

The Pauline Epistles¹

Galatians, 48AD, Acts 14:27-28; written from Antioch in Syria after the so called “first” missionary journey but before the Jerusalem Council.

1 and 2 Thessalonians, 50AD, Acts 18:1-18; written from Corinth during the early part of Paul’s eighteen month stay during his “second” missionary journey.

1 Corinthians, 54AD, Acts 19:21-22; written from Ephesus during the late part of Paul’s three-year stay during his “third” missionary journey.

2 Corinthians, 55AD, Acts 20:1-2; written in Macedonia on his way to Corinth during Paul’s “third” missionary journey. The date and provenance of this epistle pose a difficulty. In **2 Cor 12:14** and **13:1**, Paul says that he is making a third trip to Corinth, but according to Acts Paul only makes two visits to Corinth, the first being recorded in **Acts 18:1-18** and the second in **Acts 20:1-2**. The simplest answer is to imagine that Paul made an undocumented trip to Corinth during when Luke records that Paul “stayed in Asia for a while” in **Acts 19:22**. Paul probably would have traveled directly from Ephesus to Corinth and back again by sea, and he probably did not visit long. This would have been the “painful” visit he describes in **2 Cor 2:1-4**, and one imagines that Paul would have written the severe letter mentioned in **2 Cor 7:8-9** upon his return to Ephesus. En route to Corinth (**Acts 20:1-2**), Paul does not find Titus at Troas but rather in Macedonia (**2 Cor 2:12-13**). Paul had apparently dispatched Titus from Ephesus to check up on the state of the church in Corinth, and Titus reports that the Corinthians had accepted Paul’s severe letter and repented (**2 Cor 2:5-6**).

Romans, 56AD, Acts 20:2-3; written from Corinth during Paul’s “third” missionary journey before traveling to Jerusalem to deliver the collection to the saints there.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, 60-62AD, Acts 28:16; written from Paul’s imprisonment in Rome. Alternatively, the prison epistles could have been written during Paul’s imprisonment at Caesarea, 57-59AD, as recorded in **Acts 24:26-27**.

1 Timothy, 65AD; written from an unknown location after Paul’s release from his first Roman imprisonment recorded in the final chapter of the book of Acts.

Titus, 65AD; written from an unknown location after Paul’s release from his first Roman imprisonment recorded in the final chapter of the book of Acts.

2 Timothy, 67AD; written during Paul’s second Roman imprisonment.

¹ The above dates are from Eckhardt Schnabel’s *Early Christian Mission* (2004).