



301: New Testament Bible Survey

Session 6: Paul's Letters II – Philippians, I/II Corinthians, & I/II Thessalonians

The Letter to the Philippians

- *Key Verse:*
Philippians 2:1 – 2 - "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."
- *Summary:*
Written from prison, Philippians focuses on using Christ as the ultimate model for Christian unity and behavior. A letter that expresses his joy despite his circumstances, Paul asks the believers in Philippi to demonstrate the same humble spirit of Christ in how they treat each other, naming some people specifically.

The First Letter to the Corinthians

- *Key Verse:*
I 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."

- *Summary:*
First Corinthians is a purpose-written letter sent to address questions from the Corinthian church, a group divided over many issues. Paul discusses many issues from immorality to cultural boundaries with a focus on unity, fidelity to the gospel, and proper ethical decisions.

The Second Letter to the Corinthians

- *Key Verse:*
II Corinthians 4:5 – 6 - “For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”
- *Summary:*
II Corinthians is a crisis letter from Paul to the church expressing his fidelity to the true gospel and defending his apostleship ministry. Written as if to convict them in a court of law, the letter prosecutes the believers for their substitution of the gospel with a more attractive, easier religion that fit their contemporary culture and a call back to faithfulness.

The First Letter to the Thessalonians

- *Key Verse:*
I Thessalonians 1:6 - 7 - “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.”
- *Summary:*
First Thessalonians is Paul, Silas, and Timothy’s message to a church undergoing suffering due to their faithfulness to the gospel message. Paul encourages the church to continue living for Christ despite their circumstances and addresses rumors around the death of believers and the Second Coming of Christ that were circulating among them.

The Second Letter to the Thessalonians

- *Key Verse:*

II Thessalonians 2:13 – 15 - “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.”

- *Summary:*

This second shorter letter to the Thessalonian church continues the theme of encouragement from the first letter as well as again addressing the Second Coming. Paul also gives them guidance on the practice of social banquets within the Roman economic system of patronage.

Philippians is a great example of Paul's personal letters:

- _____ on his circumstances
- Shows his _____ care for the church
- Great _____ depth
- _____ for his ministry team
- _____ for the church

The book of Philippians was written by Paul in the midst of his imprisonment,

which provides a great foil to the theme of _____ that dominates the letter.

Paul feels very close to this church, writing of his _____ for their

partnership in the ministry of the gospel.

Key ideas coming out of the letter to the Philippians include:

- _____
- The ethical life of the Christian based on the _____ of Christ
- Outcome of this way of life is the _____ of Christ

The two letters to the Corinthian church revolved around _____,
_____, _____ and _____.

The first section addresses divisions in the Corinthian church based on their
report:

_____ within the community

_____ to certain ministry leaders

_____ immorality, even beyond social norms

_____ in the church

The second section addresses questions included in the letter Chole brought:

The doctrine of the _____

II Corinthians is written as a defense of Paul's _____ authority and a defense of the gospel.

Paul's effort is to re-unite them so that they can continue to experience the true _____ of God through the Spirit.

The letters to the Thessalonians, in contrast to the Corinthians, deals primarily with conflict coming from _____ of the church.

If the Corinthians were known as a church with great internal issues, the Thessalonians were known for their suffering under _____.

Paul calls this community his "joy and _____."

Paul _____ their faithfulness in the face of persecution.

In II Thessalonians, Paul rebukes _____ and reminds the church of the work he did to follow the self-sacrificial love of Christ.

Ultimately, Paul's message to the Thessalonians is to live in _____ with the hope in the return of Christ and vindication of their faith.