

REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

Paul

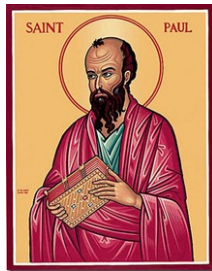


Image was retrieved from Creative Commons.

Overview

- Appears as a character in the book of Acts.
- He began as a Pharisee who persecuted followers of Jesus before Jesus appeared to him and he became a leader in the church.
- Tradition says he was executed in Rome.
- He is credited with writing 13 **epistles** (letters to the early church): Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.
- It is arguable whether Paul wrote 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Thessalonians, & Colossians.
- **Amanuensis**, Paul's secretary, was likely used by Paul to write some of his letters.

Themes of Paul's Epistles

- 1 Thessalonians
 - o Thanksgiving & encouragement
 - o Paul is feels affectionately towards the Thessalonians.
 - o Live a life that is holy and worthy of God.
 - o Jesus will return and both the dead and living will experience it.

- Wait for the time of Jesus' return, but do not try and predict when it will be.
- Galatians
 - Jesus sets us free.
 - Do not pervert the message of Jesus.
 - Paul defending his own authority as an apostle.
 - Justification (being made right with God) happens only through Jesus, and not anything that any person can do.
 - Abraham (from the book of Genesis) was not made right with God because of anything he did (like circumcision), he was made right by his faith in God.
 - There is freedom in Christ.
- 1 Corinthians
 - Greeting & thanksgiving
 - Divisions inside of the church need to be ended.
 - Do not commit adultery.
 - Do not sue people within the church.
 - For those who are married, sex is proper.
 - But those who are single should stay single (since Paul believed Jesus was coming back imminently).
 - Love is more important than being knowledgeable.
 - Paul addresses the physical appearance of women in Corinth.
 - Do not let the Lord's Supper create division.
 - Use spiritual gifts properly.
 - There will be a resurrection for those who are in Jesus.
- 2 Corinthians
 - The groups that were divided during the first letter had made up.
 - Paul calls for the Corinthians to use their finances well.
 - Paul says that his credibility comes in his humility.
- Romans
 - Greetings & thanksgiving
 - God's presence is apparent everywhere.
 - God is a wrathful God who can be made angry by injustice.
 - However, God offers people the option to be made just through Jesus.
 - The effects of Christ's salvation are life changing.
 - Jews and Gentiles alike should follow Jesus.
 - Believers in Jesus should dedicate their lives to him to say thank you for his sacrifice.
- Philippians
 - Reflections on imprisonment
 - Whether dead or alive, all is good if you follow Jesus.
 - Paul is a model of Jesus that the church should follow.
- Philemon
 - Paul encourages Philemon to forgive Onesimus, his slave who did something that we do not know.
- Ephesians
 - Blessing

- The church has a divine job to be the example of Christ to the world.
- Live a life worthy of being called to Christ.
- Pastoral letters (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)
 - Instructions for how the church should be ran
 - Do not listen to false teaching.
 - Household management
- 2 Thessalonians
 - There are things that must take place before Jesus returns.
- Colossians
 - If the church is the body of Christ, then Jesus is the head.

Test your knowledge!

Answers are at the bottom of the document.

- 1) What is an epistle?
 - a. A letter
 - b. A boat
 - c. An article of clothing
 - d. A building
- 2) Which of the following books have been argued that Paul did not write?
 - a. Romans
 - b. 1 Corinthians
 - c. 1 Thessalonians
 - d. 2 Timothy
- 3) Which book refers to Jesus as the head of the church?
 - a. Colossians
 - b. 2 Thessalonians
 - c. Romans
 - d. Philippians
- 4) Which book teaches that Abraham was made right with God because of his faith?
 - a. Romans
 - b. Galatians
 - c. Philippians
 - d. Titus
- 5) Which book portrays a sexual ethic that hints at Paul believing the return of Christ was happening in his lifetime?
 - a. 1 Corinthians
 - b. 2 Corinthians
 - c. Colossians
 - d. Philemon

Answers: 1) a. 2) d. 3) a. 4) b. 5) a.