

Many scholars and denominations question whether Paul's authorship is real and many deny that the things Paul wrote are really Scripture.

Paul said he wrote the Lord's commands 1Co 14:37
If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

Peter said Paul's writings were Scripture

2Pe 3:15-16 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, (16) as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Although Paul makes statements such as “I Paul” indicating he is the author, several times about his writings Gal 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

1Co 7:8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

Paul uses the word “I” over 1000 times in his epistles.

When Paul authored these words using “I” and they were included in the Scriptures, all of Paul’s thoughts are “God breathed” (inspired).

which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2Pet 3.16

1Co 7:12 But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, let him not send her away.

The Lord did not specifically speak of husband and wife who were unbelievers, as came only to the Jews and did not have to deal with this matter. However, Paul wrote to both Jews and Gentiles who were members of the church and not the Jewish nation.

God spoke through Paul and it is not “Paul’s opinion” that is written in 1Co 7.12

1Co 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy.

But as Paul wrote, his humble opinion was guided by the Holy Spirit.

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

We can no more fail to include what Paul wrote in the Scripture than we could the epistles of Peter, who approved of Paul's writings or of Matthew, Mark or Luke – Luke being the author of the gospel of Luke and the Acts of the apostles. He was inspired at the hands of Paul the apostle.

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

Paul's first missionary journey takes approximately 1 ½ years based on our estimate of travel time and the required stay of some weeks to months in each of the towns visited. It begins in Acts 13.1 and ends at Acts 14.27.

We know that Herod Agrippa I died in AD 44 (Acts 12:23) from Josephus, the Jewish Historian, we conclude that Paul's first journey begins in the year 45 AD and concludes about the year 47 AD. There is an interval of some years on their return to Antioch (Acts 14.28).



Coins minted
by Herod
Agrippa

Act 15:40-41 But Paul chose Silas and departed, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. (41) And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

The discussion on circumcision in Jerusalem in Acts 15 is followed immediately by the departure of Paul and Silas on the second missionary journey about the year 49-50 AD.

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians can be dated from the arrival of Silas and Timothy in Corinth

1Th 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

Act 18:5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Together, they write 1 Thessalonians in 51 AD.

1Th 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

Notice the detail with which 1,2 Cor, Acts and Philippians dovetail the details.

2Co 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

Php 4:15-16 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; (16) for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

We can date the time of Paul's meeting Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth as Claudius *had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome*. (Acts 18.2) Paul Silas and Timothy write 1, 2 Thess AD 51-52 . Then Paul stayed in Corinth at the house of Titius Justus for 1 ½ years.

Claudius reigned from AD 41 to 54 agreeing with the date for the writing of the Thessalonian letters 51, 52 and the time of 1, 2 Cor and Romans during the 3rd missionary journey (starting Acts 18.23) 54-57 AD

Paul no longer worked as a tentmaker, but the brethren in Macedonia, specifically Philippi, had sent funds to him to support him in his full time work.

Act 18:3-5 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers. (4) And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. (5) But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Note that Paul was not from Philippi, but they sent him the funds to preach the gospel fulltime.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3 Paul had plainly said that Jesus would come as a thief in the night and had shown that the dead would not be left out in the rapture. But evidently some one claimed to have a private epistle from Paul which supported the view that Jesus was coming at once, as that the day of the Lord is now present

Paul has to write a second to correct their misunderstanding of the timing of Jesus' coming. 2 Thessalonians is written about one year or less after the first (AD 52).

Again, note how closely the details of 1 and 2 Thess dovetail. These letters could not have been written by some person at a later date, some 50-100 years later.

Paul stays in Corinth for 1 ½ years (Acts 18.11) and returns to Antioch (Acts 18.22) and then starts the 3rd missionary journey (Acts 18.23), spending 2 years 3 months in Ephesus. (Acts 19.8, 10). At Acts 20.6 Paul begins his journey home, having gone to Macedonia to pick up the funds and brothers mentioned in 2Cor 8.5, 6, 23

We can firmly date the letters to the Romans, along with 1 and 2 Corinthians as being shortly before Paul's journey to Jerusalem with the funds he had collected. (AD 56)

Rom 15:25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. (26) For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

1Co 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. (2) On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

In 2 Cor 8 and 9, Paul pleads with the brethren in Corinth (Achaia) stating that Macedonia had already given even though they were poor (2Cor 8.1-4). Paul's second letter is timed one year later (2Cor 9.2) as is the book of Romans.

2Co 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, a glory to Christ.

Act 20:4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus; and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

We have woven the fabric of the time of writing of Romans, 1 Cor, 2Cor, 1Thess and 2Thess with facts given in Acts and Gal, showing that the details of these books not only firmly place them in the canon of the Scriptures, but the details are such that they had to be written at the time we would find in the Scriptures.

The detailed descriptions of the events and the timing of these epistles shows the New Testament books to have been written at the time and by the persons indicated as their authors.

Not only do these epistles tell us of *all things that pertain to life and godliness* (2Pet 1.3), as they establish a moral code above all others, they weave a tale which confirms their origin is with God.

You do not know when your life will end.

Luk 12:19-21 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" (20)

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' (21) "So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Have you been washed in the blood? Why not?

