

Theo 101, Week #12:
Pauline Literature I (ANSWER KEY)
The University of St. Francis

True/False

1. False Our most reliable source for biographical information on the apostle Paul is the Book of Acts.
2. False Both in Acts and in Paul's letters, Paul appears to be a gentle, shy, reserved person.
3. True In Paul's youth, he trained to be a rabbi.
If Paul had much of his early education in Jerusalem and had sat "at the feet of Gamaliel," did he know Jesus? He never gives any indication in his letters that he did. Not even 2 Cor 5:16 necessarily implies that he did: "Even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we no longer regard him in this way." This most likely refers to Paul's attitude toward Jesus when Paul was persecuting the Church; undoubtedly he knew what Jesus stood for and what his disciples were claiming on his behalf. Otherwise it would be difficult to explain his ardent persecution of the new "Way."
4. True The apostle Mark knew Paul personally.
The Evangelist is usually identified with the John Mark of Acts 12:12, 25 and the Mark of 1 Pt 5:13. The fact that he had a Jewish name (John) and a Hellenized Latin name (Mark) suggests that he was a Jew from the Greek-speaking world; in fact he belonged to the Hellenists of the Jerusalem community. He was a cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10) and presumably the same "John who was also called Mark" (Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37, 39). Paul and Barnabas "had John with them as their assistant" on Mission I (Acts 13:5); but he subsequently

left them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Later, at Antioch, Barnabas wished to take him on a missionary tour. But Paul disapproved, and the disagreement between him and Barnabas eventuated in the latter's taking Mark and sailing for Cyprus instead of accompanying Paul (Acts 15:37-39). Writing from house arrest in Rome, Paul mentioned Barnabas' cousin Mark as being with him (Col 4:10); similarly, a Mark is named in Phlm 24 as Paul's fellow prisoner. In 2 Tm 4:11 Paul instructs Timothy in Ephesus to "get Mark and bring him with you." Finally, the author of 1 Pt sends greetings from Babylon (Rome) from himself "and Mark my son" (1 Pt 5:13). Although the identification is not altogether certain, there is no positive reason why all these texts should not refer to the same person; nothing in the Second Gospel indicates that its author was not a disciple of Peter or a familiar of Paul.

5. True All the letters Paul personally wrote were written before Mark's gospel.
The preferred year for the death of Paul is 67, toward the end of Nero's persecution, as Eusebius' account seems to suggest. This chronology is not, however, without its difficulties.
6. False All the letters attributed to Paul were surely written before Mark's gospel.
The Pastorals cannot be fitted into the framework of Paul's life as we know it from Acts and the other epistles. They could have been written only after the Roman house arrest with which Acts closes.
7. True Paul probably knew the author of St. Luke's gospel personally.
The Pastorals cannot be fitted into the framework of Paul's life as we know it from Acts and the other epistles. They could have been written only after the Roman house arrest with which Acts closes.
8. False The structure of Paul's "letters" is highly unique, having few parallels in ancient Hellenistic literature.

9. False Only the letters that were actually written by Paul were inspired.
The Council of Trent declared in 1546 that the Deutero & Pseudo Pauline Letters were also considered canonical, even though authentic Pauline authorship was (and is) questionable.
10. False Paul intended his letters to form part of the New Testament.
The New Testament Canon was not assembled until the early second century at the earliest.
11. True A sword is the symbol of St. Paul.
Traditionally, the sword is the symbol of St. Paul's martyrdom.
12. False Most of Paul's letters were addressed to Christians he did not know personally.
13. True 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. True 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. True Paul often employed the service of a scribe.
"I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand" (1 Cor 16: 12). Rom 16:22 suggests that he dictated to Tertius (this may refer only to Rom 16 [→ Letter Rom, 53:10]). In 2 Thes 3:17, 1 Cor 16:21; Col 4:18 Paul added the greeting in his own hand—this implies that the rest was dictated to a scribe. This may be the point of the remark in Gal 6:11, when Paul contrasts his handwriting to that of the trained scribe, who wrote the preceding part. But it is impossible to say for sure whether it was dictation of the sort (2) or (3).

16. False Paul wrote his letters in Aramaic and someone translated them into Greek for him.
In Paul's day Koine Greek (common Greek) was the main language. He was obviously conversant in it—he wrote all his letters in this language. Along with language came the impact of Greek culture on daily life.
17. False All of Paul's letters were written to Churches, not to individuals.
Paul wrote four letters to individuals, including 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.
18. True Some the letters attributed to Paul were very likely written after his death.
Pseudo-Pauline: (later compositions written by Pauline community after Paul's death; also called the "Pastoral Letters"): 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.
19. False Paul's letters were always well-received by those for whom they were written.
20. True 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/Short Answer

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. 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.
5. To which Jewish group did the Apostle Paul say he belonged? (Phil 3: 5)
- a. *Pharisees*
 - b. Sadducees
 - c. Essenes
 - d. Zealots
6. After Paul converted, what below 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. He gave up his Jewish faith.
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 which Pauline letter was the first 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. 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. ***1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus (The Pseudo-Pauline Letters)***
 - b. ***Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians (The Deutero-Pauline Letters)***
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14. How did Paul most likely write the majority of 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.
15. 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."

16. 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*
17. 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.
18. 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.

19. 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.
20. 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.

Questions from the Video Presentations (History Channel)

1. What in this video justifies Paul's belief that he is an apostle?

His claim to encountering Christ personally

2. After his conversion, how was Paul received by the Jewish and Christian faithful?

Christians mistrusted him and were hostile; Jewish faithful considered him a traitor

3. What was Paul's refined message to the people to whom he preached?

That Jesus would break the pattern of brokenness and alienation, thus uniting all people to God's grace and mercy.

4. Paul's first mission with Barnabas lasted three years. In what major cities did Paul & Barnabas preach? What part of the major cities did Paul & Barnabas preach?

Specifically Cyprus (Galatia), preferring to minister in large commercial centers and in the synagogues.

5. What is a Judaizer?

A Judaizer was a Christian Jewish faithful person who wished to adhere to the laws of the Torah.

6. Why did the Judaizers confront Paul & Barnabas? How was this issue resolved?

Because Judaizers held to the Jewish practice of circumcision, an issue which Paul & Barnabas addressed with the apostles at the Church's first ecumenical council, the Council of Jerusalem in 49 AD.