


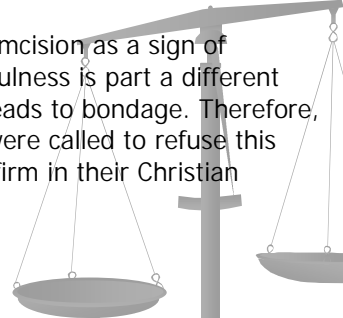
Reading Epistles

Week 4
A Skill of Sanctification



Meaning

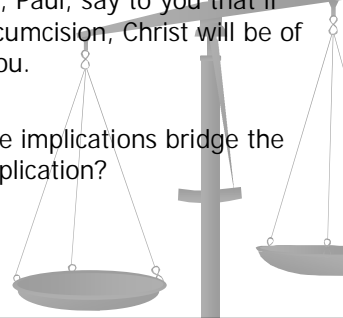
- Receiving circumcision as a sign of covenant faithfulness is part a different gospel which leads to bondage. Therefore, the Galatians were called to refuse this rite and stand firm in their Christian freedom.



Galatians: Bridging Contexts

GAL 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

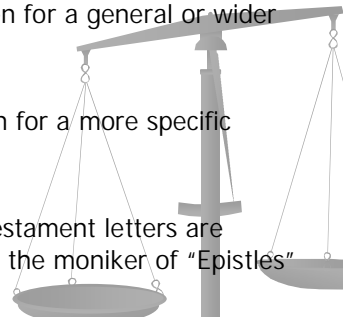
How do legitimate implications bridge the contexts for application?



Definition Epistle/Letter

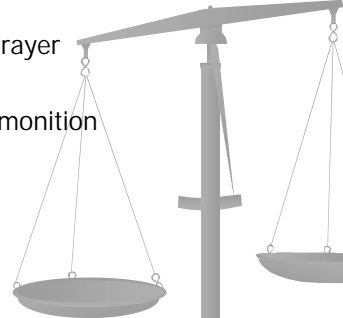
- Epistle – Written for a general or wider audience.
- Letter – Written for a more specific audience.

All of the New Testament letters are generally given the moniker of “Epistles”



The General Form of an Epistle

- Salutation
- Thanksgiving/Prayer
- Body
- Exhortation/Admonition
- Conclusion

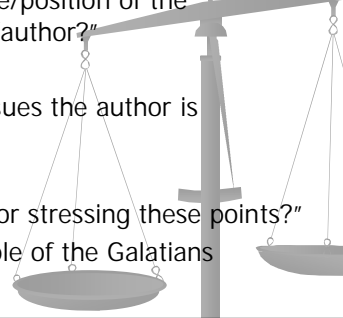


The Audience and Occasion

“What is the state/position of the church/person/author?”

“What are the issues the author is stressing?”

“Why is the author stressing these points?”
*Example of the Galatians



A Breakdown of the Epistles

- Paul

Romans
1 and 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

- Unknown

Hebrews

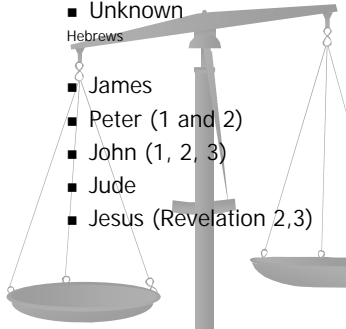
- James

- Peter (1 and 2)

- John (1, 2, 3)

- Jude

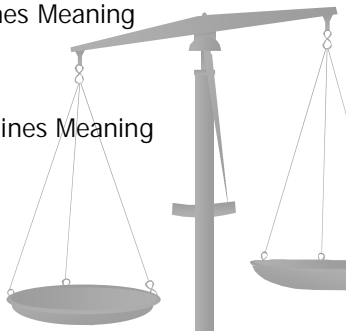
- Jesus (Revelation 2,3)



“Words” and Meaning

- Usage Determines Meaning

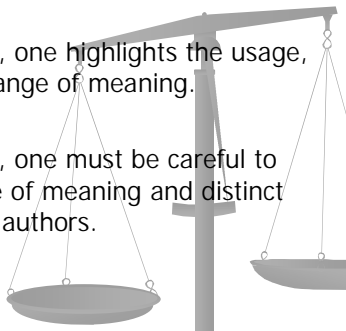
- Context Determines Meaning



The Value and Limitations of Word Studies

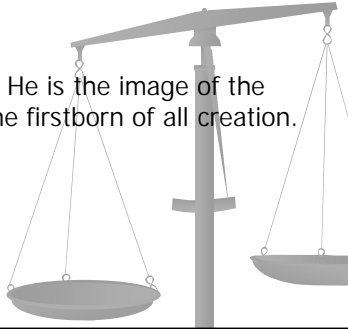
- In word studies, one highlights the usage, contexts, and range of meaning.

- In word studies, one must be careful to recognize range of meaning and distinct usage between authors.



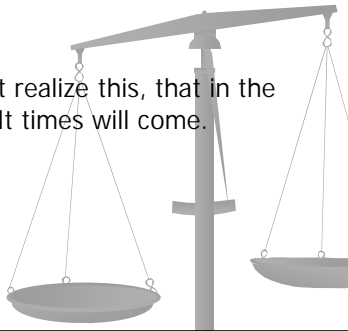
Context and Usage

- Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.



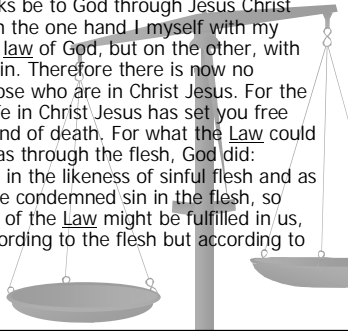
Context and Usage

- 2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.



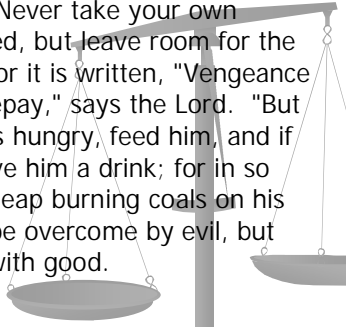
Context and Usage

- ROM 7:25 -8:4 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.



Conflicting Contexts?

- ROM 12:19-21 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Next Week: Messianic Prophecy

- Read Matthew 2:13-15
- Read Hosea 11:1

Note the issues and "problems" that may be perceived in how Matthew proclaims this fulfillment.

How do we answer these?

