Deutero-Pauline Letters

2 Thessalonians

- Reasons why written by Paul –
  - Resembles other letters in format
  - Letter claims to be written by Paul
- Reasons why not written by Paul –
  - Ending indicates a scribe wrote letter and that Paul actually signed-- not in all of Paul’s letters
  - Mention of “antichrist” is not found in any other letters
  - Lacks personal greetings at end
  - 1 Thess. answer to those dying before parousia is different that 2 Thess.
  - Mentions forgery in 2:2 & 3:17 which is not found in other letters
  - 2 Thess. appears to have copied whole phrases from 1 Thess. – not done in any other letter

2 Thess. (Continued)

- Main Ideas –
  - Conduct of people who rejected Paul’s teachings about working and living quietly
  - Refuting those who say the day of the Lord has already come (points to why non-Pauline)
Colossians

- Reasons why written by Paul –
  - Same format as other Pauline letters
  - Many of same themes, e.g., importance of suffering, Jesus’ death as reconciliation, etc.
  - The differences in ideas may simply be a natural shift in thinking

- Reasons why not written by Paul –
  - There are shifts in Paul’s thinking about:
    - Forgiveness of sins rather than freedom from sin
    - We have already risen with Christ rather than that we have died and will rise with Christ
    - Christ’s body is head of church is a metaphor not used elsewhere
  - Syntax is different – long sentences instead of short ones
  - Talks about relations between family members, but in actual letters these relations are largely irrelevant (household code)

Colossians (Continued)

- Main ideas –
  - Controversies that had developed in Gentile congregation
    - Legal restrictions and elemental spirits in 2:8-23 (cf. Galatians)
    - Family relationships/Household Code 3:18-4:1

Ephesians

- Why written by Paul –
  - Themes are similar to Paul’s writings
  - Claims to be written by Paul

- Why not written by Paul –
  - Syntax and vocabulary are quite different
  - Lacks personal references
  - Written to a large group – a universal church
  - Earliest and best manuscripts lack “to Ephesians”
Ephesians (Continued)

- **Main Ideas** –
  - Jews and Gentiles are unified with one another and with God 2:11-22
  - Concern with family relationships (household codes)
    - Issue of “submission” -- Ephesians 5:21-6:9

1 Timothy (Pastoral Epistle)

- **Why written by Paul** –
  - Began with address in his style
  - Addressed to Timothy, a co-worker
  - Familiar with the church Timothy was in
- **Why not written by Paul** –
  - Treats key concepts like faith, law and righteousness very differently
  - More emphasis on teaching good works and church order
  - Dating would be after he was released from prison in Rome, but was he?
  - Style and vocabulary very different
  - Church structure seems more developed

1 Timothy (Continued)

- **Main Ideas** –
  - Concern about Gnostic teachers
  - Instructions on Christian living and church order
    - Issue of women’s roles in 2:9-15 (is this Pauline?)
  - Hermeneutical Question: when we have divergent views in scripture, how do we judge which is authoritative?