

# The Letters of St. Paul



EUROPE

BLACK SEA

ITALY  
Rome

PHILIPPI  
THESSALONICA  
GREECE  
ATHENS  
CORINTH

TROAS

ICONIUM  
LYSTRA  
DERBE

EPHESUS  
MILETUS

TARSUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ANTIOCH

CYRUS

DAMASCUS

MALTA

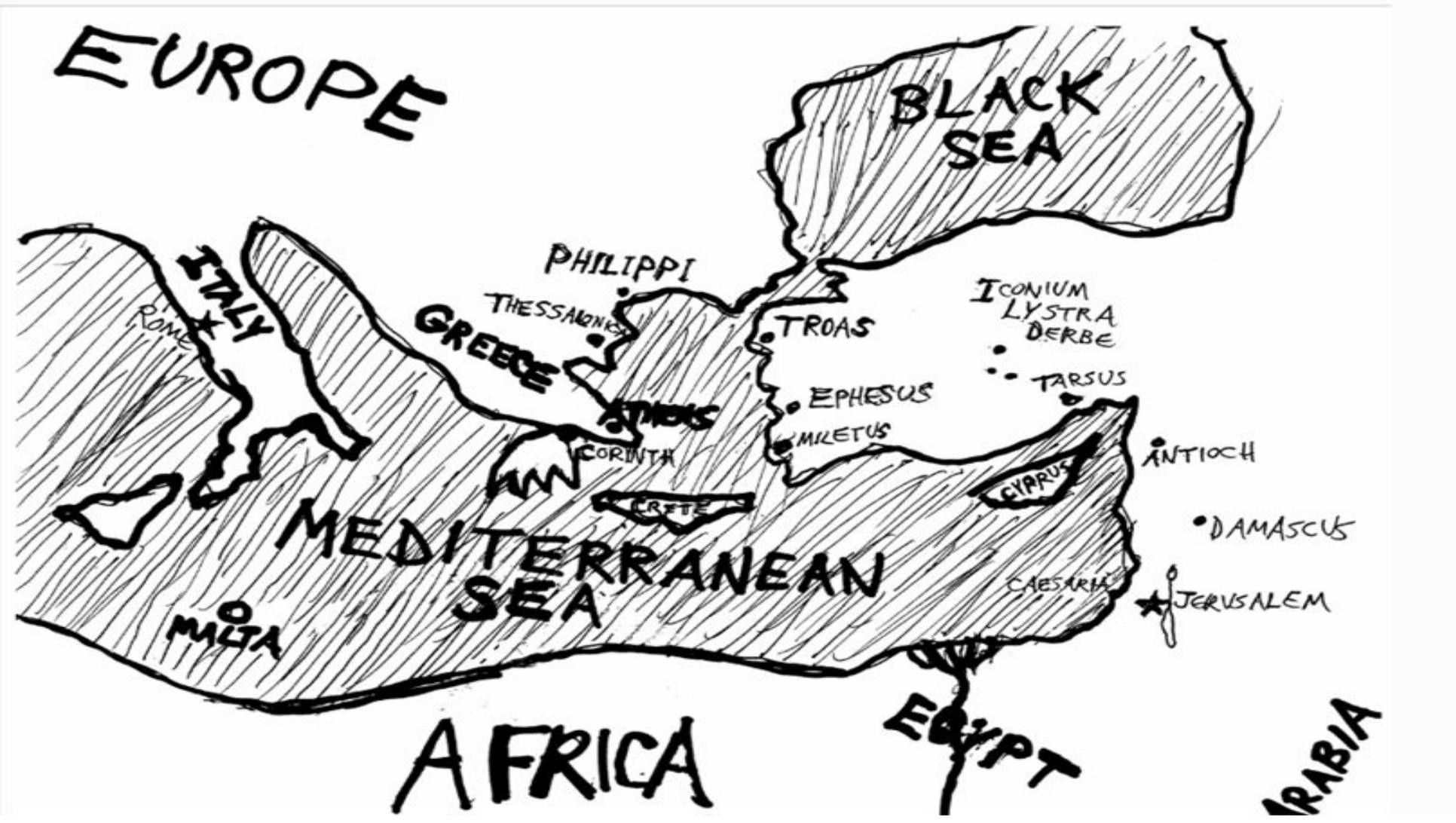
CAESARIA

JERUSALEM

AFRICA

EGYPT

ARABIA



## The Epistles of St. Paul (and his helpers?)

The letters of the New Testament which claim Pauline authorship are published in the Bible according to length (the longest to the shortest, except where there are two letters to the Church in the same locality). However, the following list has them in the order of date of authorship (assuming they are by Paul himself) The dates are approximate (they are disputed among scholars; the order is also only an educated guess):

1 **Thessalonians**: 50AD *Was Paul a confused Jew or a conman? Are he and his teaching credible? What about the people who have already died and the Lord has not yet returned?*

2 **Thessalonians**: 51AD *Did the Day of the Lord already come? No! Be ready for it by working quietly for your living and being a loving disciple.*

**Galatians**: 53-54 AD (Some scholars say as early as 48AD) *Did Paul know what he was talking about as a Christian? Some Jewish Christians are saying we have to follow the whole Torah: circumcision, dietary laws and all. Paul: the Law was our guardian but now, by God's will, in the fullness of time, "For freedom Christ has set us free!"; Live by the Spirit, not by the flesh (immorality) if you want salvation in Christ.*

1 **Corinthians:** 53-54AD Church is divided, with claims of loyalty to this apostle or another; No! The Church is to be one, under Jesus Christ. Christ brings/is the true wisdom; worldly wisdom is of no avail. Christ's wisdom is humble; don't be arrogant or complacent. Ch5--drive out the crassly immoral. Ch 6—the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God (sample list of sins that exclude one from kingdom (v9-11)). Ch7—Sex, celibacy and marriage (annulments?) No divorce and remarriage v10-11. Mixed marriage not ideal, but could bring about conversion of spouse. Circumcision not important, but “keeping the commandments of God”. Exhortation to celibacy v36-38. Widows may remarry v39. Ch8—food offered to idols Ch9—Paul's freedom—could be accompanied by a wife like the other apostles, and should be paid for apostolic ministry v6-12. Paul's self-denial as an apostle—like an athlete—as we all should be to get the crown v24-27. Ch 10 don't lose your salvation, but live righteous, moral lives. Food offered to idols? No matter, but don't scandalize your brother—LOVE. Ch11—Women's head coverings v 2-16—CANON LAW? The Lord's Supper v17ff. Ch12—spiritual gifts—for self-edification, or for good of Church v1-11. One body, many parts. BODY OF CHRIST v12ff.

**Ch13—LOVE -THE GREATEST SPIRITUAL GIFT.** Ch14—More on spiritual gifts in Church and how to use them. Women silent in church v34-36. Paul's exhortations a “command of the Lord”—RECOGNITION (more canon law?). Ch15 Hold onto the Gospel truth Paul has preached...unless you believed IN VAIN.v1-2. RESURRECTION TESTIMONY v3-11. IF THE DEAD ARE NOT RAISED...WE ARE MEN MOST TO BE PITIED v19. In Adam all die, in Christ all are raised v22. First, all must be subjected to the Father. If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”v32. Our resurrected bodies will be of heavenly glory—we can picture it. V51 and following: beautiful resurrection poetry (in Handel's “Messiah”) Ch 16 FUNDRAISING and greetings. **MARANATHA!**

**Philippians:** 54-56AD

**2 Corinthians:** 55-56AD

**Romans:** 56-57AD

**Colossians:** 60-62AD

**Philemon:** 60-62AD

**Ephesians:** 60-62AD

**1 Timothy:** 62-64AD

**Titus:** 62-64AD

**2 Timothy:** 64-67AD

*Hebrews:* No explicit claim of Pauline authorship. Maybe just a homily. However, its brief epilogue looks Pauline to me. The date of authorship is widely disputed, depending on who the author might be.