

Theo 101, Session #05: Pauline Literature

The University of St. Francis

True/False

1. _____ Our most reliable source for biographical information on the apostle Paul is the Acts of the Apostles.
2. _____ Both in Acts and in Paul's letters, Paul appears to be a gentle, shy, reserved person.
3. _____ In Paul's youth, he trained to be a rabbi.
4. _____ The apostle Mark knew Paul personally.
5. _____ All the letters Paul personally wrote were written before Mark's gospel.
6. _____ All the letters attributed to Paul were surely written before Mark's gospel.
7. _____ Paul probably knew the author of St. Luke's gospel personally.
8. _____ The structure of Paul's "letters" is highly unique, having few parallels in ancient Hellenistic literature.
9. _____ Only the letters that were actually written by Paul were inspired.
10. _____ Paul intended his letters to form part of the New Testament.

11. _____ A sword is the symbol of St. Paul.
12. _____ Most of Paul's letters were addressed to Christians he did not know personally.
13. _____ Paul wrote some of his letters as if he expected to be alive when the Lord Jesus returned in glory to judge the earth.
14. _____ Many scholars believe that the Jerusalem conference that Paul attended and described in Acts 15 may have taken place around the year 49 AD.
15. _____ Paul often employed the service of a scribe.
16. _____ Paul wrote his letters in Aramaic and someone translated them into Greek for him.
17. _____ All of Paul's letters were written to Churches, not to individuals.
18. _____ Some the letters attributed to Paul were very likely written after his death.
19. _____ Paul's letters were always well-received by those for whom they were written.
20. _____ Paul used the term "grace" to define God's desire to show people kindness and mercy even when their sin made them undeserving.

Multiple Choice

1. In what terms does the book of Acts discuss Paul's missionary activity?
 - a. Three missionary journeys and two trips to Rome.
 - b. Two missionary journeys and a final trip to Jerusalem.
 - c. Three missionary journeys followed by Paul's arrest and a final trip to Rome as a prisoner.
 - d. Four missionary journeys, the last to Asia Minor.

2. What below best describes St. Paul?
 - a. A Gentile convert to Christianity who became an early Christian missionary.
 - b. A Jewish Christian who planted Churches throughout Asia Minor and Greece.
 - c. A Jewish Christian who became pastor of the Church in Jerusalem.
 - d. A former Roman Soldier.

3. Which of the following is a biographical detail about Paul mentioned in the Book of Acts but never by Paul in his own letters? (Acts 9)
 - a. Paul was a former persecutor of Christians.
 - b. Paul was a former Pharisee.
 - c. Paul had a life-changing vision of the risen Christ.
 - d. Paul was born in the city of Tarsus.

4. To which Jewish group did the Apostle Paul say he belonged? (Phil 3: 5)
 - a. Pharisees
 - b. Sadducees
 - c. Essenes
 - d. Zealots

5. What below is one of the most important historical references in Acts

for dating the life of the apostle Paul? (Acts 18)

- a. Paul's appearance before Gallio, governor of Achaia, in Acts 18.
 - b. The signs of the Holy Spirit that appeared on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
 - c. The ascension of Jesus described in Acts 1.
 - d. The presence of Saul (=Paul) at the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7.
6. When Paul became a Christian, what below best describes best what he did?
- a. He gave up his Jewish faith.
 - b. He continued to worship in the Jewish synagogue and practice his Jewish faith.
 - c. He began to argue that in order to become a Christian, one must first become a Jew.
 - d. None of the Above.
7. What below best describes the authentic letters of Paul?
- a. They are the oldest surviving Christian documents.
 - b. They were all written in the thirty years following the completion of John's Gospel.
 - c. They were written before John's Gospel, but after Mark's Gospel.
 - d. They do not exist, since Paul did not write any of the thirteen letters.
8. In what language did Paul write his letters?
- a. Latin
 - b. Greek
 - c. Aramaic
 - d. Hebrew
9. There are thirteen letters in the New Testament that bear Paul's name. Which of the following best represents the view of modern New

Testament scholars regarding the authorship of those letters?

- a. Paul wrote all of the letters that bear his name. Otherwise, some of them would have to be forgeries.
 - b. Paul (or a scribe of Paul's) wrote seven of the letters that bear his name. The rest were written by later Christian leaders in Paul's name, attempting to apply his teachings to later situations.
 - c. Paul did not actually write any of the letters that bear his name. Some were written by later followers of his teachings in order to honor him, and others are forgeries.
 - d. Paul's letters were written by the historian Josephus.
10. The majority of scholars accept how many of the thirteen Pauline letters in the New Testament as authentically written by the apostle?
- a. Seven
 - b. Eight
 - c. Ten
 - d. Twelve
11. Scholars generally agree that this was the first of the Pauline letters to be written.
- a. 1 Thessalonians
 - b. 1 Corinthians
 - c. 1 Timothy
 - d. Romans
12. Which of the following is *not* among that group of letters that virtually all New Testament scholars think Paul wrote?
- a. Romans
 - b. Galatians
 - c. 1 Corinthians
 - d. Ephesians
13. How did Paul most likely write his letters?

- a. Sitting at a desk with a quill (pen) in his hand writing on papyrus.
 - b. Dictating them to a scribe.
 - c. Typing them on a computer.
 - d. None of the above.
14. What greeting did Paul customarily use at the beginning of his letters?
- a. "Truly, truly, I say unto you..."
 - b. "Grace and peace to you..."
 - c. "Hail, O blessed ones..."
 - d. "The Lord be with you."
15. Of all the aspects of Jesus' life, what did St. Paul most address about him?
- a. Virginal Conception
 - b. Performance of Miracles
 - c. Teaching in Parables
 - d. Death and Resurrection
16. Which of the following best describes Paul's attitude toward the Mosaic Torah after he became a follower of Jesus?
- a. The Law (Torah) is the means to salvation. Those who follow its requirements faithfully will be saved.
 - b. The Law (Torah) is a gift of God to his people. While following it cannot buy a right relationship with God, the person who has a right relationship with God will do her or his best to live in faithful obedience God's will.
 - c. The Law (Torah) is evil. It is a distraction from true relationship with God and should not be followed.
 - d. The Torah becomes irrelevant with the advent of Christ.
17. According to Paul, right standing before God comes to all people on the same basis through what?

- a. Obedience to the Torah.
 - b. God's grace through faith.
 - c. A mixture of faith in Christ and following certain requirements of the Torah.
 - d. An understanding of the Pseudepigrapha.
18. What statement below best reflects St. Paul's teachings?
- a. Although no one knows when Christ will return, people should live in expectation of his return, so that no matter when that might be Christ will find his followers doing what God wants.
 - b. No one should be concerned about Christ's return.
 - c. People should read the signs of the times and try to determine exactly when Christ will return since this is the only real way to be ready for it.
 - d. Christ has already returned and physically is in our midst.
19. According to Paul, conduct within the community of Jesus' followers should be guided by what?
- a. What each person feels to be right.
 - b. An insistence that every detail of the Torah be observed faithfully.
 - c. The principle of charity.
 - d. The law of the scribes.

Short Answer

1. Name the seven Pauline letters written by Paul's hand or dictated

by Paul to a scribe.

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|----|-------|----|-------|
| a. | _____ | e. | _____ |
| b. | _____ | f. | _____ |
| c. | _____ | g. | _____ |
| d. | _____ | | |

2. There are SIX letters attributed to Paul which bear important similarities to one another, but are not generally accepted by scholars as having been written by Paul. Which are they?

- | | |
|----|-------|
| a. | _____ |
| b. | _____ |

3. Learn the “Song of St. Paul”

LONG ESSAY - Questions from the Video Presentations

1. Explain the significant additions that the video presentations offer that are *not* included in Fr. Pete’s Online Lecture. Be specific.