

Bible Survey, part 4 – The New Testament (Romans)

“Hello, I have something convicting me this morning that I wanted to share. Darion Aguilar has been identified as the shooter in the Columbia Mall incident on Saturday . . . The convicting thing for me is that Darion worked at the Dunkin Donuts beside my apartment in CP (College Park). I have spoken to him probably 20 times over the past 6 months or so, but never about more than donuts or coffee.

We hear Lon talk all the time (and again last night) about sharing our faith by striking up conversations with strangers. I’ve always thought that was a waste of time and effort, high risk, very low rate of success, etc. But my calculations have been off . . . and it saddens me.

I don’t mean to suggest that I would have somehow impacted Saturday’s events via a random conversation. But I do mean to suggest that God could use me to accomplish something in Darion’s or any other stranger’s life, and I have been closed to that idea. I would not put it past God’s reach to use a random conversation to lead to a life changing moment. From what I hear, this actually happens on a regular basis.

One thing for me going forward, I’ll start a conversation with anyone giving me coffee . . . let me challenge each of you to take some ‘risks’ for the Kingdom.”

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

- **WHAT** each book is about
- **WHEN** each one was written
- **HOW** they are all interconnected

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“Epistle” = “letter”

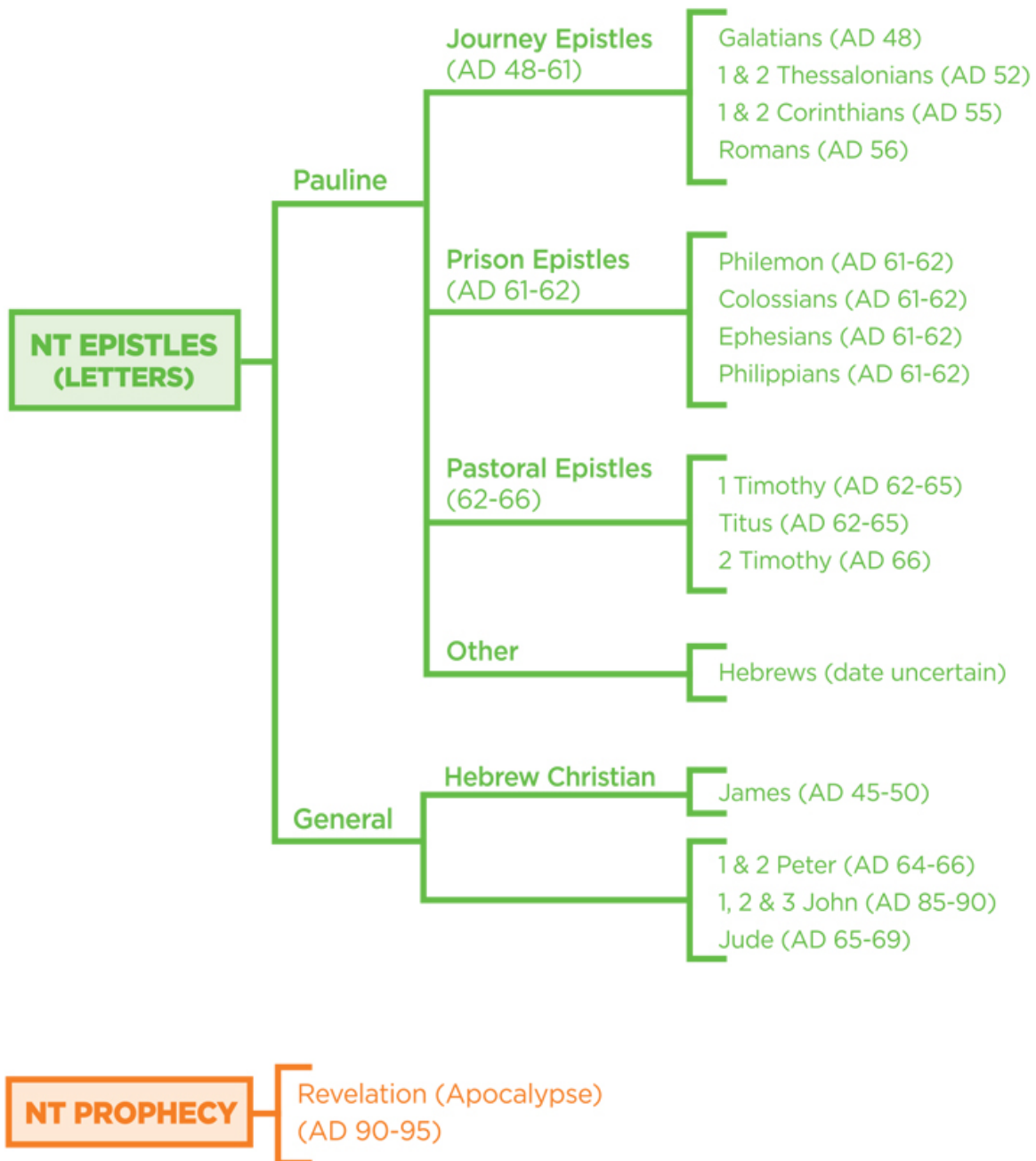
After the Gospels and the Book of Acts, pretty much the rest of the New Testament is made up of these New Testament “letters.”

In fact – 21 of the 27 books of the New Testament are “epistles.”

- 14 of these written by Paul
- 7 written by various Apostles

The letters of the Apostle Paul form the “**spine**” of the New Testament

OUTLINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES



HIGHLIGHTS IN THE LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

Birth of Paul	around the time of Christ's birth
Conversion of Paul	AD 33
First missionary journey	AD 47-48
Galatians written after first journey	AD 48
Apostolic Council at Jerusalem	AD 49
Second missionary journey	AD 49-52
1 & 2 Thessalonians written during second journey	AD 52
Third missionary journey	AD 52-56
1 & 2 Corinthians written during third journey	AD 55
Romans written during third journey	AD 56
Arrest in Jerusalem	AD 56
Journey to Rome	AD 60-61
In Rome awaiting trial, under guard	AD 61-62
Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians written from prison	AD 61-62
Paul released, revisits churches, resumes evangelistic ministry	AD 62-66
1 Timothy, Titus written	AD 62-65
Paul arrested, imprisoned at Rome	AD 66
2 Timothy written from Rome	AD 66
Paul executed	AD 66



Nine of Paul's letters were written to **churches** while the other **five** were written to **individuals**.

In the New Testament, Paul's letters **do not appear in chronological order**.

Section #1 (Romans to 2 Thessalonians) = letters Paul wrote to the **churches**

Section #2 (1 Timothy to Hebrews) = letters Paul wrote to **individuals**

All Paul's "church letters" follow the same basic pattern:

- In the **beginning** of the letter, Paul deals with **theological issues**
- In the **2nd part** of the letter, Paul deals with a variety of **practical, everyday, Christian - life topics**

By the time we have read the "**back halves**" of all of Paul's letters, there's pretty much nothing in the Christian life that we haven't been instructed about!

Paul's letter to the church in Rome

- Written in 56 A.D.
- Paul on his 3rd missionary journey



At the time Paul wrote this letter – he had never actually been to Rome.

We are not sure who started the church at Rome – but it was a thriving church!

"I thank my God for all of you because your faith is being talked about all over the world . . . and I long to see you . . . that you and I may be encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:8, 11, 12

"In fact, I want you to know that I planned many times to come to you but have been unable to do so up to this point . . ." Romans 1:13

"Now, I am on my way to Jerusalem . . . for the churches in Greece were pleased to take an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem." Romans 15:25

"And after I have completed this task . . . I plan to go to Spain and to visit you [i.e., in Rome] on the way." Romans 15:28

Eventually Paul did get to Rome, but definitely not the way he planned.
He got there in chains – **6 years after** he wrote these words in Romans chapter 15.

1st half = Romans 1-11

2nd half = Romans 12-16

In the 1st half of the Book of Romans (chapters 1-11), Paul gives us the **most comprehensive explanation of “God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ”** anywhere in the Bible!

#1 – **WHY** it’s necessary

#2 – **HOW** it works

#3 – **WHAT** are its results

#4 – **IS ANYONE EXEMPT** from needing it

#1 – **WHY God’s plan of salvation is necessary**

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin [Adam] – so death passed onto all men, because [in Adam] all men sinned.” Romans 5:12

Paul: “By his disobedience to God in the Garden, Adam polluted the entire human race – so that **every descendant of his** is born with a ‘sin nature’.”

“Through this one trespass, condemnation resulted for all men . . .” Romans 5:18

Paul: “Both because of our ‘sinful nature’ and our ‘sinful actions,’ we are all under the judgment of a Holy God – and **this is why we need a plan of salvation!**”

#2 – **HOW God’s plan of salvation works**

“But now, a way to be right in God’s sight **apart from human works** has been made available to us . . . through faith in Jesus Christ.” Romans 3:21, 22

“In God’s mercy, it is **free** . . . through the redemption that’s found in Jesus Christ, whom God made an **atoning sacrifice** for us.” Romans 3:24, 25

“. . . **by faith in/relying on/trusting in** His [Jesus’] blood . . .” Romans 3:25

“For by human works shall **no one** become right in God’s sight . . .” Romans 3:20

“**Not** by works of righteousness which we have done, but by His mercy, God saved us . . .” Titus 3:5

#3 – **WHAT are the results of God’s plan of salvation**

“Therefore, having been justified [declared right with God] **by faith** we have [1] **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have been given [2] **access to God**, and by whom we stand in this [3] **new gracious position with God.**” Romans 5:1, 2

1st – “**Peace with God**”

- No more **condemnation**
- No more **going to hell**

2nd – “**Access to God**”

- No more **alienation** from God
- No more **separation** from God
- [We are now] “. . . **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son . . .” Romans 5:10

3rd – “New gracious position with God”

- “. . . we have received the Spirit of **adoption** as sons, by which we cry out [to God], ‘Abba! Father!’”
Romans 8:15
- “For the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we have become **children of God.**”
Romans 8:16

All people are God’s “**creatures**” – but **only believers** in Jesus are God’s “**children.**”
THIS is the new “**gracious position**” we have.

“But to as many people as received Him [the Lord Jesus], to them [and only them] He gave the right to become **children of God.**” John 1:12

#4 – IS ANYONE EXEMPT from needing God’s plan of salvation

The answer = **NO!**

“. . . we have already made the case that Jews and Gentiles alike are **ALL** under sin.” Romans 3:9

“For there is no difference: for **ALL** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:22b, 23

“For God has concluded **ALL** men under disobedience, so He might be able to offer **mercy to them ALL.**”
Romans 11:32

BOTTOM LINE = no matter who we are, we **ALL** need God’s salvation in Jesus Christ **to avoid** His eternal condemnation and to **escape** hell!

In the **2nd half** of the Book of Romans (chapters 12-16), Paul covers a **cornucopia of practical Christian-life truth.**

So What?

The “So What?” of the Book of Romans = **every person here today needs the plan of salvation in Jesus Christ that God mercifully created for us!**

Point #1 – We are all **sinners** in the sight of God

“For all of us have **sinned** and **fallen short** of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Point #2 – This puts us on a “**collision course**” with God’s eternal condemnation

“For the wages of sin is **death . . .**” Romans 6:23a

Point #3 – God has created a “**free way out**” for us through what Jesus did for us on the cross

“For the wages of sin is death **BUT** the **free gift of God** is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”
Romans 6:23

Point #4 – We access this “**free gift of eternal life**” . . .

“. . . **by faith in/relying on/trusting in** His [Jesus’] blood . . .” Romans 3:25

. . . **instead of relying** on our human works or religious activity

“Have you done this – **and if not**, do you want to?”