

SESSION VI: The Captivity Epistles of Paul

Introduction: Read Text pages 119-122, 145-148

1. Why was Paul hated by both Jew and Gentile?
2. Why was Paul imprisoned at Caesarea for tow years?
3. What do you think is the significance of Paul being a Roman Citizen? What rights would such citizenship afford him?
4. What are some of the reasons Franzmann gives for Paul's imprisonment?
5. What does Franzmann mean when he says, "Paul's imprisonment was... not an interruption of his apostolic ministry, but a fruitful exercise of that ministry..."?
6. Does this knowledge have any practical application today?
7. Read Acts Chapters 22-26. What insights do you gain about Paul?
8. How does Franzmann respond to those who say that the Captivity Epistles are written from different locales?
9. Where does Franzmann say about "safer ground"?

A. Letter to the Colossians

1. read Colossians, also Text pages 122-127
2. What type of Church was at Colossae?
3. Who probably founded the Church in Colossae?
4. What was threatening the Church of Colossae?
5. What were the three elements of this heresy?
6. What forms of this do we have today?
7. What did this new teaching call into question?
8. In Chapters 3-4, what is the hope that is held out?
9. What does it mean to “set your minds on things above, not on earthly things”?
10. How does the Lord use the heretical attack on Colossae for good?
11. Chart a brief outline of this Epistle:

B. The Letter to Philemon

1. Read the Letter to Philemon, also text pages 127-129.
2. Who is Onesimus? What does his name mean in Greek?
3. Who is Philemon
4. Who is Tychicus?
5. What do this letter and the Second Letter to Timothy have in common?
6. Why do you think that this letter is considered to be *homologoumenon*?
7. Explain what Franzmann means by “Philemon is an important document to illustrate the early Christian attitude toward social problems.”

C. The Letter to the Ephesians

1. Read the Letter to the Ephesians and text pages 129-137.
2. What is the common background of the three letters we have just studied in this section?
3. What contrast is there between the Letters to the Corinthians Church and the letter to the Church at Ephesus?
4. Was the letter to the Ephesians written for other churches as well? Explain.
5. What two things does Paul set out to do in his letter to the Ephesians?
6. What are the two portions of this letter?
7. What does *doxology* mean?
8. What is the relationship of grace, faith and works in Ephesians 2:8-10?
9. What are some of the arguments against Pauline authorship of this Epistle?
10. How does Franzmann respond to these claims?
11. What are some evidences that the Church of today has forgotten it is God's creation?
12. Read Ephesians 3:10. Why do you think Paul chose to use the word "church" here instead of "Scriptures"? What does this say to us about the Church?

D. The Letter to the Philippians

1. read the Letter to the Philippians and the text pages 137-145.
2. Why was the area of Philippi in an advantageous position for the Gospel?
3. What type of Church was at Philippi—Jewish or Gentile?
4. Explain how Franzmann determines an approximate date for the writing of this letter.
5. Who are the Judaizers?
6. Memorize Philippians 2:5-11. This is a most wonderful text about both the humiliation and exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' humiliation?
8. His exaltation?
9. How can Paul say "rejoice in the Lord always" when he is awaiting execution? What does this say about the character of Christian joy?
10. What is the hope that causes us to rejoice and which encourages us to be gentle? (4:5)