Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

Lesson 27

Studying the Bible: Paul

May 17, 2016

The Epistles of Paul

Nature of the Epistle:

- Letters to individuals or churches.
- They address specific occasions or concerns.
- They are all from the first century.

The Historical Sequence of Paul's letters:

- Second Missionary Journey: 51-53 AD
  - 1st Thessalonians: 52 AD
  - 2nd Thessalonians: 52 AD
- Third Missionary Journey
  - 1st Corinthians: 57 AD
  - 2nd Corinthians: 57 AD
  - Galatians: 55-57 AD
  - Romans: 57-58 AD
- Imprisonment in Rome: 61-63 AD
  - Ephesians: 62 AD
  - Philippians: 62 AD
  - Colossians: 62 AD
  - Philemon: 63 AD
- Post imprisonment journeys: 63-67 AD
  - Titus 64-65 AD
  - 1st Timothy: 64-65 AD
  - 2nd Timothy: 67 AD

Understanding the Epistles

- The text cannot mean what it could never have meant to its author or readers.
- When our situation is comparable to the 1st century situation God's word is still the same to us as it was to them.
- For those situations culturally determined, the principle behind the action must be gleaned.

Suggested Reading

HTRTBFAIW: pages 57-92
HTRTBBBB: pages 317-389

Key Verses:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Corinthians 3:3

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

Notes