

Colossians..... --the Person of Christ
 --the worldly temptations
 --devices of heretice, false teachers
 --character of the new life
 --performing as faithful servants
 --the friends and foes of truth

I realize these are a bit nebulous but they refer to content matters in the books...some of which I will discuss at greater length.

c. Summary Statements:

Ephesians is a unique panorama of God's program of redemption: stressing the work of God and the proper response of believers. Its message is absolutely vital to a sound church and without a good understanding of this book it is hard to be theologically "right" in the church.

Colossians points out that contrary worship is meaningless in the light of Christ's lordship...the only thing that really counts is yieldedness to and life in the Son of God.

6. Philippians

a. An overview:

The testimony of the early church was that Paul wrote Philippians. Tradition assigns the time of its composition to his Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30). These traditions have remained virtually uncontested to this day.

Questions have been raised about the authenticity of two passages. Philippians 2:6-11, because it is poetic (see the translation in the New International Version) and because it describes the incarnation in terms unlike any Paul uses elsewhere, has been called an early Christian hymn or confession which Paul included in his letter. Poetic language, however, is not unknown in Paul's epistles (cf. Rom 11:33-36) and poetry usually contains words and expressions which are not common in prose.

The authenticity of Philippians 3:1 ff is questioned because of its abrupt change in content and tone which breaks the flow of the letter. Some scholars suggest that it is an interpolation from another, unknown, letter of Paul. The major drawback to this suggestion is that there is no agreement concerning the end of the interpolation. In addition, there are no manuscripts