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

Overview

- 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
  - Thanksgiving & encouragement
  - Paul is feels affectionately towards the Thessalonians.
  - Live a life that is holy and worthy of God.
  - Jesus will return and both the dead and living will experience it.
- **Galatians**
  - Wait for the time of Jesus’ return, but do not try and predict when it will be.
  - 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.