

# NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

## GALATIANS – PART ONE

### Lesson 28

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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# What is an Epistle?

- επιστολή (*epistole*) - “Message” “Letter”
- Conveys Idea of Authority
- Church Liturgy

# Our Letters

Addressed To

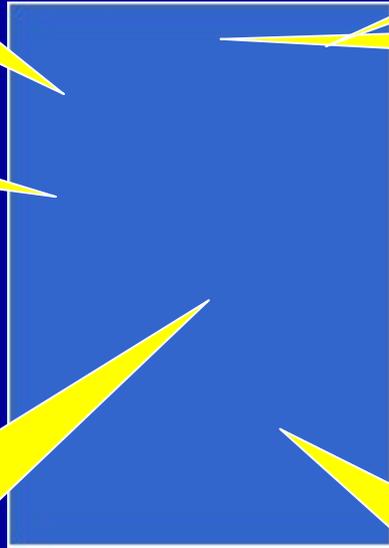
Date

Greeting

Author's Name

Body/Message

Farewell and Signature



# Greek Letters

Addressed To

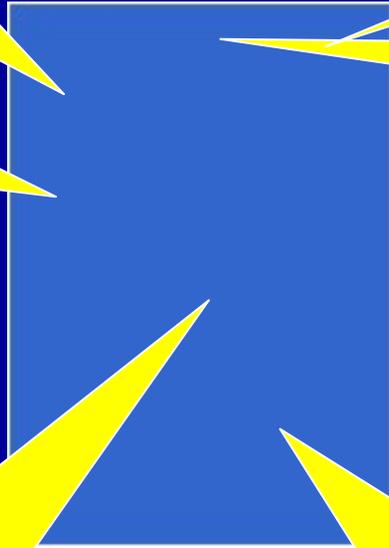
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Greeting

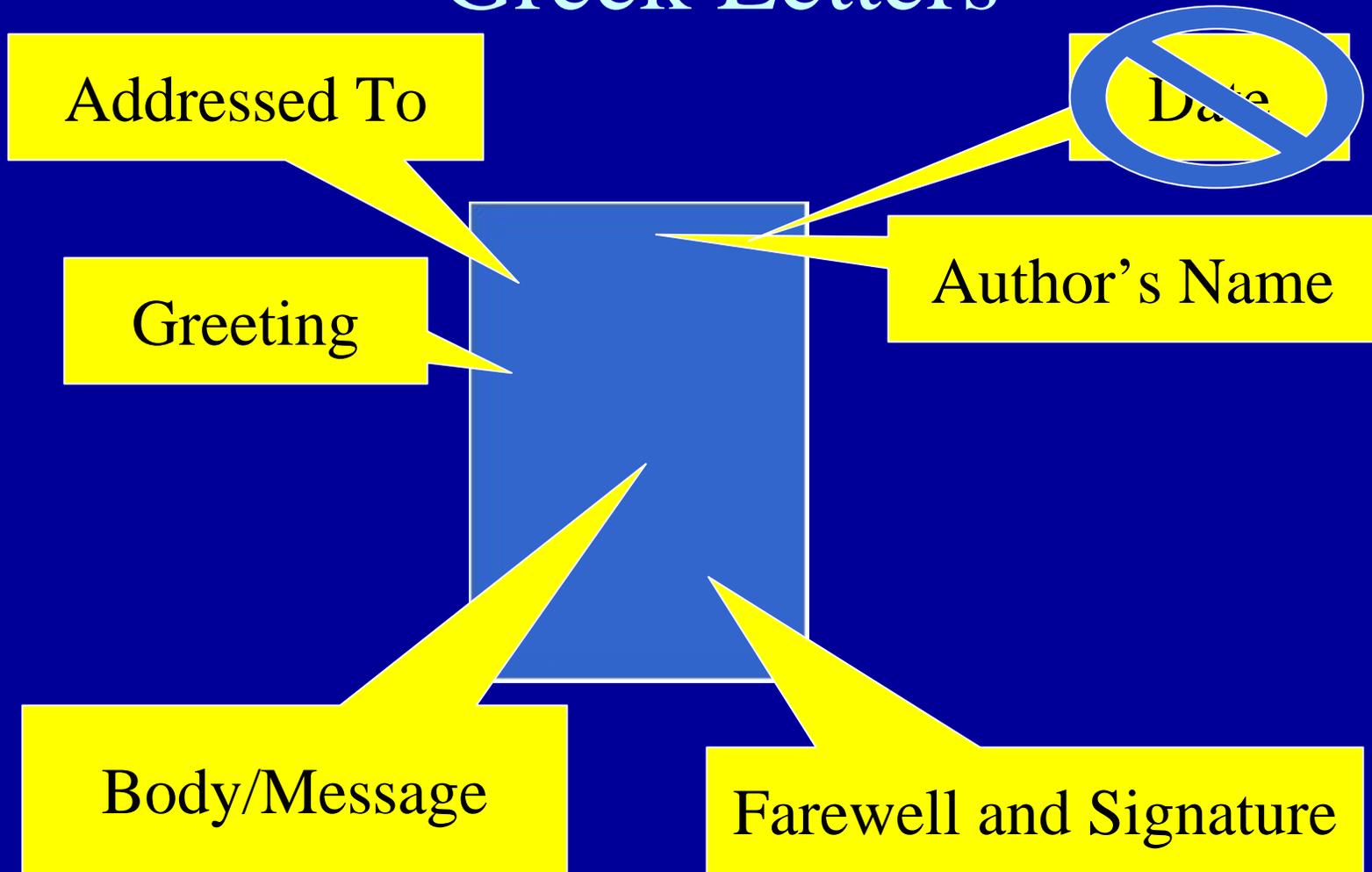
Author's Name

Body/Message

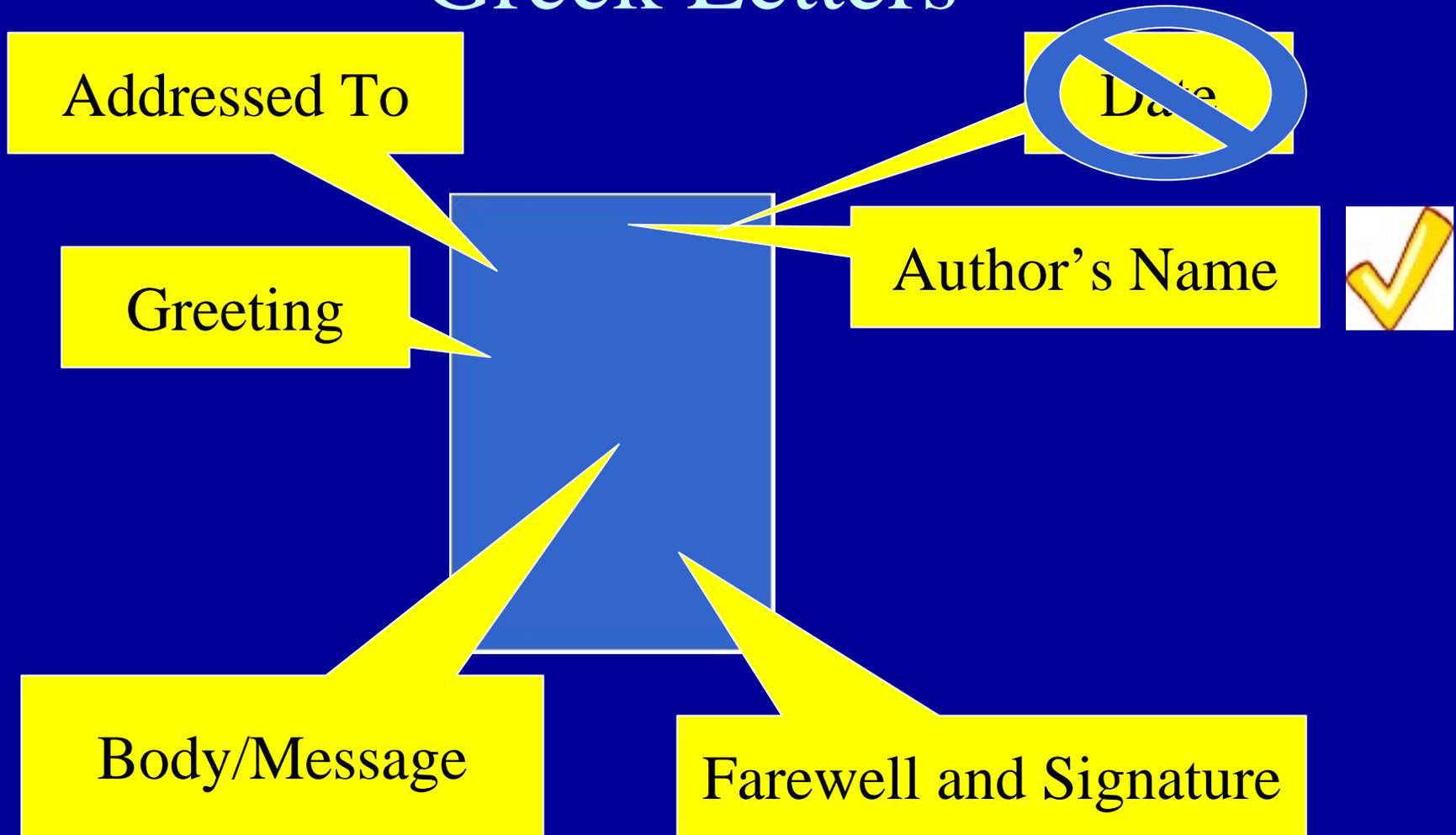
Farewell and Signature



# Greek Letters



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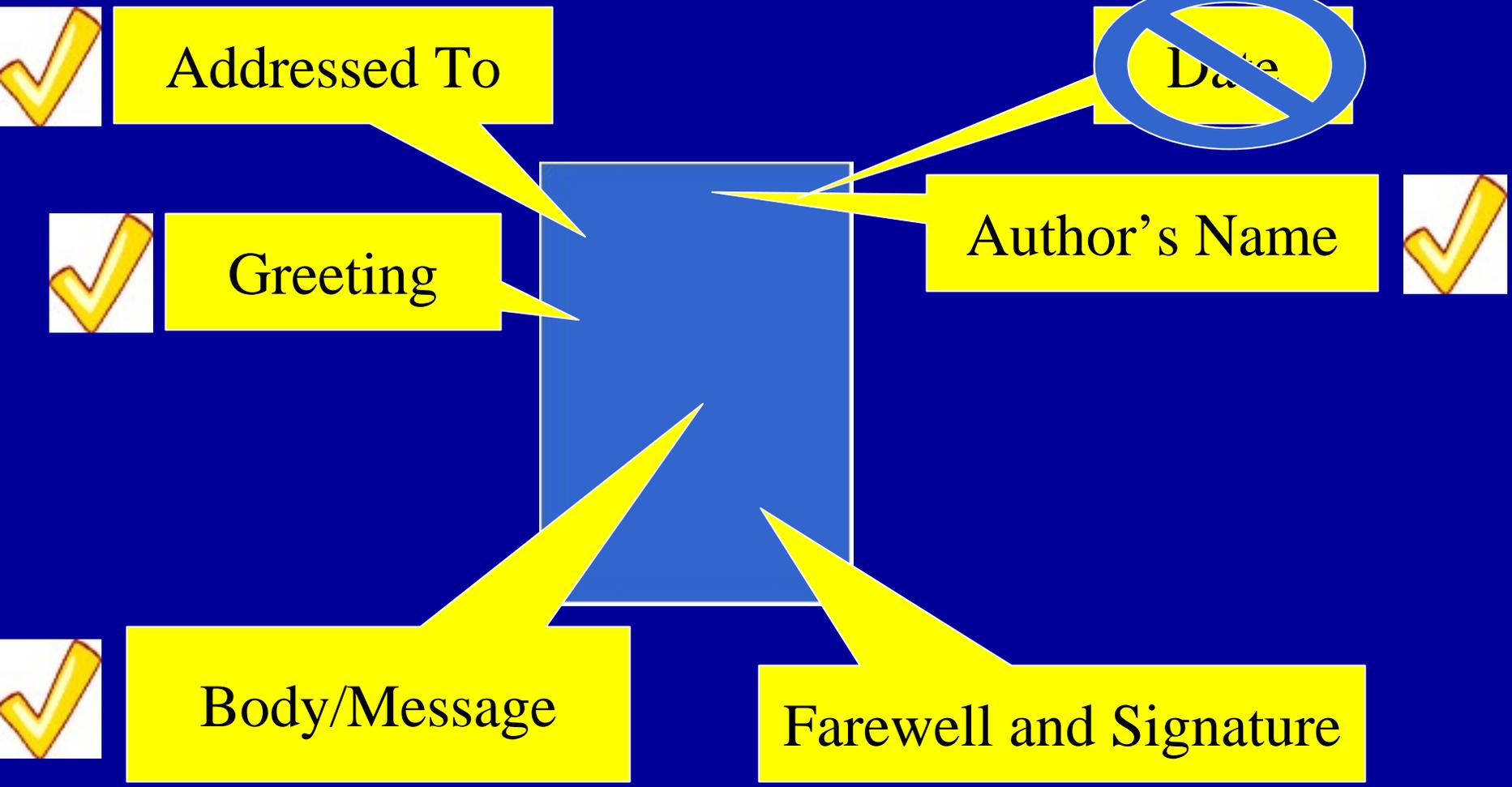
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# Greek Letters



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Addressed To



Date



Greeting

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Date



Greeting

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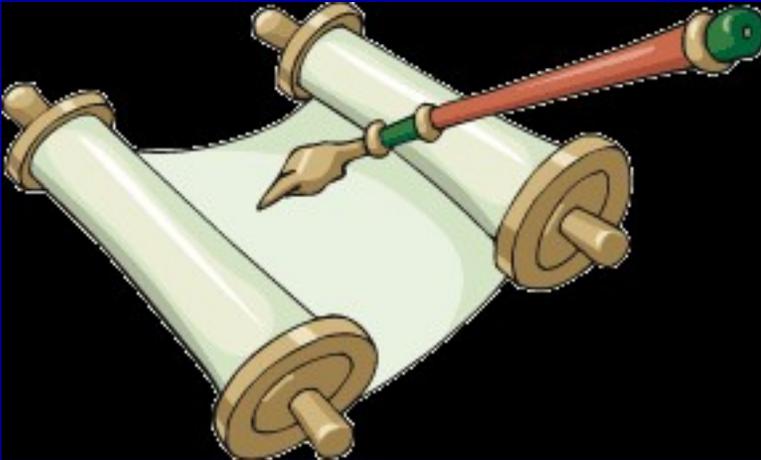


Body/Message

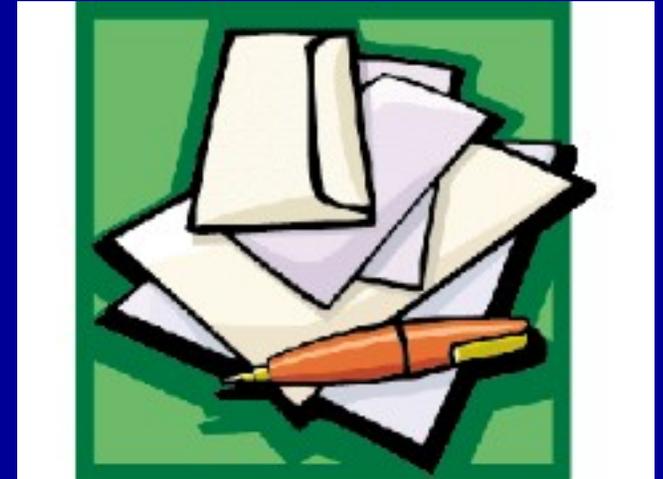
Farewell and Signature



# Name of Writer



Paul, An Apostle ...

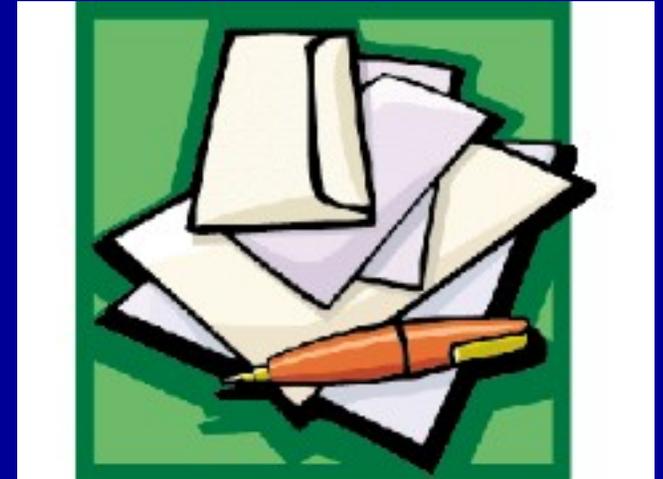


W. Mark Lanier,  
Attorney at Law

# Name of Recipient



To the Churches in  
Galatia



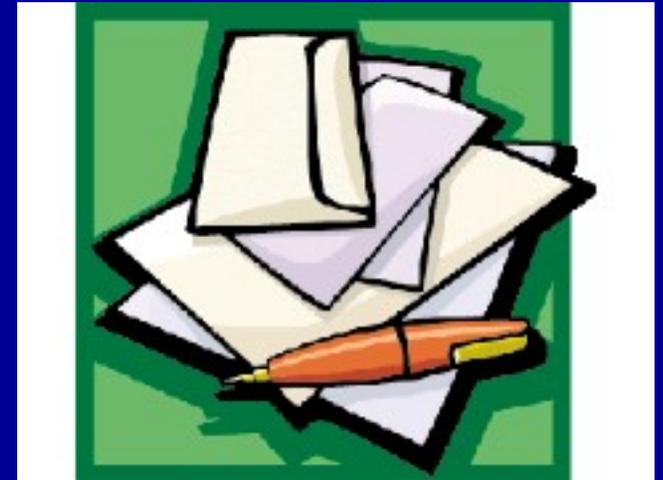
Louis Miori  
Champion Forest  
Baptist Church

# Greeting



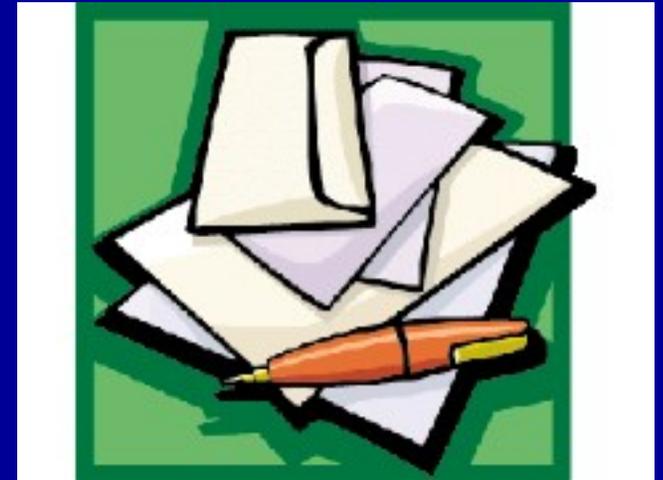
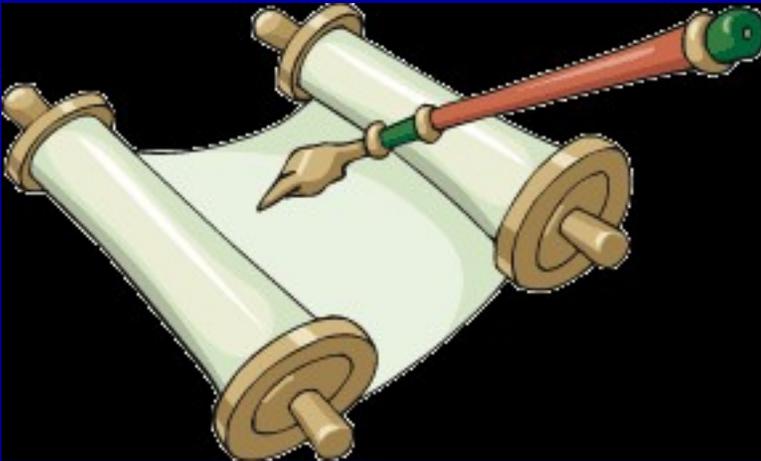
Typical: “Health”

Paul: “Grace and Peace  
to You...”



Dear Saint Louis

# Main Message



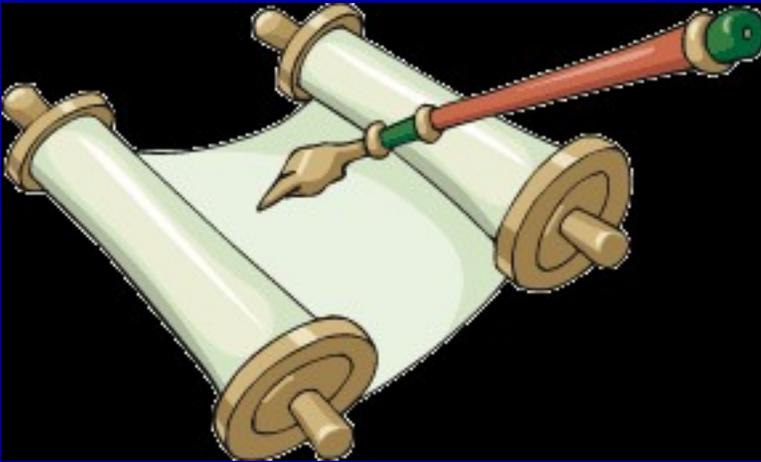
Paul:

1 - Doctrine

2 - Application

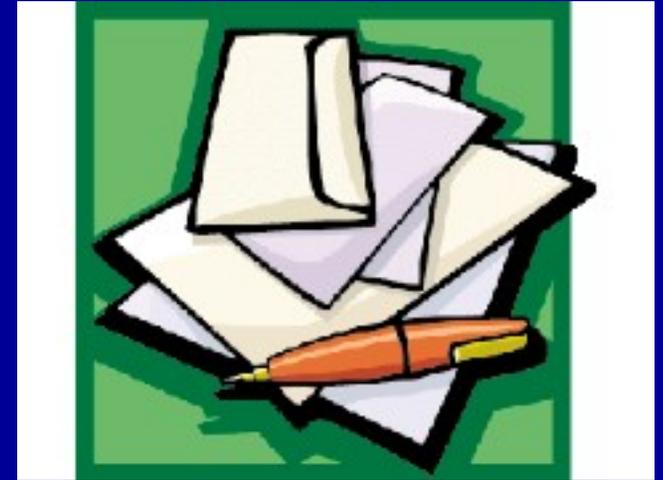
Remember how I  
cleaned your clock  
in racketball Friday?

# Closing



Typical: “Farewell”

Paul: “The grace of our Lord Jesus be with your spirits, brothers. Amen.”



Very Truly Yours,

W. Mark Lanier

# How Were Letters Written?

- “Amanuensis” - Secretary
- Rom. 16:22 “I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.”
- Paul Often Adds Handwritten Note: “See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!” Gal. 6:11

# How Were Letters Sent?

- Limited Official Postal Service (*cursus publicus*)
- Special Messengers / Trustworthy Travelers

# When Did Paul Write Galatians?

- Scholars: 48 - 60
- Issue of Galatia



Region of Churches:  
Galatia

**PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY**  
A.D. 46 TO 48

# When Did Paul Write Galatians?

- Scholars: 48 - 60
- Issue of Galatia
- Issue of Jerusalem Conference
  - Public or Private
  - Apostolic Letter
- Limited Relevance

# Why Between 2 Corinthians and Ephesians?

- Gospels (Chronological)
- History
- Paul's Letters to Churches
- Paul's Letters to People
- General Letters
- Prophecy

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SIZE?

Church Importance?

# How Do We Read Epistles?

- KEY: The “Occasion”

# Theological Term De Jour

## *OCCASION:*

What circumstances and events motivated or caused the letter?

# How Do We Read Epistles?

- KEY: The “Occasion”
- Technique:
  - Read Background (Town, People, Bible Passages, etc.)
    - Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible
  - Read Whole Letter (Make “Occasion” Notes)
  - Work Down to Smaller Passages
  - Understand “Then” and Apply Now

# The Occasion for Galatians

- Heresy Taught By Others
- Authority of Paul
- Authority of Paul's Message
- Legalism vs. Grace

# Galatians Divisions

- Necessary History for Understanding the Issues and Paul's Teaching (1 and 2)
- Correct Doctrine to Counter the Heresy (3 and 4)
- Real Life Application of Teaching (5 and 6)

# Chapter 1

- Paul's Identification

“Paul, an apostle -- sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead...”

(1:1)

# Chapter 1

- Paul's Concern

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel -- which is really no gospel at all.”

(1:6-7)

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# “Grace”

- χαρις - *charis* : “a favor done” “a kindness”
- Paul: Singular Noun For a Specific Favor or Act of Kindness by God
- Grace = Sacrifice of Christ, a Historical Event

“I do not set aside the **grace** of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.” (2:21)

# Chapter 1

- Paul's Concern

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the **grace** of Christ and are turning to a different **gospel** -- which is really no gospel at all.” (1:6-7)

# “Gospel”

- εὐαγγέλιον - *euangelion* : *eu* = “good”  
*angelion* = “news” “message”
- Paul: THE Good News : Christ Died,  
Buried, and Resurrected

“I want to remind you of the **gospel** I  
preached to you ... Christ died for our sins  
... he was buried ... he was raised”

(1 Cor. 15:1-4)

# Chapter 1

- Paul's Concern

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# Galatians 1

- Anything Else a Perversion (1:7)
- Anyone Teaching Otherwise Accursed (1:8-9)
- Paul Came Through Revelation, Not Laziness (1:14ff)

# Galatians 2

- History of Revelation and Teaching
- Confrontation of Peter
- Not “Acting in line with the truth of the gospel.” (2:14)
- Before a Group “We know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” (2:16)
- “By observing the law, no one will be Justified.” (2:16)

## Core Passage 2:20-21

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the **grace** of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.”

# Points For Home

1. “Grace” Is An Event
2. The Event Saves Us.
3. This is Good News.