

1. Paul, the letter writer

- a) 2 Peter 3:15–16, what does this testimony by Peter reveal about the attitude of early Christians regarding Paul's letters?
- b) Paul's letters followed the standard format of his day:
 - i) Greeting
 - ii) Word of thanksgiving
 - iii) Body of the letter
 - iv) Closing remark
- c) If the New Testament was being written today, how would the Holy Spirit direct authors to convey their inspired messages?

2. Paul's salutation to the Galatians

- a) Compare Galatians 1:1–2 with Ephesians 1:1, Colossians 1:1.
- b) Why does Paul begin his letter by defending his ministry as an apostle?

3. The Gospel preached by Paul

- a) Galatians 1:1–6
- b) Acts 10:34–43
- c) John 3:16
- d) Why do some people make the Gospel message so complicated?

4. Opposition to any other gospel

- a) What should come next in a typical letter, after the greeting? Why is the word of thanksgiving missing?
- b) Galatians 1:6–9
 - i) What strong language do you notice in this chastisement?
 - ii) Why was Paul so intolerant of those who presented a different teaching regarding salvation?
- c) Does Paul's strong language here remind you of any strong words in the teaching of Jesus?
 - i) Mark 9:42

5. The origin of the Gospel that Paul preached

- a) Galatians 1:11–24
- b) Does it surprise you that God would give such privileged revelation to someone who was once an enemy of Jesus?

6. Discussion questions

- a) Why are some people afraid of the simple Gospel message?
- b) How willing are you to accept people who worship God in a different way than you do? Dress differently, different worship style, etc.

