# Paul

**Paul’s Worldview**

1. **A man, Jesus of Nazareth, is seated at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 9, Phil. 3, Col 3:2)**
2. **The New Covenant has been initiated, and this triggers a series of cosmic effects (see next point). (Isaiah 40-66, Romans, Ephesians)**
3. **The kingdom of the messiah has been established and the new creation has begun in and through the church.**
4. **God’s people are now all those united to Jesus by faith. (this is the mystery, not just blessing on gentiles but fellow heirs- fellow “sons” “judges of angels”)**
5. **The end goal of the gospel is “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1, 16, Gen 49, Psalm 72)**
6. **Jesus guarantees and causes humanity finally be able to be what we are called to be and do- image God and take dominion (romans 12, dominion language, col 1, eph 1, rom 15).**

**How the Pieces Fit Together**

1. **Galatians: The New Covenant Mark** (A.D. 49\*) The way you get in (faith) is the way you stay in.
2. **1 Thessalonians: New Covenant Basics**(A.D. 50-51)
3. **2 Thessalonians: New Covenant Basics 2.0**(A.D. 50-51)
4. **1 Corinthians: The New Covenant and the Church** (A.D. 55) How the gospel impacts everyday issues in the church.
5. **2 Corinthians: The New Covenant and the Church 2.0**(A.D. 56) How the gospel impacts what we do and how we do it as a church.
6. **Romans: The New Covenant in Cosmic History** (A.D. 57)
7. **Philemon: The New Covenant Community** (A.D. 61-62)
8. **Colossians: The New Covenant and New Creation** (A.D. 61-62)
9. **Ephesians: The New Covenant Community and Cosmic History**(A.D. 61-62)
10. **Philippians: The New Covenant and Persecution** (A.D. 62)
11. **1 Timothy: New Covenant Leadership** (A.D. 63-64) Establishing what the church’s pastors should be and do.
12. **Titus: New Covenant Leadership 2.0**  (A.D. 63-64)
13. **2 Timothy: New Covenant Leadership 3.0**(A.D. 65) Paul’s final handoff of the gospel to set the course for the new covenant community.

**Romans**

***In a word****:* Gospel

***In a sentence****:* Romans is an expanded proclamation of the new covenant and its place in cosmic history.

**Key Ideas**

* The gospel is the proclamation that Yahweh has returned to Israel, led them in a second Exodus and is not enthroned as king of the universe.
* The gospel (and the church) inherently opposes all persons in authority who will not submit to Christ as the king of the universe.
* The goal of the gospel is “the obedience of faith” among the nations.
* The gospel is the means by which all creation is right(eous)ed.
* The gospel supplies solutions for problems reaching all the way back to Job (pre-Abraham)(see 11:36).

**Thematic Comments**

* “In sin”/”in Adam” is the natural condition of all humanity and it means we have a heart that is drawn toward desires which eventually destroy us.
* The gospel is in line with the Old Covenant but makes it obsolete.
* The people of God are not defined by blood but are defined by faith in Messiah.
* The gospel has ushered in a “new world”
* The core concept of the personal aspect is that we are “in Christ”- this is called union with Christ in theological terms.
* National Israel awaits a final restoration in which they will turn toward Jesus as Messiah.
* Paul imagines the church as a temple, our lives as sacrificial worship, and the people of the church as evidence of God’s victory in history.

**Quick Notes on Paul**

* Paul’s ministry exhibits strategy and focus- he starts east and works his way West covering the known world with a goal to reach Spain (Tarshish) (considered the ends of the earth).
* Within this focus he establishes key churches in key cities (Ephesus, Corinth, Rome) and focuses on strengthening those key cities (Ephesus the main example).
* Paul’s ministry is primarily to the Gentiles and as such focuses often on how the gospel integrates Jew and Gentile into the family of God, and how the gospel impacts cosmic history and the nations.
* The primary background for how Paul understands his ministry is the prophecies of Isaiah and especially Isaiah’s “servant songs”

**Structure**

**1:1-1:17**

**1:18-32 Sin’s Spiral**

**2:1-3:20 All Under Condemnation**

**3:21-31 But Righteousness Available to All in the Gospel by Faith**

**4:1-25 If Righteousness Available to All Does That Nullify Abraham? No It’s Always Been Faith not Blood**

**5:1-11 So then we all have peace with God Through Jesus**

**5:12-6:14 And Thus We Have Life and Freedom From the Law**

**6:14-23-But Our Freedom is Not A Cover for Sin**

**7:1-25 And Our Freedom Doesn’t Mean the Law Was Bad**

**8:1-39 But It Does Mean Total Vindication and Restoration**

**9:1-11:36 Wait Though, What About Israel?**

**12:1-15:13 The Temple Worship of the Church**

**15:14-16:27 Final Notes and Encouragements**

**Exegetical Notes**

Chapter 1

* 1:1 Paul’s use of “servant” is probably not random but is likely drawing on Isaiah’s servant and “servants of the servant” language.
* 1:3-4 Paul’s conception of Jesus is as Messiah which for him means “son of David” and “son of God” – the first concerns royal lineage and character and second has to do with divine nature and imbued royalty via Adam (God’s first human son).
* 1:5 Paul’s goal is “the obedience of faith among the nations” – this means that the end goal of the gospel is not technically saved people, but obedient people. This concept begins in Genesis 49 where it says of messiah that “to him will be the obedience of the peoples” and this is picked up by a number of Psalms which claim that the messiah will have dominion from sea to sea and command obedience among the nations. Thus Paul sees his mission to be the extension of the kingly rule of Christ bringing about obedience among the peoples. This calls back all the way to Adam’s command to take dominion in the earth and likely includes every aspect of human culture.
* 1:15 Interesting to note that he seems to want to preach the gospel among those who believe, this likely indicates that the preaching of the gospel carries ongoing benefits even beyond when you first come to believe it.
* 1:16-17 this statement is the core claim from which the rest of the letter flows. Paul’s confidence in the gospel is what drives him, and he is confident because God’s power to change hearts resides in that proclamation because the proclamation reveals God himself.
* 1:18-32 this section gives the first logical step

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 16