


THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

Philippians

LETTER WRITING IN THE TIME OF PAUL



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- There are 27 books in the New Testament; 21 are epistolary (i.e. letters) The Apostle Paul composed 13 of those epistles (letters)
 - Paul dictated to a secretary, but usually wrote the closing in his own handwriting, to guarantee that the letter had come from him..

Letter writing. . .

“I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand,
which is an authenticating mark in every letter;

this is how I write”

- (2 Thess. 3:17)

Letter writing. . .



- ✓ 1 Corinthians 16:21: “I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.”
- ✓ Galatians 6:11: “See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!”
- ✓ Colossians 4:18: “I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”
- ✓ Philemon 19: “I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand.”

Letter writing. . .



- Paul likely used a secretary
- The letter was written on parchment with a reed pen dipped in ink made from soot, gum and water.
- The majority of ancient letters averaged about 87 words (the length of 1 John)
- Philippians is 2183 words. (Romans is a hefty 7,114 words.)

Letter writing. . .



- Paul made 4 missionary journeys around the Mediterranean, establishing churches.
- His 13 letters in the New Testament were written to those churches or to pastors to encourage them after he left.
- This particular letter was probably written around AD 60-62.

Letter writing. . .



- Paul likely wrote many more letters than the ones in the Bible
- God divinely inspired his letter to the Philippians and preserved it in the holy canon of the New Testament for us to read, too!

Think about this. . .

