

Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Romans

Key Themes

- The Righteousness of God
- The Justification of Sinners
- The Fate of the Jews

Setting: Written about AD 57 by Paul. Letter was carried by Phoebe, a woman and a deacon (Romans 16:1). The letter was dictated to a secretary (*amanuensis*) named Tertius (Romans 16:22)

Key Verses:

- 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- 5:8 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- 8:1-3 – “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh.”
- 12:1-2 – “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Outline

- I. Salutation (1:1-7)
- II. Prayer (1:8-15)
- III. Thesis: The Gospel of God’s Righteousness (1:16-17)
- IV. Argument (1:18-15:13)
 - a. God Justifies (1:18-8:39)
 - b. God is Righteous (9:1-11:36)
 - c. God’s Righteousness in Human Behavior (12:1-15:13)
- V. Closing (15:14-16:27)

1 & 2 Corinthians

Key Themes

- Divisions in the Church (1 Corinthians)
- The Resurrection (1 Corinthians)
- Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians)
- Reconciliation (2 Corinthians)
- God's Grace During Troubled Days (2 Corinthians)

Setting: Paul wrote 1 Corinthians in AD 55. 2 Corinthians was likely written in a year later. The church was founded in AD 51-52. Paul wrote at least four and maybe five letters to the Corinthians.

Key Verses:

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 – “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:12 – “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 – “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 – “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”
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Outline:

- I. 1 Corinthians
 - a. Straining Upon the Start (1:1-9)
 - b. Divisiveness in the Church (1:10-3:4)
 - c. Serving Together for the Good of the Church (3:5-4:21)
 - d. Disciplining the Body (5:1-6:20)
 - e. Sex, Divorce, and Remarriage (7:1-40)
 - f. Food Offered to Idols and fleeing Idolatry (8:1-11:1)
 - g. Addressing problems in Worship (11:2-34)
 - h. Spiritual Gifts and Love (12:1-14:40)
 - i. The Resurrection of the Dead (15:1-34)
 - j. Final Matters (16:1-24)
- II. 2 Corinthians
 - a. Introduction (1:1-2:13)
 - b. Paul’s Defense of His Ministry (2:14-7:4)
 - c. Titus Brings Consolation (7:5-16)

- d. A Call to Give to the Jerusalem Collection (8:1-9:15)
- e. Hard Words and the Threat of a Visit (10:1-13:14)

Galatians

Key Themes

- Salvation by grace.

Setting: May be Paul's earliest letter. Some scholars put it as early as AD 49. Others in the mid-50s. This is a strong letter and contains some of Paul's strongest language. He is arguing against the so called "Judaizers" who are telling the believers in Galatia that they must be circumcised in order to be saved.

Key Verses:

- 1:6 – "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.
- 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- 3:28-29 – "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
- 6:7 – "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Outline

- I. Historical and Personal (1:1-2:21)
- II. Doctrinal: Liberty and Faith (3:1-4:31)
- III. Practical and Ethical (5:1-6:10)
- IV. Conclusions and Benediction (6:11-18)

Ephesians

Key Themes

- God's Purpose in Christ.
- Reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.

Setting: Likely written from prison in Rome by Paul around AD 60-62. It was likely an "encyclical" to be circulated among various churches in Asia Minor.

Key Verses:

- 2:8-10 – "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
- 4:1-3 – "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Outline:

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. A Meditation on God's Gift of Salvation (1:3-3:21)
- III. Instructions to Live Worthy of God's Call (4:1-6:20)
- IV. Closing (6:21-24)

Philippians

Key Themes

- Knowing Christ

Setting: Likely written by Paul during his Roman imprisonment around AD 60-62.

Key Verses

- 1:3-6 – "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
- 1:21 – "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
- 3:7-8 – "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."
- 4:4-7 – "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Outline

- I. The Heart of an Apostle (1:1-11)
- II. Paul's Situation and the Gospel (1:12-26)
- III. Paul's Instructions to the Philippians (1:27-2:11)
- IV. Exhortation and Encouragement (2:12-30)
- V. The Pursuit of Christ (3:1-4:1)
- VI. Exhortations, Thanks, and Greetings (4:2-23)

Colossians

Key Themes

- The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ.
- Freedom from Human Rules.

Setting: Likely written by Paul during his Roman imprisonment around AD 60-62.

Key Verses

- 1:15 – "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

- 1:21-23 – “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”
- 2:6-7 – “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”
- 3:12-13 – “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Outline

- I. Beginning with the Christian Basics (1:1-14)
- II. The Supremacy of Jesus Christ (1:15-23)
- III. Faithfully Following Jesus Christ (1:24-2:23)
- IV. Living in a Christian Way (3:1-4:18)

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Key Themes

- Encouragement to Persevere (1 & 2 Thessalonians)
- Hope for the Return of Christ (1 & 2 Thessalonians)
- Love for Fellow Believers (1 Thessalonians)
- The Second Coming (2 Thessalonians)

Setting: The church in Thessalonica was founded in AD 51. Paul wrote them two letters in short succession in the same year.

Key Verses

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 – “Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:15 – “So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”

Outline

- I. 1 Thessalonians
 - a. Words of Thanksgiving (1:1-10)
 - b. Words of Endearment (2:1-16)
 - c. Paul’s Longing to Visit (2:17-3:10)
 - d. Paul’s Words of Instruction (3:11-4:12)

- e. Paul's Words of Comfort (4:13-5:11)
- f. Closing Words on Ethics for Artisans (5:12-22)
- g. A Final Blessing (5:23-28)
- II. 2 Thessalonians
 - a. Greeting, Thanksgiving, and Prayer (1:1-12)
 - b. Preview of the End (2:1-17)
 - c. Pray and Work (3:1-18)

1 & 2 Timothy

Key Themes

- Encouragement of Timothy (1 & 2 Timothy)
- False Teachers (1 Timothy)
- Instruction for Worship (1 Timothy)
- Qualification for Leaders (1 Timothy)
- Guarding the Gospel (2 Timothy)

Setting: 1 Timothy was likely penned by Paul sometime between AD 63-65 from Macedonia, with 2 Timothy following in AD 67 from Rome.

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 1:15 – “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”
- 1 Timothy 4:12-14 – “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”
- 2 Timothy 3:22 – “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Outline

- I. 1 Timothy
 - a. Salutation (1:1-2)
 - b. Opening Exhortation (1:3-11)
 - c. Thanksgiving and Charge (1:12-20)
 - d. Instructions for the Household of God (2:1-3:13)
 - e. Paul's Purpose in Writing (3:14-16)
 - f. Expanded Charge to Timothy (4:1-16)
 - g. Faithful Pastoring (5:1-6:2)
 - h. The Charge Continued (6:3-10)
 - i. The Good Fight (6:11-16)
 - j. Refrain and Benediction (6:17-21)

- II. 2 Timothy
 - a. Greetings and Prayers (1:1-7)
 - b. Opening Charge (1:3-18)
 - c. Charge Repeated and Expanded (2:1-7)
 - d. Hope, Promise and Fulfillment (2:8-13)
 - e. God's Worker in a Turbulent Workplace (2:14-3:17)
 - f. Final Charge: Fulfill Your Ministry (4:1-8)
 - g. Closing Instructions, Personal Notes and Greetings (4:9-22)

Titus

Key Themes

- Sound Doctrine
- Good Deeds

Setting: Written about AD 63-65 by Paul.

Key Verses

- 3:4-7 – “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

Outline

- I. Greeting (1:1-4)
- II. Instructions for Titus (1:5-16)
- III. Instructions for Godly Living (2:1-15)
- IV. The Church in the World (3:1-8)
- V. Final Instructions and Greetings to Titus (3:9-15)

Philemon

Key Themes

- The Reconciliation of Onesimus to Philemon

Setting: Written by Paul from prison to Philemon sometime between AD 60-62.

Key Verses

- 12 – “I am sending him – who is my very heart – back to you.”
- 15-16a – “Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever – no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.”
- 17 – “So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.”