
5. Specific purposes mentioned *Revelation*
- a. 1 Corinthians 5:11
 - b. Hebrews 13:22
 - c. 1 Peter 5:12
 - d. 1 John 2:26
 - e. 1 John 5:13
 - f. Jude 3
- 1. John 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. Inspiration by the Holy Spirit
2. A-B-B-A "chiastic form"
3. 4 prepositional phrases
 - a. For teaching (doctrine)
 - i. Instruction in what is true (truth)
 - ii. Doctrine - "a summary statement of the teaching of Scripture on a particular theological topic" - Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms
 - iii. Both the act of teaching and what is taught - can't really be separated
 - iv. Communication of truth
 - v. Romans 15:4
 - b. For reproof (rebuking)

α

ixθυσ

*Ἰησοῦς
Χριστός
θεοῦ
Υἱός
Σωτῆρ*

SIN

- i. Identify sin in thought or deed
 - ii. Convicting of sin
 - iii. Making someone aware of sin (in themselves, not others)
 - iv. Negative approach
 - v. Titus 1:13 12-13
- c. For correction
- i. Has the goal of recovery from sin
 - ii. Pointing them to the right thinking and, as a result, behavior
 - iii. Positive approach
 - iv. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 - this use illustrated or explained → Thursday's topic
- d. For training, in righteousness
- i. Training was part of Greco-Roman culture, especially in culture's highly regarded virtues
 - 1. Here, it's more specific: in righteousness example: swimming
 - ii. "Imparting to believers an ethical framework for the observable dimension of life in community and society" - commentary, Philip Towner
 - iii. In other words, how to live (walk)
 - iv. Be who you are Hebrews 5:14
4. "So that"
- a. Competence - able to do what is needed
 - b. Equipped - have what is needed to do what is needed

Ephesians 1:1-14, 4:17-24

(see the curriculum for questions and observations for the class)

1. "Blessed be ..." Praise be, My God be praised over and over. εὐλογητός
Eulogy
2. Paul views the sweep of time from eternity past to eternity future
3. Attempts to identify the structure have failed
 - a. time - eternity past^{v.4} to future^{v.14}
 - b. trinity - Father, 3-6; Son, 7-10; Holy Spirit, 11-14
 - c. cascade of doctrines & resultant promises ←
 1. The dam has broken, doctrines (truths) about God are pouring out of Paul
 2. 3-14 is one sentence in the Greek
4. Repeated ideas
 - a. "in Christ" - incredibly important
 - b. God's plan, will, purpose 1:5, 9, 10, 11
 1. Salvation belongs to God, he initiates it and brings it to completion
Psalm 3:8, Jonah 2:9, Revelation 7:10
 - c. God's glory, to the praise of his glory 1:6, 12, 14
 1. Piper "white hot affection for God .."
5. Pronouns - read through and identify who is doing what