

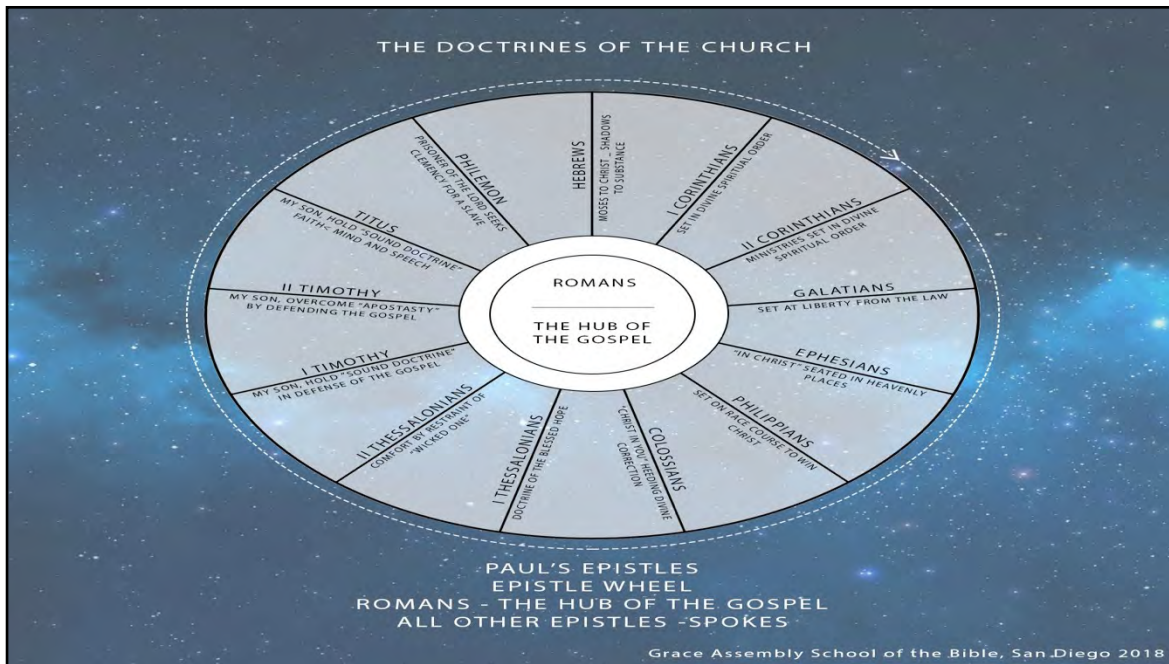
Introduction:

The Apostle Paul's Apostleship in God's program was by divine intervention. He received a supernatural mandate through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ of Nazareth on the Road to Damascus. Paul later called himself the Chief Apostle to the Uncircumcision in contrast to Peter as the Chief Apostle to the Circumcision. He also acknowledged having received a Dispensation of the Gospel for this Church age.

His Gospel established the doctrines for the Church and when coupled with the following admonition becomes a weighty matter to "he that hath an ear." (1 Cor 14:37 KJV) *"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."*

Without the "Pauline Gospel," ministers and believers will never become rooted and grounded, as well as, established in the foundational truths. They will also never discover the treasures of knowledge, wisdom and understanding hid in Christ as well as of the high and heavenly calling for the Church enabling them to lay hold upon the "blessed hope!" The Apostle Paul suffered greatly from within and without to deliver these special truths to the Church. (Acts 9:16) "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

There remains a mystery in the canonizing of the New Testament in that the Apostle Paul's fourteen epistles were not placed in the order in which they were penned. We believe spiritual men were subsequently guided by the Holy Spirit in placing the "Pauline Epistles" in a doctrinal order as explained in the following chart by F.E. Goodrick "Divine Arrangement of Paul's Epistles."









**EPISTLE WHEEL The Doctrines of the Church – Paul’s Epistles
Romans – The Hub of the Gospel All Other Epistles – Spokes
Commentary: A.S. Copley**

Paul’s Epistle to the Church in Rome stands related to his other epistles as a solid hub to a great wheel. All the essential features of The GOSPEL are concentrated in that Letter. From it, radiate all the burning spokes of church teaching. The arrangement, or order of his letters, as we have them in the King James version, doubtless are correct, beginning with Romans and ending with Hebrews. Hence, Ephesians is the fourth spoke. 1 Corinthians sets the Assembly in order. 2 Corinthians sets its members in motion, as a spiritual priesthood (Rev 5:10). Galatians ousts legality and sets its victims eternally free. Ephesians sets the Assembly in heaven, her eternal home. In Romans, The GOSPEL is distinctly termed, “The Gospel of God,” because the triune God is its Author and Source. It is called “The Gospel of His Son,” because Jesus is the chief figure therein—Rom 1:1, 9. Twice Paul calls it “My Gospel,” because it was revealed to him and he was the first and chief promulgator thereof—Rom 2:16 and 16:25. In 1 Corinthians, it is especially termed “The Gospel” or the Gospel of Christ. In 2 Cor, it is known as “the glorious Gospel,” or more correctly, “the Gospel of the glory,” because its priestly ministry fits the Assembly for her heavenly destiny. The phrase, “the truth of the Gospel,” is peculiar to Galatians, because of its corrective purpose. Finally, in Ephesians (6:19), we read of “the mystery of the Gospel.”

Further Insights

We believe the divine placement of the "Pauline Epistles" and the brief summation of each epistle, in the above chart, reflects the Divine wisdom needed in constructing a spiritual house or Tabernacle of which the Apostle Paul was the "masterbuilder" – I Cor 3:10. Therefore, the Epistle to the Romans lays a sure foundation in and through the person and work of Christ and thereafter the structure and coverings are added as well as articles of furniture. There is also the equipping of a spiritual priesthood to preside over spiritual sacrifices of worship, praise, and thanksgiving. (Eph 2:21 KJV) “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:” (2 Tim 3:17 KJV) “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Every minister and every believer need to comprehend the following verse coupled with the "Perils of Pauline " as cataloged in 2 Cor 11:22-33. (Col 1:24 KJV) “Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.”

DIVINE ARRANGEMENT OF PAUL'S EPISTLES BY F. E. GOODRICK					
	New Testament Order	Names and Themes	Audiences	Special Emphasis	Progress of Doctrine
C H U R C H E P I S T L E S	Romans (AD 60) I & 2 Corinthians (AD 59-60) Galatians (AD 58)	Doctrinal Epistles (Full Redemption) 	Rome Corinth Galatia	Teaching: Justification Faith	Paul address the great doctrinal problems arisen in the church. Basic foundation of church doctrine is establish. All prophetic, ministry, and priestly truth rest on this foundation.
	Ephesians (AD 64) Philippians (AD 64) Colossians (AD 64)	Prison Epistles (Full Blessing) 	Ephesus Philippi Colossae	Worship: Sanctification Love	Next, Paul helps believers who had accepted basic Christian doctrine to learn about their place, wealth, privileges, and unity in Christ and to understand the divinity of Christ's person and work and the truth of the racecourse and bridal heavenly.
	I Thess. (AD 54) II Thess. (AD 54)	Prophetic Epistles (Full Hope) 	Thessalonica	Prophecy: Glorification Hope	Paul unfolds the doctrines of Christ's Second Coming, rapture, resurrection of believers, the tribulation coming upon the world and the appearing of the antichrist.
M I N I S T E R I A L	I Timothy (AD 65) II Timothy (AD 65) Titus (AD 65)	Pastoral Epistles (Spiritual Warfare) 	Ministers: Timothy Titus	Christian Service: Faithfulness	Paul expounds on doctrines of church order: qualification and responsibilities of bishops and deacons, and dealing with church apostasy.
	Philemon (AD 64)	Personal Epistles (Brotherly Love) 	Philemon	Christian Love: Compassion	Paul empathizes the need for brotherly love that emanates from the Agape love of God and our Bridal love for Him.
	Hebrews (64)	Priestly Epistles (NT Authority) 	Hebrew Nation (Converted and unconverted)	Certainty: Confidence	Paul places a capstone on his epistles by settling, Christian doctrine concerning the authority of the NT.

Paul's Epistles

One of the great mysteries of the New Testament is that Paul's Epistles are placed out of the order in which they were written. The Holy Spirit guided the men who placed the Epistles in their present order.

Three Key Major Insights:

The Epistles are classified in order of six natural groups (Doctrinal, Prison, Prophetic, Pastoral, Personal, and Priestly Epistles).

The first three groups of Epistles form a category of church epistles, the fourth and the fifth groups comprise the ministerial epistles, and Hebrews proclaims a message to the Hebrews.

The Epistles' natural groups may also be viewed not only by order and theme but also through audiences, special emphases, and progress of doctrine.

Special Emphasis:

Paul is the great teacher in the **doctrinal group of epistles**, emphasizing the foundational truth of the gospel—justification and a “by-faith righteousness.” In the **Prison Epistles**, he inspires his followers to love and worship the Lord, but he also emphasizes the sanctified walk of the believer. In the **Prophetic Epistles**, the hope of Christ's second coming is emphasized in every chapter. In the **Pastoral Epistles**, the ministry of the church focuses on Christian instruction and warfare. In Hebrews, the Hebrew people, halting in their decision to go forward and embrace Christianity or to return to Judaism.

Progress of Doctrine:

There is a progress of doctrine from the simple truths to the more profound truths in the Epistles. Truths in the first Epistles are for those new in the faith, while the truths in the last Epistles are for the mature in the faith. The Christian who patiently studies Paul's Epistles, in the order set in the Word of God, progresses from a learner of the basic doctrines of grace, first to a worshipper, then someone who patiently waits for the coming of Christ, then to a spiritual warrior of the faith, then to a compassionate brother and sister in Christ, and finally to a consecrated priest in the house of God—in sum, the born-again believer progresses to being a fully grown Christian in Christ Jesus!



THE AFFLICTIONS OF PAUL

II Corinthians 11:23-25 Paul's Afflictions for the Gospel

- **Labours** - Greek means weariness, toil resulting in weariness, intense labor united with trouble and toil, to make work for someone in the thought of beating the breast with grief and sorrow. (I Thess. 2:9, I Thess. 3:5, II Thess. 3:8)
- **In stripes** - "Above measure" from the Jews, 5 times received forty stripes save one. Roman stripes received in Philippi.
- **In prisons** - First imprisonment was in Philippi. Most of his later years were in prison.
- **Deaths oft** - In life-threatening situations most of the time -- "took council to kill him" or "went about to slay him."
- **Once I was stoned** - Stoning was usually a onetime experience, resulting in death. II Cor. 1-4 possibly explains Paul's near death, out of body experience, after being stoned and the Lord brought him back to life.
- **Thrice I suffered shipwreck** - A night and a day in the deep." These 3 shipwrecks were prior to the Acts 27 storm. A night and a day may have been in a small boat or on a plank. The sun burned his skin during the day, and he suffered cold and blackness in the night.

II Corinthians 11:26 Eight Perils of Paul "in journeys often" – Missionary trips

- **Perils of water** - Means perils of crossing rivers. By foot journeys required crossing ragging rivers.
- **Perils of robbers** - Actual bandits who took all you have.
- **Perils of mine own countrymen** - Jews who were wicked in their plans, stirring up others, and wanting to murder Paul.
- **Perils of heathen** - Gentiles who sought to kill him, sentenced to prison by Rome.
- **Perils in the City** - Suffered angry mobs.
- **Perils in the wilderness**- Suffered not only robbers but wild animals and lack of shelter, food, and water.
- **Perils in the sea** - Suffering in the sea with fear-of-life, cold, and extreme exposure to the sun.
- **Perils of false brethren** - Fake brothers in Christ, pose to be Christians and are not. They are a type of Judas Iscariot.

II Corinthians 11:27 External, Physical Sufferings

- **Weariness and painfulness** - These words are combined to express "Labour" above, along with hardship and distress.
- **Watchings** - Means sleeplessness, caused by intently mediating or praying. He loved and grieved people and churches.
- **Hunger and thirst** - involuntarily lacking food and water.
- **Fastings** - Voluntary withholding food combined with prayer, with effort to seek an answer from God.
- **Cold and nakedness** - This fall under painfulness. His prior injuries of being whipped and beaten ached in the cold. Nakedness was involuntary suffering. Paul possibly lost garments after being robbed, crossing rivers, shipwrecks, and beatings.

II Corinthians 11: 28 Internal Sufferings – Daily care of the churches - This was the greatest mental strain for Paul. He labored, grieved, and worried about the churches, holding the doctrine that was first delivered by the Apostle.



PAUL
THE CHIEF APOSTLE TO THE CHURCH

- His Calling
- His Ordination
- His Apostleship
- His Seal of Apostleship
- His Position as Chief Apostle
- His Gospel
- His Message
- His Revelation

1. HIS CALLING- Acts 9:15 - "---he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My Name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel"

2. HIS ORDINATION- Galatians 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead)"

3. HIS APOSTLESHIP- Romans 1:1-5 - "---called an *apostle*---By whom (Jesus) we have received grace and apostleship" Acts 9:15 - "---he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear My Name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and the children of Israel" Romans 11:13 - "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the *apostle* of the Gentiles" I Timothy 2:7 - "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an *apostle*" II Timothy 1:11 - "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an *apostle*, and a teacher of the Gentiles" **Apostle** - G652: *apostolos* - one sent forth with a commission from Christ.

4. HIS SEAL OF APOSTLESHIP - I Corinthians 9:2 "---for the *seal* of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord" Seal - G4973: *sphragis* - a stamp impressed (as a mark of genuineness) (Galatians 2:8 - "For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles." **Whit** - G3367: *meden* -not even one man.

5. HIS POSITION AS CHIEF APOSTLE - II Cor. 11:5 - "I was not a *whit* behind the very chiefest apostles."

6. HIS GOSPEL - Romans 2:16 - "---according to my Gospel" Romans 16:25 - "---according to my Gospel" II Timothy 2:8 - "---according to my Gospel"

7. HIS MESSAGE - Ephesians 2:8,9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus—"Colossians 1:27 - "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" Ephesians 2:6 - God "---hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" Ephesians 1:3 - God "---hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"

8. HIS REVELATION - Galatians 1:11,12 - "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" Galatians 1:15,16 - "---it pleased God---to reveal his Son



PAUL
THE CHIEF APOSTLE TO THE CHURCH
CONTINUED

- His, the Only Gospel
- His Stewardship of the Dispensation of Grace
- His Job Description
- His Epistles Complete the Word of God
- His Followers
- His Gospel- A Stabilizing Message
- His Gospel- A Basis for Judgement

9. HIS, THE ONLY GOSPEL

Galatians 1:8.9 - "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed"

10. HIS STEWARDSHIP OF THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

Ephesians 3:2 - "If ye have heard of the *dispensation* of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward"

I Timothy 1:11 - "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

I Corinthians 9:16,17 - "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a *dispensation* of the gospel is committed unto me."

Dispensation - G3622:*oikonomia* - the administration (or stewardship) of a household; specially a religious economy.

11. HIS JOB DESCRIPTION - I Corinthians 3:10 -

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise *master-builder*, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" **Masterbuilder** - G753:*architekton* - a chief constructor, i.e. architect.

HIS EPISTLES COMPLETED THE WORD OF GOD - Colossians 1:25 - "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me to you, to *fulfill* the Word of God" **Fulfill** - G4137:*pleroo* - to make replete, i.e., to cram, level up, to furnish, satisfy, to execute, to finish, to complete.

12. HIS FOLLOWERS - I Corinthians 4:16 - "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye *followers* (1) of me" I Corinthians 11:1 - "Be ye *followers* (1) of me, even as I also am of Christ" Philippians 3:17 - "Brethren, be *followers* (2) together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" **Followers** (1) - G3402:*mimetes* - an imitator. **Followers** (2) - G4831: *summimetes* - a co-imitator, i.e., fellow votary.

13. HIS GOSPEL - A STABILIZING MESSAGE - Romans 16:25 - "Now to him that is of power to *stablish* you according to my gospel" Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Stablish -G4741:*sterizo* - to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction.

15. HIS GOSPEL - A BASIS FOR JUDGMENT- Romans 2:16 - "In the day when God shall *judge* the *secrets* of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" **judge** - G2919:*krino*