

## Roetzel, Chapter Two: The Anatomy of the Letters

Some guiding questions for review

### II. Introduction (Roetzel, pp. 51—55)

How were letters produced and delivered at the time of Paul?

How do we know what the major parts of a Hellenistic letter were? What discovery has made it possible for us to reconstruct the way the typical letter was structured?

How closely does Paul follow the typical letter-writing pattern?

### II. The Salutation (Roetzel, pp. 55—56)

What three elements are found in the salutation of most Hellenistic letters? What is distinctive about Paul's usage of the salutation? Can you give any examples to show how Paul uses the salutation to suit his purpose in the letter as a whole?

### III. The Thanksgiving (Roetzel, pp. 56—58)

What did Paul Schubert contribute to the study of the thanksgiving section of the pauline letters?

Which of Paul's letters is missing the thanksgiving section?

What does Paul use the thanksgiving section to accomplish?

What contribution has James M. Robinson made to the study of the pauline thanksgiving?

### IV. The Body (Roetzel, pp. 58—59)

What typically marks the beginning of the body of a pauline letter? (What serves at the "threshold" of the body?) At least two other elements usually appear in the body of Paul's letters along with his theological argument. What are these elements?

### V. The Paraenesis (Roetzel, pp. 59—60)

Roetzel discusses three different types of ethical instruction (paraenetic material). What are these three types? Be prepared to (1) list these three types of paraenetic material and (2) identify examples of each one.

Paul's letters usually contain a paraenetic *section*. Does paraenetic material ever appear outside this section?

How does Paul use paraenetic material in his letters? Does he repeat older paraenetic traditions without change, or does he adapt them to the situation of the church he is addressing?

VI. Conclusion of the Letter (Roetzel, pp. 61—64)

What three components are usually found in the conclusion of a Pauline letter? In what order do they usually appear? Be prepared to give examples of each one.

VII. Influences on Paul's Letter Writing (Roetzel, pp. 64—65)

How are Paul's letters *different from* the papyrus letters of the Hellenistic world?

What aspect of Paul's letters seems to show some influence from the Philosophical Letter Tradition? What noted German New Testament scholar has argued that the philosophical letter tradition had more influence on Paul than the papyrus letters? Does Roetzel agree with this view?

What elements of Paul's letters show influence from Hebrew and Aramaic letter writing traditions?

Was letter writing becoming more or less popular in the Hellenistic world of Paul's time? How did this change impact Paul's ministry?