

Pauline Epistles 2

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Pauline Epistles II is a study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul emphasizes Christian liberty in Galatians, while his other four letters consider church truths - the person and work of Christ, the role of the church, justification by faith, and the spiritual life of the believer. It is important to note that in each of Paul's epistles he discusses doctrinal issues in the first part and application in the second part.

What are you expecting from this course? Take a few minutes and ask God's direction as you study His Word and apply it to your life. Write down the things you want to receive from looking into these letters. You may find the study of Scripture to be very meaningful, or it may be routine. Asking God to guide you into the truth and its meaning is always a good way to approach your study.

It is desired that you saturate yourself with the Scriptures in order that the Holy Spirit may effectively use them in your life. This study is primarily to get you into the Scriptures rather than being a study about the Scriptures. It is our intent that you become an independent Bible student who will study, research, interpret correctly, and apply the truth of God's Word. Your study will be conducted through a reading and question technique.

This course is a three-semester- hour study in the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Upon completion of the course, having studied carefully the Scripture and finished the assignments, you should be able to

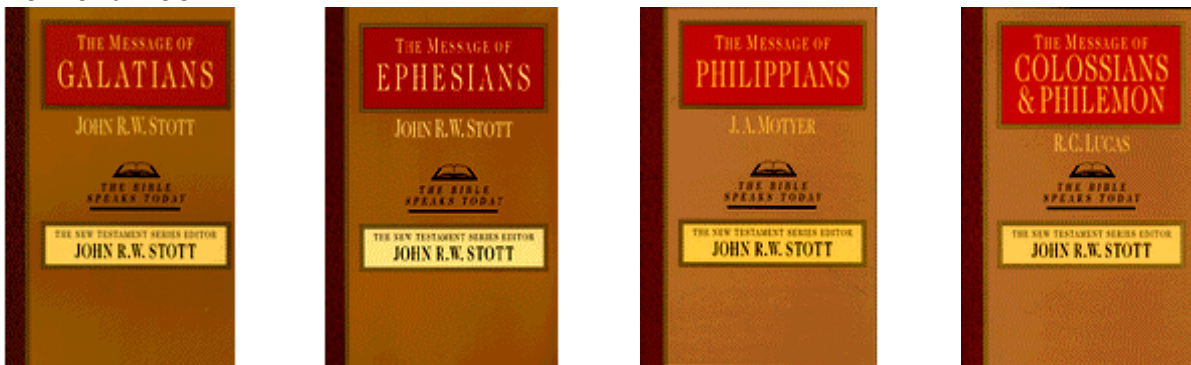
- state the definitive theme of each book.
- develop the major ideas and progression of thought around each theme.
- give significant background details on each epistle including matter related to authorship, recipients, time, and historical setting.
- identify problem passages and understand possible meanings that would explain the problem.
- apply proper hermeneutical principles and Bible study methods to specific texts.
- articulate and appreciate the biblical concepts of Christian freedom, spiritual riches, and the sufficiency of Christ in your life.

Table of Contents

Unit 1	<i>GALATIANS: WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?</i>
Lesson 1	<i>The Issue of Paul's Authority (Gal. 1:1–2:21)</i>
Lesson 2	<i>The Issue of Salvation by Faith (Gal. 3:1–4:31)</i>
Lesson 3	<i>The Issue of Holiness in the Christian Life (Gal. 5:1-6:18)</i>

- Unit 2** *EPHESIANS: WHAT IS GOD’S NEW SOCIETY?*
- Lesson 4** *The New Life in Christ (Eph. 1:1–2:10)*
- Lesson 5** *A New Society Developed by Christ (Eph. 2:11–3:21)*
- Lesson 6** *A New Standard Established by Christ (Eph. 4:1–5:21)*
- Lesson 7** *New Relationships for Those in Christ (Eph. 5:21–6:24)*
- Unit 3** *PHILIPPIANS: WHAT IS CHRISTIAN UNITY?*
- Lesson 8** *Rejoicing Together in Serving Christ (Phil. 1:1–2:30)*
- Lesson 9** *Rejoicing Together in Christ’s Sufficiency (Phil. 3:1–4:23)*
- Unit 4** *COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON: LIVING IN A NON-CHRISTIAN WORLD*
- Lesson 10** *The Preeminence of Christ (Col. 1:1–2:5)*
- Lesson 11** *The Fullness of Christ (Col. 2:6–2:23)*
- Lesson 12** *The Sufficiency of Christ (Col. 3:1–4:18; Philemon 1–25)*

The Text Book



The following are the required textbooks for this course. You should be able to purchase this book from a local bookstore, an online book store such as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Christian Book Distributors](https://www.christianbook.com).

- John R.W. Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, in The Bible Speaks Today Series, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1986). ISBN# 0-87784-288-4
- John R.W. Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, in The Bible Speaks Today Series, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1986). ISBN# 0-87784-287-6
- Alec Motyer, *The Message of Philipians*, in The Bible Speaks Today Series, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1984). ISBN# 0-87784-310-4
- R.C. Lucas, *The Message of Colossians and Philemon*, in The Bible Speaks Today Series, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1980). ISBN# 0-87784-284-1

Specific instructions on the reading assignments from the text are found in the Introduction for each lesson. In order to gain the most benefit from this course, you should read the assignment in the text, then read through the Supplement for that lesson.

Course Requirements

Paper Option 1

Problem Passage Paper (3–5 pages)

Select ONE major problem in three of the following passages to identify and resolve:

(1) Galatians 2:20–21

(2) Galatians 3 - Because this is an entire chapter follow these guidelines:

- Explain the purpose of the law.
- Explain the function of the law in a Christian's experience.

(3) Ephesians 1:8b–12

(4) Ephesians 3:8–10

(5) Philippians 2:5–11

(6) Colossians 1:13–18

(7) Colossians 2:16–19

Use the following **procedure** for completing each of the three problems selected:

- Study the passage in its context.
- Identify and explain the problem in it.
- Explain and answer the questions that need to be asked of the content and that will help in explaining the meaning of the problem.
- Give solutions to the problem that are suggested by commentaries.
- Explain the solution you think is best in answering the problem, and why you think it is the best solution.

Paper Option 2

Christian Living Paper (3–5 pages)

Identify, categorize, and explain the meaning of the principles for Christian living seen in these five epistles.

(1) Study the practical sections in the five epistles. These are usually the last half of each letter.

- 2) Research the meaning of the principles.
- (3) Organize the principles into categories (topics). Group the similar principles into one category.
- (4) Explain the meaning of the principles in each category.
- (5) Show how each category may apply to a life situation.

Paper Option 3

Epistles Chart Paper (5 pages)

Make a chart for each of the five epistles. The following should be elements in each chart:

- State the theme of the letter.
- Identify a key idea for each major section in the letter.
- Show visually the progression the theme.
- Identify a few key topics and trace them through the letter.
- Chart should allow reader to visually think through the letter.

Reading

Most lessons will require reading from the textbook, and all will require a thorough reading of the Supplement. These lessons contain plenty of practical exercises to aid your understanding of the content being discussed. You will be required to submit a **Reading Report**, stating that you have completed reading of the textbook, and the lesson supplements.

Threaded Discussions

The Threaded Discussion portion of this course will enable you to interact and dialogue in a collaborative setting with the instructor and your classmates. Each week your instructor will post a discussion topic or question. Usually these topics or questions will be taken directly from the Review or Study questions in the lesson. You will be required to post a response by the given deadline. Your responses will be evaluated based on the specifications your instructor posts with each new question. Some responses will be evaluated based on their length, others on the number of resources referred to and others on the quality of their content. Each response should be well thought out and contain no spelling or grammatical errors. You will also be required to read the responses of your "classmates" and respond.

Study Questions

At the end of each lesson, you will find Study Questions, which are designed to guide you in your understanding of the Supplement. You must select 10 of these questions (each from a different lesson), write a 2-3 paragraph response/answer and send them to your instructor via the Drop Box.