

The Heart of Paul's Theology

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

PAUL AND HIS THEOLOGY



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Journal Questions

1. In light of Paul's background and ministry, what questions should we keep in mind as we read his writings?
2. Why does living in the "already" bring encouragement to you as a follower of Christ?
3. Why does living in the "not yet" bring encouragement and purpose to you as a follower of Christ?
4. How can a proper understanding of Paul's theology compel and inspire you to radical service for Christ?
5. How does an understanding of the already-not-yet paradigm help shape your understanding of suffering in this world?

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LESSON
TWO

PAUL AND THE GALATIANS



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Journal Questions

1. The Galatian Christians had lapsed into spiritual childhood instead of growing to maturity. List some similar ways that you or your Church need to grow in maturity.
2. What was Paul's disposition as he ministered, and how did he use Scripture to help the Galatians? How can you and your church learn from the ways in which Paul addressed problems?
3. What kind of distinctions does your church community make? In light of Galatians 3:28-29, are your distinctions righteous before God?
4. Paul addressed the balance between freedom and responsibility in Galatians 5. How can you appropriately balance freedom in Christ with a proper respect for God's moral law?
5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives? What does it mean to live by the Spirit?
6. As you study this letter today, how has God's grace become more evident to you?
7. What aspect of this lesson has been the most meaningful to you? Why?

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LESSON
THREE

PAUL AND THE
THESSALONIANS



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Journal Questions

1. Explain how Paul's initial plans and desires were unmet in light of God's call to go to Macedonia. How did Paul respond? How should we respond when God calls us to things we haven't planned?
2. How could the suffering and persecuted Thessalonians remain joyful and faithful in the midst of their hardship?
3. In the already-not-yet historical setting, why is it important that believers demonstrate holy living?
4. Why do you think Paul and others prayed daily? Why does the church need daily prayer?
5. How does our salvation reflect already and not-yet aspects?
6. How did Paul explain the mystery of lawlessness? How does Paul's explanation give you perspective regarding our world today?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

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Journal Questions

LESSON
FOUR

PAUL AND THE
CORINTHIANS



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Journal Questions

1. Why do you think people tend to elevate certain leaders over others? What is the danger that may result from this practice? How does submission to and identification with Christ remedy this danger?
2. Compare Paul's teaching on our conduct in worship to Leviticus 10:1-3. How should a healthy fear of God influence the way we conduct worship with each other?
3. Explain Paul's teaching on sexual conduct in 1 Corinthians 6:12-13. How do Paul's qualifications of benefit and mastery guide us in appropriate sexual relationships?
4. How can understanding Paul's suffering, as he expressed it in 2 Corinthians 1, help you handle trials and suffering in your own life?
5. Why should the future resurrection of our physical bodies give you hope as a believer? How should this hope influence the way you live today?
6. How should a proper understanding of love affect your relationships with people both within and outside the church? Why do you think love is the lasting eschatological virtue?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?