

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 than 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?
