

A Brief Survey of the Bible - The Epistles: Letters by Paul and others

March 8 & 15, 2015

Undisputed Pauline authorship: Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Galatians; Philippians; 1Thessalonians; Philemon

Disputed or "Deutero-Pauline": 2Thessalonians; Colossians; Ephesians

Pastoral Letters: 1, 2 Timothy; Titus

Others: Hebrews; James; 1, 2 Peter; 1,2,3 John; Jude

Letter writing in the ancient world
-couriers

Form of Greco-Roman Letters

- sender's name and that of recipient
- short salutation
- body of letter introduced an appeal to God's with gratitude and thanksgiving or a prayer for the welfare of the recipient
- conclusion: conveyance of greetings

Hellenist letter would begin: "Greetings"

Epistles begin: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Another familiar ending: Numbers 6:24-26

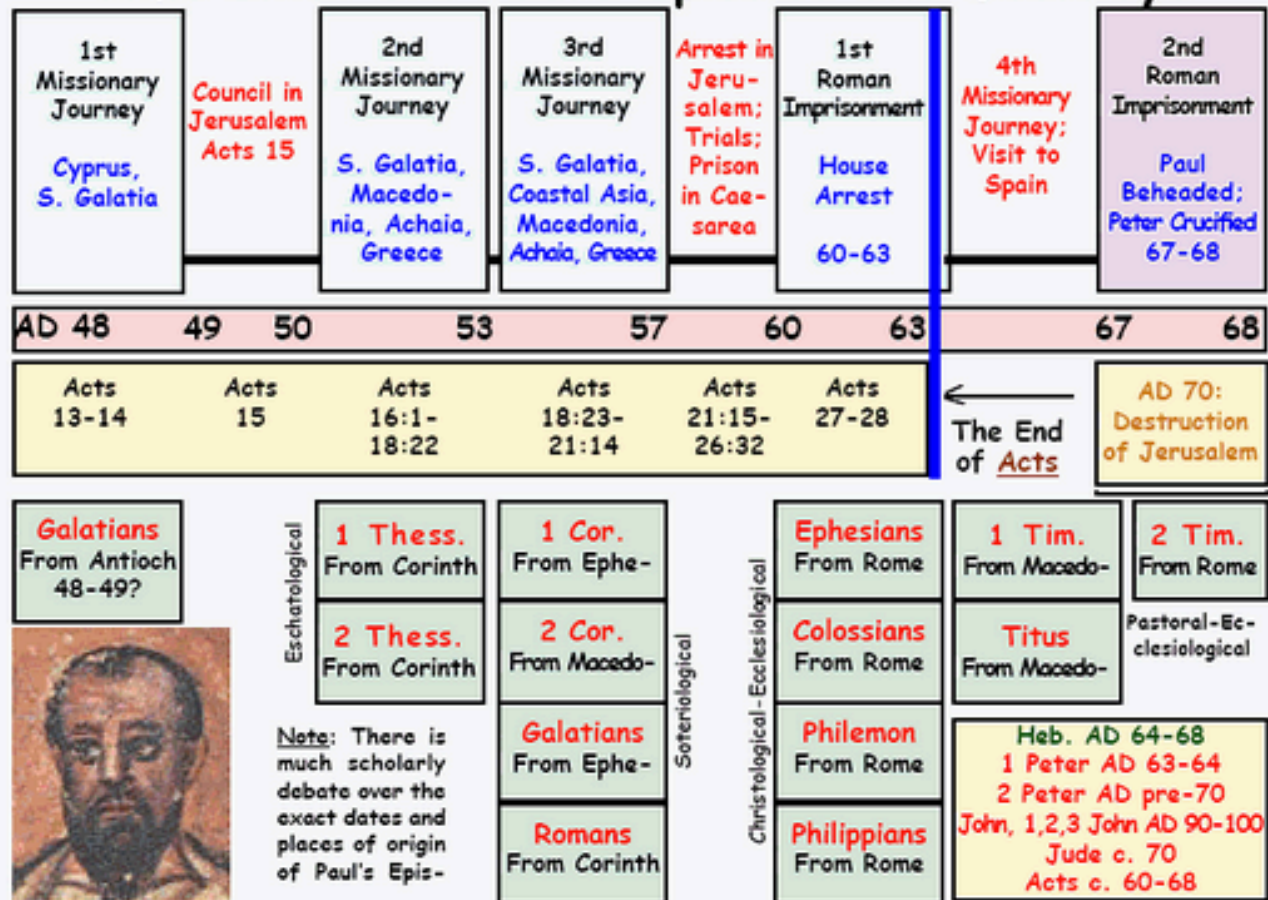
Paul gave pastoral instruction on early Christian doctrine and prescribed conduct

- concluded with personal news and a final greeting.

He would never end with the Greek form "farewell." Rather: "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

Letters to be explored in class: Philemon, 1Corinthians, 2Timothy, Ephesians chapters 4 & 3

Time Line: St. Paul's Epistles and Journeys



Note: There is much scholarly debate over the exact dates and places of origin of Paul's Epis-