



**JAN 10/11**  
**INTRODUCTION**

- I. THE PEN OF THE PASTOR: A New Way to Study Paul’s Letters
- II. The Importance of CONTEXT
  - a. The People
  - b. The Place
  - c. The Time

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Place of Writing</b>
Galatians	Paul	48	South Galatian churches	Syrian Antioch
1 Thessalonians	Paul	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth
2 Thessalonians	Paul	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth
1 Corinthians	Paul	53–55	Church in Corinth	Ephesus
2 Corinthians	Paul	55–56	Church in Corinth	Macedonia
Romans	Paul	57	Church in Rome	Corinth
Philippians	Paul	62	Church in Philippi	Rome
Colossians	Paul	62	Church in Colossae	Rome

Philemon	Paul	62	Philemon	Rome
Ephesians	Paul	62	Churches in Asia Minor (circular letter?)	Rome
1 Timothy	Paul	62–64	Timothy	Macedonia?
Titus	Paul	62–64	Titus	Nicopolis
2 Timothy	Paul	64–67	Timothy	Rome

III. What is the PURPOSE of the letter? (For Example)

- a. **Galatians—To correct error:** <sup>6</sup> *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ (Ga 1:6–7).*
- b. **Romans—To present the doctrine he will teach on mission:** <sup>13</sup> *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup> So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (Ro 1:13–15)*
- c. **Ephesians—To show the cosmic scale of the Gospel:** <sup>9</sup> *and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (Ephesians 3:9–10).*
- d. **Titus—to encourage a fellow leader:** <sup>7</sup> *Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, <sup>8</sup> and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (Tt 2:7–8)*

IV. What is POWERFUL (Doctrine)? (For Example)

- a. **The importance of the Resurrection:** <sup>3</sup> *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.) ... <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Co 15:3–5, 22)*
- b. **The Coming of Christ:** <sup>16</sup> *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (I Thess 4:16)*

- c. **Reconciliation in Christ:** <sup>20</sup> *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Cor 5:20-21)*
  - d. **Salvation Through Faith:** *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Ro 10:9)*
- V. What is PROBLEMATIC (Controversial)? (For Example)
- a. **Predestination:** *In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will (Eph 1:4-5)*
  - b. **Women in Leadership:** <sup>11</sup> *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup> I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. (1 Ti 2:11-12)*
  - c. **Homosexuality:** <sup>9</sup> *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor 6:9-10)*
  - d. **Slavery:** <sup>10</sup> *I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. (Philemon 10-12)*
- VI. What is POETIC (Just beautiful)? (For Example)
- a. **The Christ Hymn:** <sup>6</sup> *Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Php 2:6-11)*
  - b. **The Love Chapter:** <sup>4</sup> *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (I Corinthians 13:4-7)*
  - c. **The Fruit of the Spirit:** <sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)*
  - d. **The Image of the Invisible God:** <sup>15</sup> *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body,*

*the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)*

VII. What is PERSONAL? (For Example)

- a. **Persecutor:** *I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. (Gal 1:13-14)*
- b. **Jewish Identity:** *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. (Php 3:4-6)*
- c. **Vulnerability:** *<sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (II Cor 12:7-9)*
- d. **What he needs:** *<sup>13</sup> When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. ...<sup>21</sup> Do your best to come before winter. (2 Timothy 4:13, 19)*

VIII. What is PRACTICAL? (For Example)

- a. **Giving:** *<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Cor 9:6-7)*
- b. **Restoration:** *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal 6:1-2)*
- c. **Marriage:** *Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." <sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (I Cor 7:1-2)*
- d. **Food:** *<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (I Cor 8:13)*
- e. **Travel:** *<sup>5</sup> I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, <sup>6</sup> and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. (I Cor 16:5-6)*

IX. What is PRAYERFUL (the part he prays to God)? (For Example)

- a. **To Know God better:** *<sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may*

*give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.  
(Eph1:16-17)*

- b. **More Knowledge:** <sup>6</sup> *and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. (Phm 6)*
- c. **Trip to Rome:** <sup>9</sup> *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. (Rom 1:9-10)*
- d. **Godliness:** <sup>9</sup> *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Php. 1:9-11)*

X. PASTORAL Summary (For Example)

- a. **Confidence:** <sup>26</sup> *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ...If God is for us, who can be against us? ...<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:26-28, 31, 38-39)*
- b. **What Happens when we die:** *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (II Cor 5:1-10)*