

## **Topic 1: Paul, the Letter Writer**

### I. The Well-Known Paul

- A. Stories told about Paul
- B. Letters written by or attributed to Paul

### II. The Fourteen-Letter Pauline Corpus

- A. Their arrangement in the New Testament
  - 1. Letters to seven churches
  - 2. Letters to four individuals
  - 3. The Epistle to the Hebrews
  - 4. Other letters and lost letters
- B. The manuscript copies
- C. Papyrus
- D. Divided into chapter and verse

### III. The Oldest Texts in the New Testament Are Real Letters

- A) Older than the gospels
- B) Non-literary texts

### IV. Letters Then and Now

- A. The structure of the letter; its literary form
- B. Letters are occasional texts
  - 1. One-time event
  - 2. Written to someone in particular
  - 3. Composition dictated by the occasion
  - 4. Ordinary Language
- C. Letters are allusive.
- D. Letters are often part of an exchange of correspondence (1 Cor 6:9; 2 Cor 3:4).
- E. Different kinds of letters

### V. Reading a Letter

- A. Reading a letter today
- B. Reading s
- C. Reading letters from long ago
- D. Reading letters in translation
- E. Reading parts of a letter

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of Paul's having written to seven churches?

2. Why do we speak of letters as occasional compositions?
3. What difficulties are encountered in reading someone else's mail?
4. How many different kinds of letters have you written?