

### Chronological Order of Paul's Letters

	Letter to...	Approximate date written	Information about the church's origin
	Galatians	48 AD	Acts 14:1-23
	1&2 Thes	50 AD	Acts 17:1-9
	1 Corinthians	54 AD	Acts 18:1-17
	2 Corinthians	56 AD	
	Romans	57 AD	unknown
"Prison epistles"	Philippians	60-62 AD	Acts 16:12-40
	Ephesians	60-62 AD	Acts 19:1-41
	Colossians	60-62 AD	Epaphras brought the gospel to Colossae (Col 1:7), perhaps while Paul was at Ephesus?
	Philemon	60-62 AD	
	1 Timothy	62-64 AD? After release from Roman prison?	Timothy's conversion: Acts 16:1-3
	Titus	62-64 AD? After release from Roman prison?	Titus is mentioned in 2 Cor, Gal, and 2 Tim but not Acts
	2 Timothy	64-67 AD? A second Roman imprisonment?	

## New Testament Survey

### Class 19: 2 Thessalonians

#### Author and Date:

- Paul along with Silvanus (aka: "Silas" in Acts) and Timothy
- Circa 50 AD, probably from Corinth (Paul spent 1 ½ years there; see Acts 18:11) within a few months of leaving Thessalonica, and shortly after sending 1 Thessalonians
- Some scholars question the authenticity of 2 Thessalonians because it is too similar to 1 Thessalonians, which could imply the work of an author who is trying to mimic Paul. Ironically, the opposite argument is used by these same teachers against the Pastoral Epistles: they are too unlike Paul's other letters, and thus cannot truly be from him. This is a classic "Heads I win; tails you lose!" scenario. It is important to note that no manuscript evidence or other historical data give any reason to doubt that Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians (or any other letters attributed to him in the NT).

#### Planting of the church in Thessalonica

- Paul and his coworkers spent only 3-4 weeks in Thessalonica (see Acts 17:1-9) during Paul's second missionary journey.
- The mission in Thessalonica was cut short by violent opposition. The adversaries from Thessalonica were so hostile that they followed Paul to Berea, 50 miles to the west, to break up meetings there as well (Acts 17:13)!

28-Jan-24	2 Thessalonians
4-Feb-24	Intro to the Pastoral Epistles
11-Feb-24	1 Timothy
18-Feb-24	2 Timothy
25-Feb-24	Titus

## Key Themes

1. Preoccupation with Christ's return
2. Encouragement in the midst of persecution
3. Warning those who are unwilling to work

## Outline

### ***Greetings and thanksgiving (1:1-4)***

***Jesus's return will bring punishment to those who reject the gospel but relief for Jesus's afflicted followers (1:5-12)***

### ***Comforts and clarifications about Jesus's return (2:1-12)***

### ***Prayers and encouragement for comfort and steadfastness, and prayer requests for mission work (2:13-3:5)***

*Note on 2 Thes 2:15:* The apostolic teaching, both spoken and written, is authoritative for the church. It is only a small step from here to accepting the writings of the apostles as "Scripture," that is the inerrant words of God in writing (cf. Mat 5:17-20; Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 10:35)

***Christians should work for their own living, not take the charity of others for granted (3:6-12)***

### ***Final instructions and greetings (3:13-18)***

*Note on 2 Thes 3:17:* Paul's signature was the "sign of genuineness in every letter" (compare 1 Cor 16:21; Gal 6:11; Col 3:18 and also Rom 16:22)