

Prison Epistles

I. Reading Paul- 5 keys

- A. Action- apostle to the _____
- B. Reaction- to life lived as a Pharisee
- C. Flesh- really means _____ (law), not matter (see Phil)
- D. Unity of the _____ - Col 3.11
- E. Organization- Greeting, Theology, Practicality, Signature

II. Paul in Prison (Acts 21-28 [esp 28.17-30])

- A. Paul arrested for “hope in the resurrection”
- B. Falsely charged
- C. Makes the most of every circumstance, considers prison an excellent opportunity to finally get to Rome.- Acts 28.30; Phil 1.13

III. Considerations for the Prison Epistles

- A. Characterized by high Christology, Soteriology, Anthropology- Eph 1.3-10
 - 1. **Christology**- Jesus is the _____, over creation (Col 1.15-20)
 - 2. **Soteriology**- _____ is by grace through faith, not works. (Eph 2.8)
 - 3. **Anthropology**- Theology of _____: We are conspiring with God to reconcile the cosmos to it’s original purpose. (Eph 1.9)
- B. *Amaneuensis*- a big word for co- _____
 - 1. Cultural norms
 - 2. Problems with Ephesians-
 - a) No address- literally “to the ones being and to the faithful in Christ”
 - b) No personal input
 - c) Little familiarity with the people (but knows culture)
 - d) Sounds different- esp ‘realized eschatology’- aka _____ now.
 - e) Solution- encyclical written with approval by Paul’s friend?
- C. *Haustafeln*- rigorous household codes (esp for husbands). Eph 5.25-33- Conter cultural.

IV. Virtue:

- A. Practice virtue, but not an end in itself

B. Focus on _____

C. "Love God and do whatever comes to mind"- Augustine

V. Christ over _____ - Colossians

A. Summary: a letter to a church founded by another, reaction to wrong thinking.

B. Organization: 1-2 theology; 3-4 praxis

C. Key idea: Jesus is God, king of the world, and the foundation for our lives.

D. Key word: _____ (1.15-20; esp v 19)

E. Key passages: 1.15-20; 2.6-10

VI. Christ over competing _____ - Ephesians

A. Summary: a letter reminding a church in an idolatrous town that Jesus wins.

B. Organization: 1-3 theology; 4-6 praxis

C. Key idea: Jesus and believers have victory over spiritual forces (Acts 19).

D. Key words: power, warfare

E. Key passages: 1.15-23; 4.7-16 (King gives rather than receives gifts)

VII. Christ over _____ - Philippians

A. Summary: A thank you letter for food, and a reminder that "I can do all things . . ."

B. Organization (sort of): 1 summary; 2.1-3.14 theology; 3.15-4.9 practice; 4.10-20 thanks

C. Key words: joy, flesh, _____ (the PG-13 letter)

D. Key passages: Phil 1; 3.1-12; 4.10-13

VIII. Conspiring with Christ

A. Col 3.5-15; 4.2

B. (Eph 4.22-5.4, 5.8)

C. (Eph 5.15-21)

D. (Phil 1.27)

E. (Phil 2.2-4)

F. (Phil 4.8)