TYPE

10

6

EPISTLE, PAULINE



Paul wrote this letter while imprisoned in Rome to encourage the Ephesians. He was under house arrest, but was allowed to receive visitors and write letters. The Ephesians were important because the city of Ephesus had become a natural center for the church, due to its location and commercial success. Paul had spent two years in Ephesus establishing the church, but then had to depart due to a disturbance with the silversmiths. Their business, which included making idols, had suffered due to many people converting to Christianity. His epistle has universal application and was written to help converts grow in their spirituality and commitment to the church.







1

ENCOURAGEMENT

2

APPLICATION OF SALVATION

EPHESIANS 1—3

Paul calls believers "adopted sons" of God and reminds them that God chose them before the foundation of the world. He prays for a spirit of wisdom and revelation and discusses the fundamental doctrine of salvation.

EPHESIANS 4—6

Paul encourages the members in positive behaviors, emphasizing unity and love, and following God's example. He warns them to live righteously as they are examples to others. He tells of the Armor of God and encourages them to pray.

11

4

EPISTLE, PAULINE



Paul wrote this letter from house arrest in Rome to the church at Philippi. Paul had visited Philippi early in his ministry and he returned on his journeys years later. When the Philippians heard of Paul's house arrest, they sent a messenger Epaphroditus with supplies to minister to him. The messenger returns with this epistle, expressing Paul's gratitude and love. As one of the few books in the New Testament not written to provide correction, this letter contains encouragement and thanksgiving and is full of joy despite Paul's impending death.







JOYFUL LIFE IN CHRIST

2 HUMILITY AND JOY

KEEP TO THE SPIRIT, NOT THE FLESH

4

UNITY AND JOY

PHILIPPIANS 1

Paul talks about his joy in spite of his circumstances, and having furthered the cause of Christ. He states that "... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion ..."

PHILIPPIANS 2

Paul speaks of the humility of Christ as an example for others. He encourages labor with joy and without grumbling. He speaks of Timothy and Epaphroditus, the latter who is to deliver the letter back to Philippi.

PHILIPPIANS 3

Paul's opening implies lost letters to the Philippians. He warns of false teachers and encourages that true minsters are like him, sharing personal examples from his life.

PHILIPPIANS 4

After a plea for unity,
Paul writes to "Rejoice
in the Lord always. I
will say it again:
Rejoice!" He thanks
the members for their
generous gifts.

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

12

4

EPISTLE, PAULINE



Paul wrote this epistle to the church in Colossae after reports were brought back that the church had fallen into serious error. The Colossian church was trying to mix Greek philosophy with Christian theology, resulting in an erroneous philosophy being taught that focused on perfection through mechanical means and sanctification through severe discipline from the physical world. Paul wrote to correct this by emphasizing sanctification unity through Jesus Christ.







JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN

WARNINGS
AGAINST VAIN
PHILOSOPHY AND
ANGEL WORSHIP

PUT TO DEATH
DEEDS OF THE
FLESH

INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATIONS

COLOSSIANS 1

Paul illuminates
Christ's deity and
humanity, stating that
He is the Firstborn of
the Father, and was
present and
participated in the
Creation. Paul then
recounts his labor as
an Apostle.

COLOSSIANS 2

Paul warns against
Gnostic advisers and
philosophers who mix
worldly views with
spiritual ones. He
warns against false
humility, and those
who are vain but
worship angels. Paul
emphasizes reliance
on God to guide the
church.

COLOSSIANS 3

Paul exhorts the people to put off deeds of the flesh including sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed. He encourages deeds of the Spirit including compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

COLOSSIANS 3-4

Paul provides instructions for husbands, wives, children, masters, and indentured servants. He offers greetings and salutations to friends who are with Paul or in Colossae.

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

18

1

EPISTLE, PAULINE



Paul wrote a personal letter to Philemon about his former slave Onesimus, who had robbed and abandoned his master, but later converted to Christianity. Paul asked that Onesimus be received as a brother instead of a slave.







THANKSGIVING AND PLEA FOR ONESIMUS

PHILEMON 1

Paul describes his love for Onesimus. He asks that when Onesimus returns, he is no longer treated as a slave but as a brother.