

Week 7 Introduction to Pauline Epistles II

1. Classification of Pauline Epistles (Continued)]

1) Church Epistles – In Depth

- (1) Romans, 1–2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1–2 Thessalonians
- (2) Characteristics: Doctrine + Church issues + Practical instructions
- (3) Key Themes: Salvation, the Church, Christian life, Eschatology

2) Personal and Pastoral Epistles

- (1) 1–2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- (2) Purpose: Training young pastors and offering personal exhortations
- (3) Key Themes: Pastoral leadership, Church order, Personal faith

3) Prison Epistles

- (1) Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
- (2) Background: Written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome
- (3) Major Emphases: Mystery of the Church, Christ-centered faith, Forgiveness

4) Later Epistles

- (1) 2 Timothy, Titus
- (2) Paul's final writings
- (3) Main Focus: Perseverance in faith until the end

2. Main Themes of Each Pauline Epistle

Epistle	Key Theme
Romans	Definition of the Gospel, Justification by faith
1–2 Corinthians	Church issues, Love, Resurrection
Galatians	Law vs. Grace, Christian freedom
Ephesians	Mystery of the Church, Christian living
Philippians	Joy, Humility, Christ-centeredness
Colossians	Supremacy of Christ
1–2 Thessalonians	Second Coming, Holiness
1–2 Timothy, Titus	Pastoral leadership, Church order
Philemon	Forgiveness and Reconciliation

3. Theological Flow in Pauline Epistles

- 1) Justification: Being declared righteous by faith (Romans 3:28)
- 2) Sanctification: Transformation through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5)
- 3) Glorification: The final completion of salvation (Romans 8:30)

- 4) Ecclesiology: The Church as the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23)
 - 5) Eschatology: The hope of Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)
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4. Key Characteristics of Paul's Letters

- 1) Both personal and doctrinal
 - 2) Thoroughly Christ-centered
 - 3) Deep concern for the Church community
 - 4) Redemptive–historical perspective
 - 5) Practical exhortations and applications
 - 6) A balance between pastoral love and apostolic authority
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Conclusion

- 1) Paul's letters are not mere private correspondence but are foundational pillars for building up the Church and individual believers.
- 2) Each letter must be read individually and also understood within the unified framework of the Gospel-centered theology.
- 3) The message and power of Paul's letters remain fully relevant for the Church and believers today