

Week 7 - Wednesday, September 28  
ST. PAUL: APOSTLE TO THE WORD  
with Rev. Emily Kincaid

## Paul's Mode of Communication: Letters to Churches

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4; 5:12-28 1 Corinthians 1:1-10; 16:13-22; Philippians 1:1-12; 21-23; Philemon (additional readings for further study: 2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, Romans)

Paul wrote letters to churches in the first century when the Christian movement was brand new. Some of these letters have been canonized into scripture and passed down through time as instructive to the universal church. We will discuss this form of literature as found in scripture and why the form matters for followers of Jesus today.

- I. Opening Song + Prayer
- II. Review
- III. Opening Reflection: An Example Letter
- IV. Studying Paul's form of communication: Letter writing
  - A. Why Write a Letter?
  - B. Letters in the Greco-Roman World
  - C. Parts of a Letter
    1. Greeting (1 Thess. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 1-3; Philemon 1-3; Philippians 1:1-2)
    2. Thanksgiving (1 Thess. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 4-9; Philemon 4-7; Philippians 1:3-11)
    3. Message (1 Cor. 1:10; Philemon 8-22; Philippians 1:12)
    4. Closing and Benediction (1 Thess. 5:12-28; 1 Cor. 16:13-22; Philemon 23-25; Philippians 4:21-23)
  - D. What it means to read someone else's mail
  - E. How are Paul's letters to be used by modern Christians?
- V. Closing Song + Prayer

### We Are the Church

I am the church, you are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!