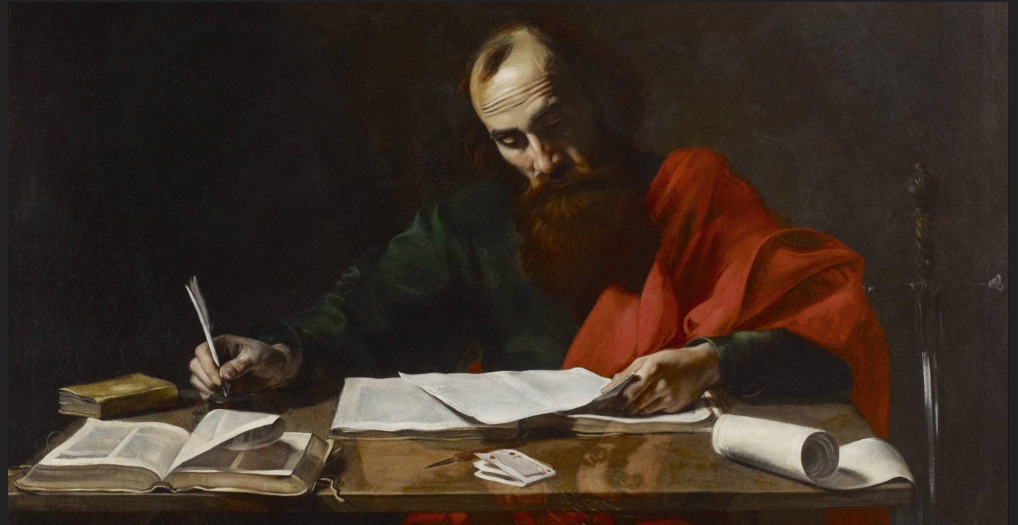


# **THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

**THE BIBLE AND ITS INFLUENCE  
JOSHUA PAUL ASOGBA  
ENGL-115 SEC 01**

# PAUL LETTERS

**The letter to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians all provided the young churches Paul founded with specific guidance on how to live as Christians in a community.**



# PHILIPPIANS

- **The focus of Philippians was on living together with joy, not getting diverted by the day to day, and the need for reconciliation.**
- **The terms joy and rejoice occur sixteen times in Paul's letter to the Philippians. What makes the joy theme remarkable is that Paul is believed to have been writing from prison in Rome while awaiting execution.**
- **The church at Philippi was the first church founded by Paul in Europe. Philippians is one of Paul's most personal letters.**

# COLOSSIANS

- Paul's letter to the Colossians addressed false teachings and then set out guidelines for living a good life.
- The letter to the Colossians was written to address a controversy in a Gentile Congregation in the town of Colossae.
- The church in Colossae had taken from the Roman Greek cults and mystery religions and combinations of ritual practice and belief in intermediate spirits. Mixing of different religious and practices was common back then, but Paul emphasized in the letter this would not do for Christians.

# FIRST THESSALONIANS

- Paul, Silvanus and Timothy wrote a letter around the year 50 to the church in the city called Thessalonica. The city is what we know as northern Greece.
- Paul's letter to Thessalonica was written 20 years after the Death of Jesus. The Christian community in Thessalonica were faced with adversity and resistance.
- The letter from Paul to the church is divided into two sections. Chapters 1-3 contain Paul's reflection on the Thessalonian church. The second section, Chapters 4-5, gives his instruction to the church, primarily on the end times.
- Paul in his letter begins by praising the Thessalonians for turning away from their idols. The church mainly consisted of converts from paganism.
- In chapter 2, Paul used simile and metaphor, drawing on the parent - child bond to express his love and encouragement to the Thessalonians. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)
- Finally in his letter, he expresses his pain of separation from the Thessalonians metaphorically, by saying that he and Silas and Timothy had been "made orphans" because they have been prevented from returning to Thessalonica.

# SECOND THESSALONIANS

- Paul second letter was written shortly after the first letter to the church at Thessalonica. In his letter Paul wanted to correct the impression he made in the earlier letter that the “day of the Lord” was coming very, very soon. This Impression made the Thessalonians to sit back and await the second coming neglecting the rhythms of daily life .
- In his second letter he gave the opposite direction. He set up a number of conditions that had to be fulfilled before the end time. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)
- Paul said a “man of lawlessness” must come. I think he is referring to the anti-christ. Paul said of this person, “he opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object or worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God.” (2 thessalonians 2:4)
- In the final chapter of his letter, Paul encourage the christians of that city to continue with their everyday lives, working hard as he did. (2 thessalonians 3:10-13).



Church of  
Philippians



church of Colossians



church of Thessalonians