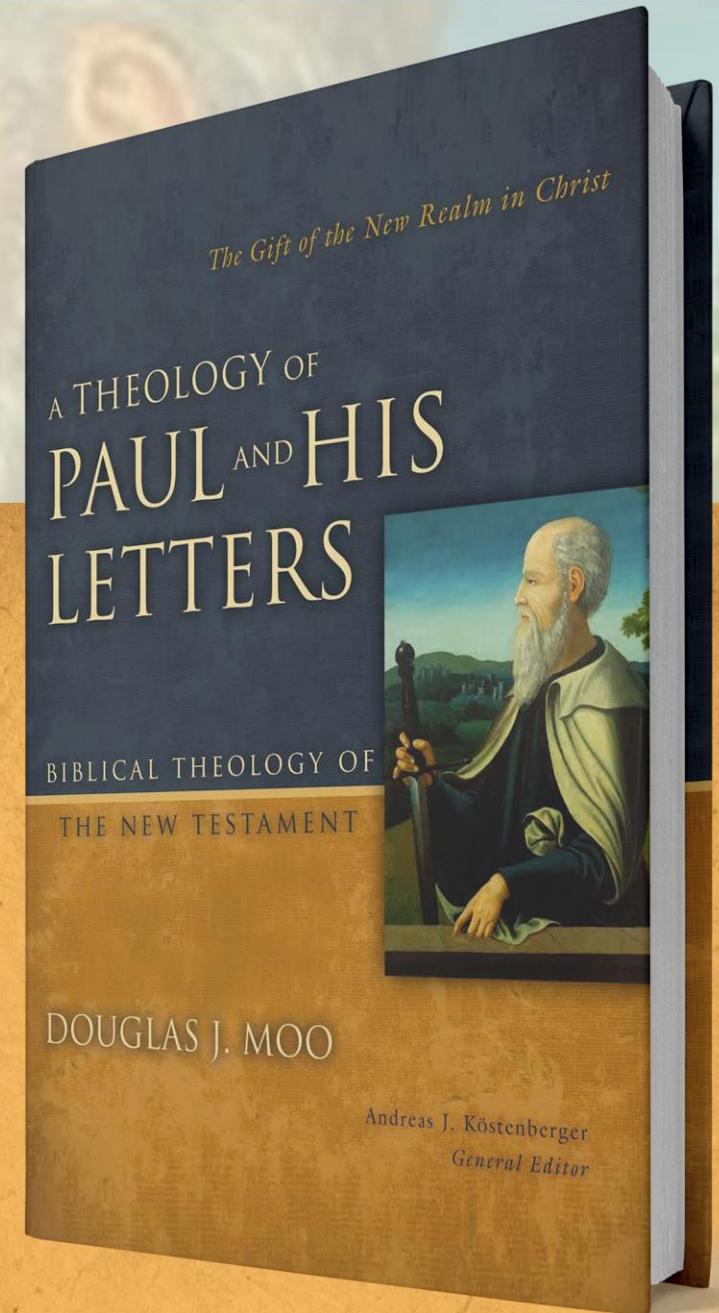


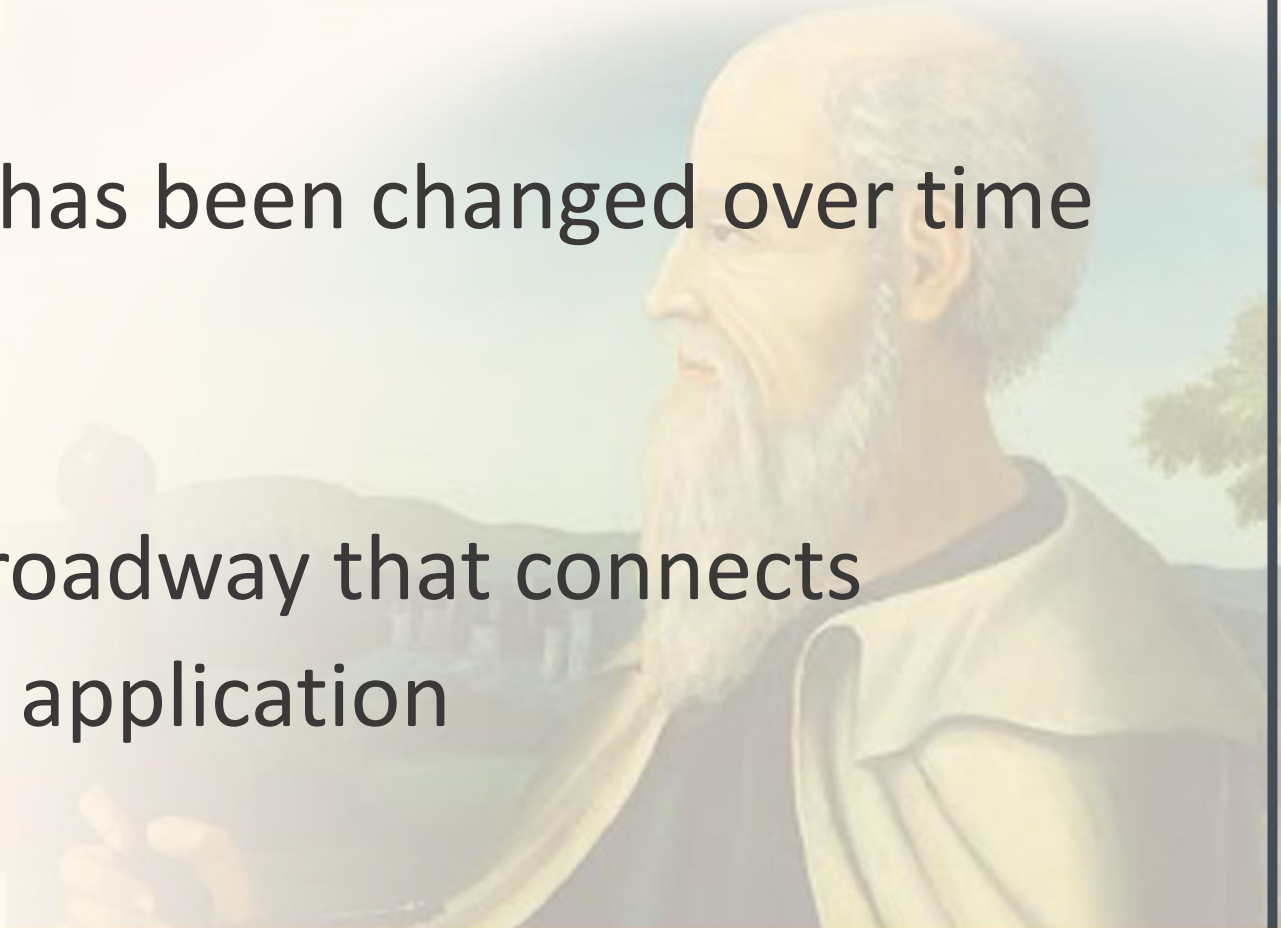
# CHAPTER 1

## Approaching Paul's Theology



# Biblical Theology

- Has a broad definition that has been changed over time
- Is not linear
- Can be seen as a bridge or roadway that connects exegesis to systematics and application

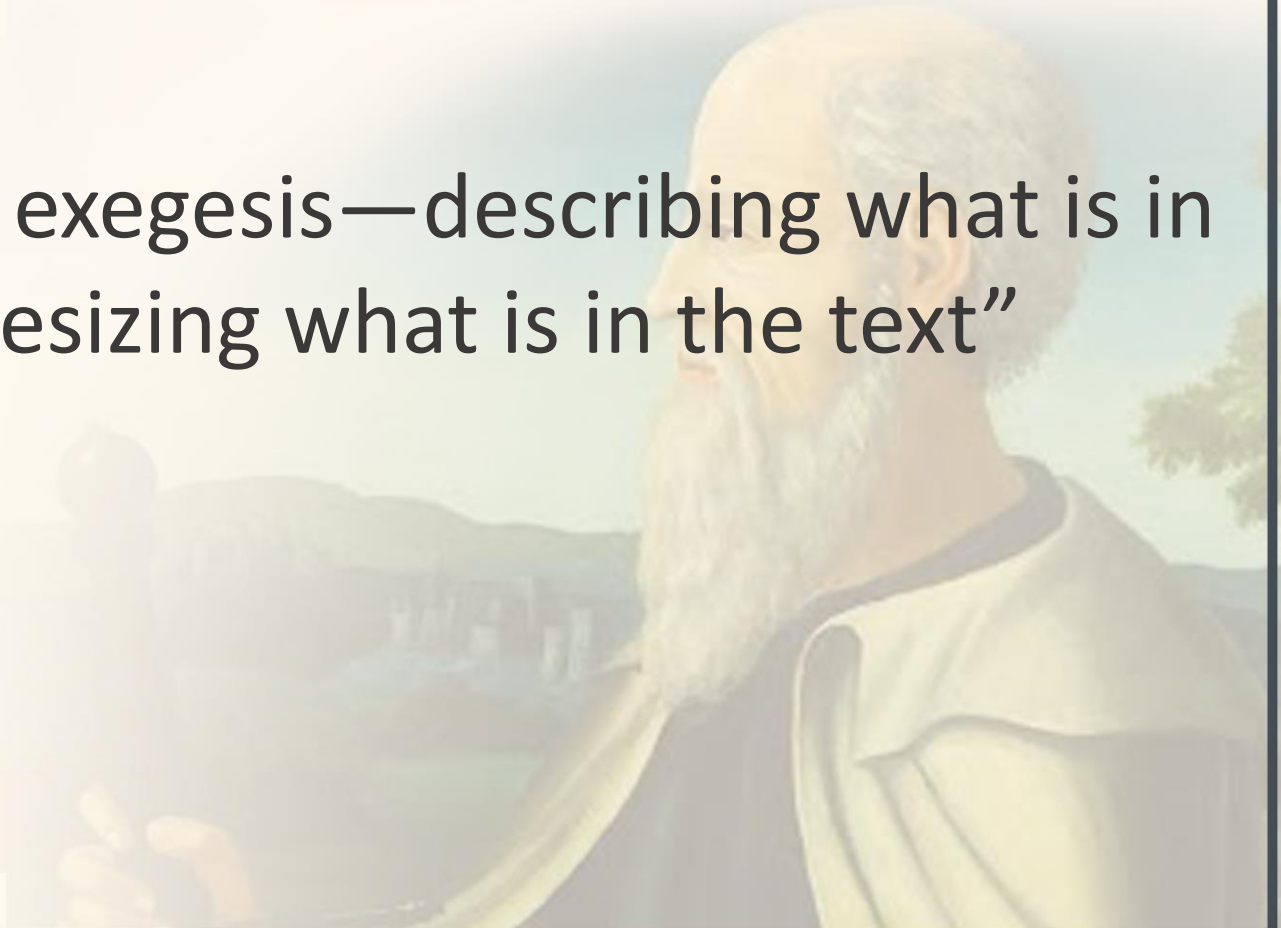


- Must be

- Descriptive: summarizes and synthesizes the teaching of the Bible using the Bible's own categories and with attention to its redemptive-historical movement
- Prescriptive: addresses the people of God today
- Inclusive: assumes that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament canon form a distinctive set of books that are worthy of study and synthesis
- Canonical: seen in relationship to the other books of the canon

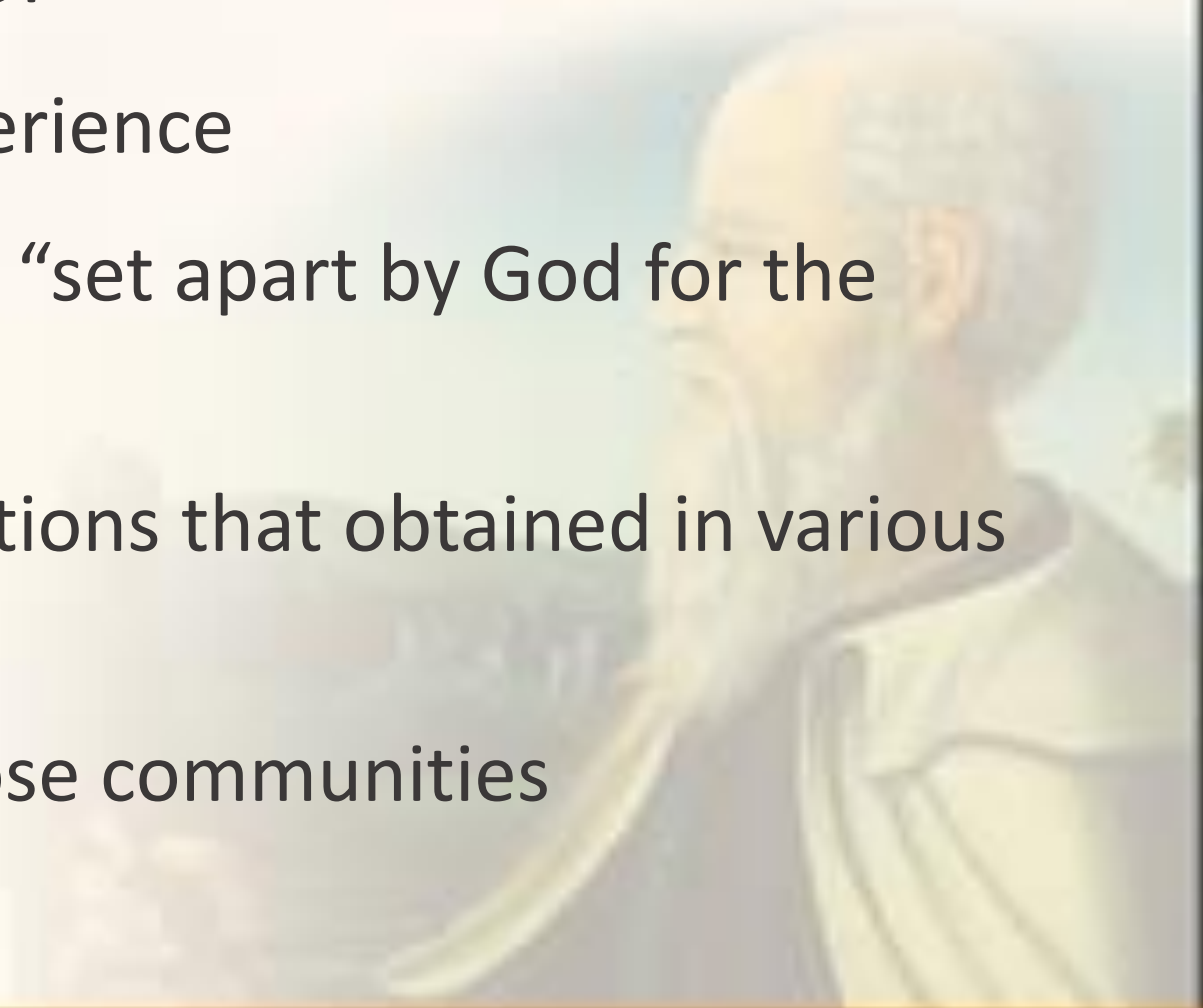
# Pauline Theology

- Is defined as “the move from exegesis—describing what is in the text—to theology—synthesizing what is in the text”

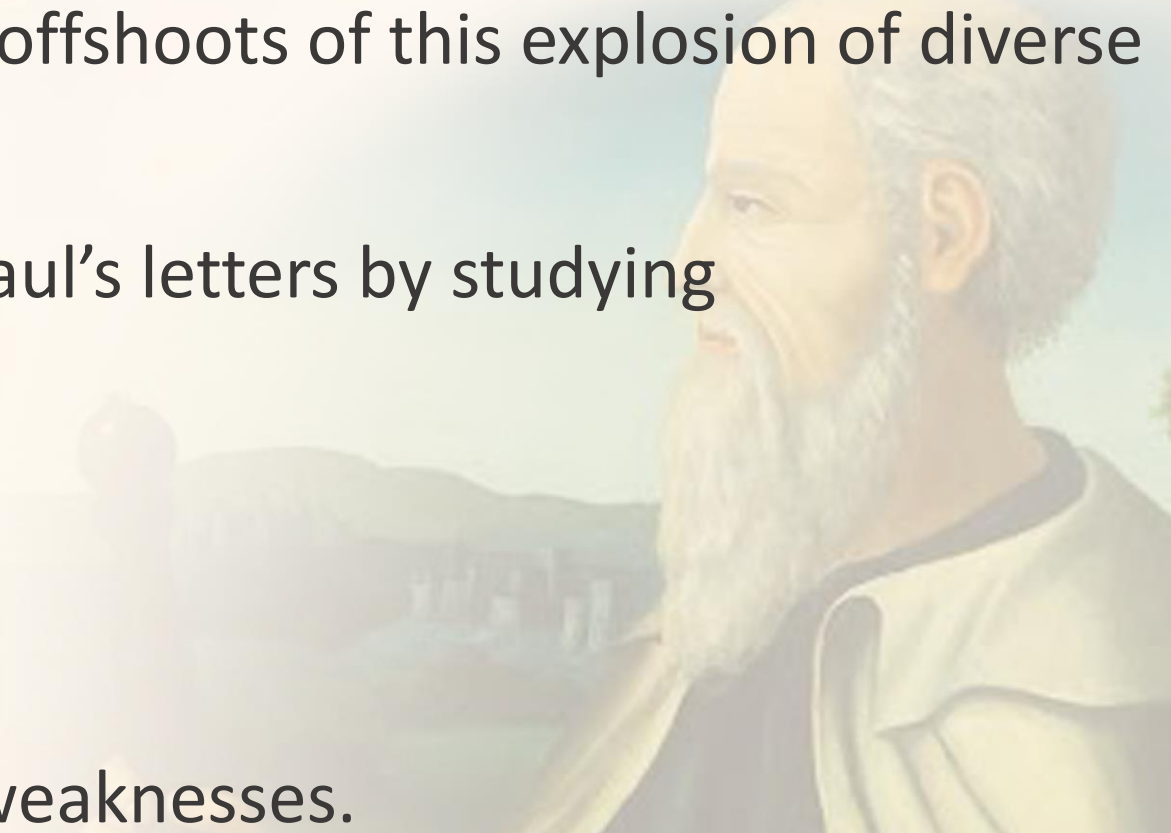


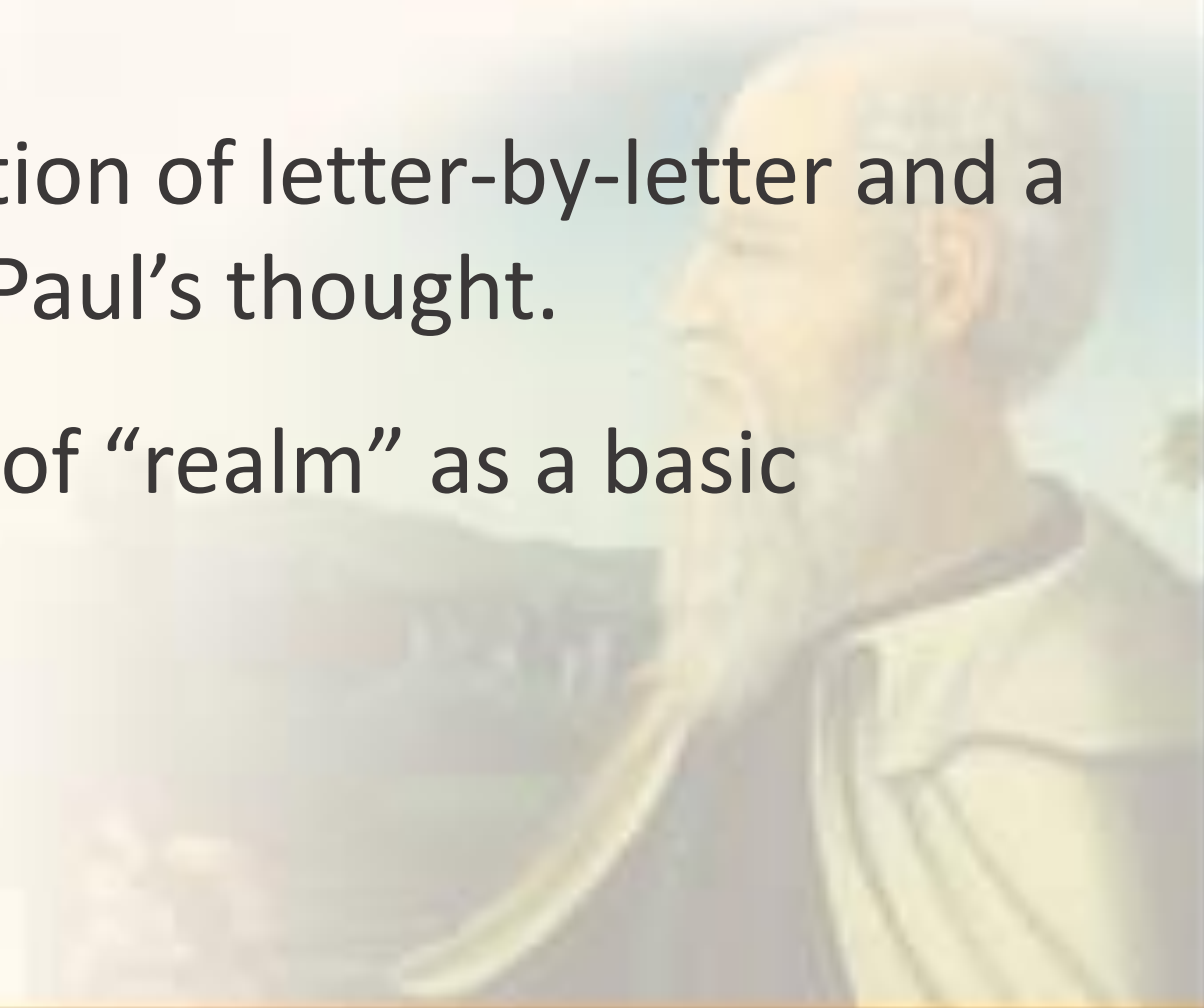


- Must include consideration of
  - Paul's common Christian experience
  - His unique experience as one "set apart by God for the gospel"
  - Paul's perception of the situations that obtained in various communities
  - Paul's words on target for those communities



# How Do We Describe Paul's Theology?

- “Containing and categorizing the offshoots of this explosion of diverse material is a classic problem.”
  - Scholars often try to categorize Paul's letters by studying
    - Each book independently
    - Narratives
    - Topics or themes (most common)
  - Each approach presents its own weaknesses.
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- The author used a combination of letter-by-letter and a more inclusive synthesis of Paul's thought.
  - He also added the category of "realm" as a basic organizational rubric.