

JOIN DEACON JIM MCFADDEN FOR THIS 9-WEEK ONLINE SERIES AS HE REFLECTS UPON PAUL: HIS EPISTLES AND WHAT THEY MEAN

DATES: 9/22/25—11/17/25 TIME: 7:00 PM

Session 1: September 22— Paul: His Epistles and Theology

St. Augustine marveled at the dept of St. Paul's epistles, which would nurture and strengthen the faith of so many Christians up and down the centuries. His epistles would inspire saints and countless disciples who hear his words every Sunday Mass at the 2nd reading, and may they do the same for us as we begin our reflection of Paul: His Epistles and What They Mean.

Session 2: September 29— Paul's Life and Conversion

Paul of Tarsus is a unique figure in the New Testament and some historians have posited that next to Jesus of Nazareth, the second most influential person in history as he was instrumental in Christianity leaving the Jewish orbit and becoming a universal, catholic, religion. Unlike the dearth of biographical information for the Gospel writers, The Acts of the Apostles furnishes us with a host of details about Paul's life, his missionary toils and sermons, his relationship to the churches, to Judaism and the Roman authorities.

Session 3: October 6— The First Epistle to the Thessalonians

Paul's 1st Epistle to the Thessalonians, was the earliest compositions of the New Testament written around 51 a.d., nearly 20 years before Mark's gospel was composed. The letter was written at the beginning of what is known as Paul's second missionary journey, in which he conveys his understanding of his mission.

Session 4: October 13— The Epistle to the Galatians (part 1)

Paul's Letter to the Galatians is an important letter, not only do we get to know Paul better as he makes biographical references to explain his conversion and his decision to place his whole life in the service of Christ Jesus. He also deals with certain themes that are important to our faith, such as freedom, grace, and the Christian way of life.

Session 5: October 20— The Epistle to the Galatians (part 2)

In our last session, we reflected that the truth of the Gospel cannot be negotiated. One of the key components of the Good News is that we are justified by Jesus Christ and, as such, are not bound by the Law, but are called to the demanding life-style of self-giving generosity of the Gospel. But, the Law still has a role—we're obliged to follow the Ten Commandments—but it serves as a precursor to the Good News.

Session 6: October 27— Paul's Letter to the Colossians

In Paul's Letter to the Colossians, he is telling them about 'thanksgiving', but he's also telling them about 'thanks-living' in the words of N.T. Wright. That is, about living on the basis of being grateful people, thankful to God in everything, despite everything. Thankful for what God has done; thankful for what God will do. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be grateful..

Session 7: November 3— The First Letter to the Corinthians (part 1)

Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth provides us with a fuller insight into the life of the early Christian community in the first generation. Men and women who had accepted the Good News of Christ Jesus were coming to terms with the full implications of their baptism. Paul will reflect on the limits of Christian freedom, marriage and divorce, and celibacy.

Session 8: November 10— The First Letter to the Corinthians (part 2)

Basic to Paul's understanding of the Church is the Eucharist. Paul addressed the Corinthian community as a 'church', ekklesia in Greek, which gathers to give witness to the Paschal Mystery and celebrate the Lord's Supper. For Paul this is a key point: that in celebrating Eucharist becomes itself the Body of Christ.

Session 9: November 17— The Letter to the Romans

The Letter to the Romans is the longest and most systematic unfolding of the apostle's theology, in which he expands on the righteousness of God that saves all who believe. It reflects a universal outlook which will be the foundation as to how Christians relate to God.

Note: Weekly attendance is not required!

To register for the series, please email Theresa Grant at **tgrant@talkpathlive.com**. You will receive an email prior to the scheduled session with the Zoom link & instructions. Please check your spam/junk mail in case you do not receive the email in your inbox.

