

Session # 2—The Four 'Pauls' in the New Testament (see handout), including the "Household Codes" in the Deutero-Pauline and Pastoral Letters (see handout)

- **The 'Four Pauls' in the New Testament** (see the handout: FourPaulsintheNewTestament031423.docx)

• Let's consider "anonymity" and "pseudonymity," both of which were huge in the ancient world. The authorial claim to "copyright" protection is modern, print-culture phenomenon, totally alien to the ancient world, in which 80-90% of the population could not read or write.

Why do we think that 6 of the 13 letters attributed to Paul were not written by Paul?

- The authentic letters are typically written to specific groups of Christians, addressing concrete issues and concerns; the inauthentic letters lose that concrete specificity

- The pseudonymous letters are therefore not actually real letters as much as theological essays dressed up as letters

- New vocabulary and ideas are introduced; old language and ideas that originated with Paul are interpreted in new ways

- Different writing styles: Paul writes in short, choppy sentences; the pseudonymous Paul writes in long, flowing sentences that we would call paragraphs

- The implicit theology of the pseudonymous letters goes far beyond that of the authentic letters. E.g., "Christology" becomes much 'higher'-- Colossians 1:15ff. Paul's apocalyptic fervor cools; Jesus is no longer expected to come again soon, any second now. Etc.

- Movement toward institutionalization of the Jesus Movement. Formal leadership roles are emerging. A yearning for "sound doctrine" is emerging; we are on our way toward creeds. There are even some signs that a move toward a canon of scripture is under way.

- The radical egalitarianism of Paul is abandoned, and good old-fashioned Mediterranean hierarchy and patriarchy has reasserted itself in the household codes.

- Etc.

- **Household Codes, mostly in the Deutero-Pauline and Pastoral letters (plus 1 Peter)** (see the handout: HouseholdCodes032423.docx)