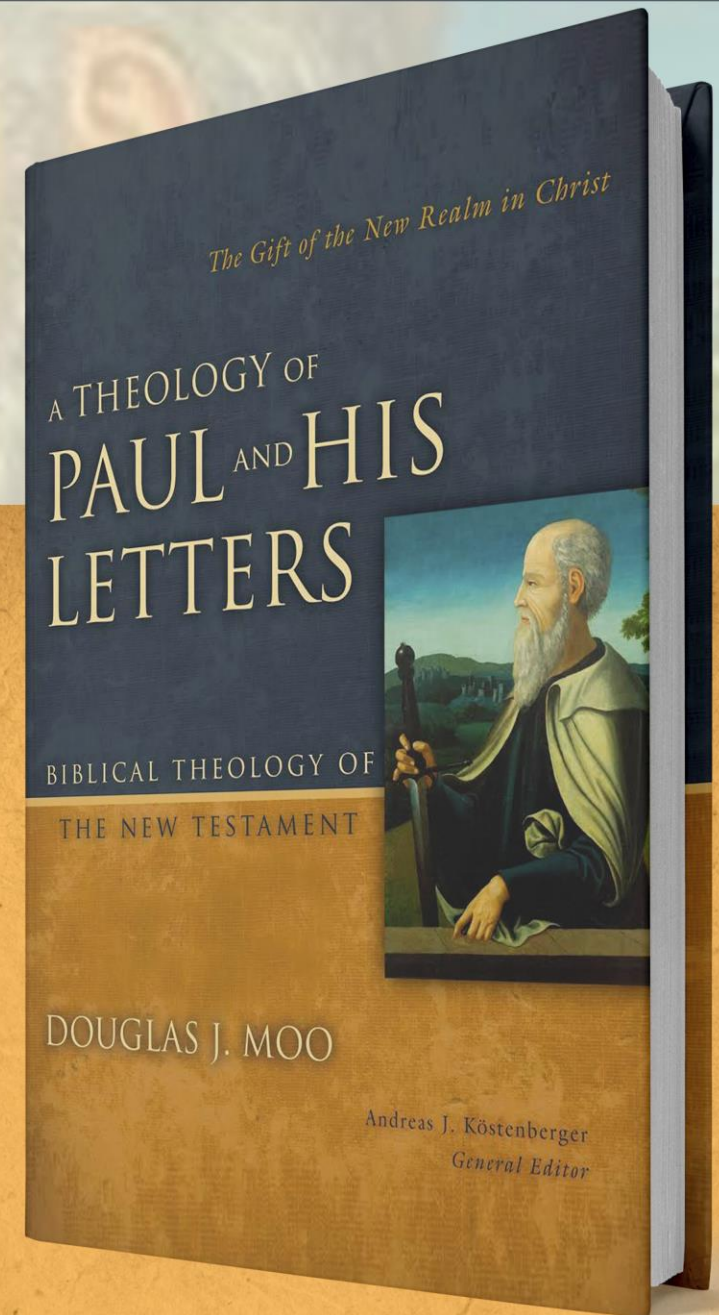


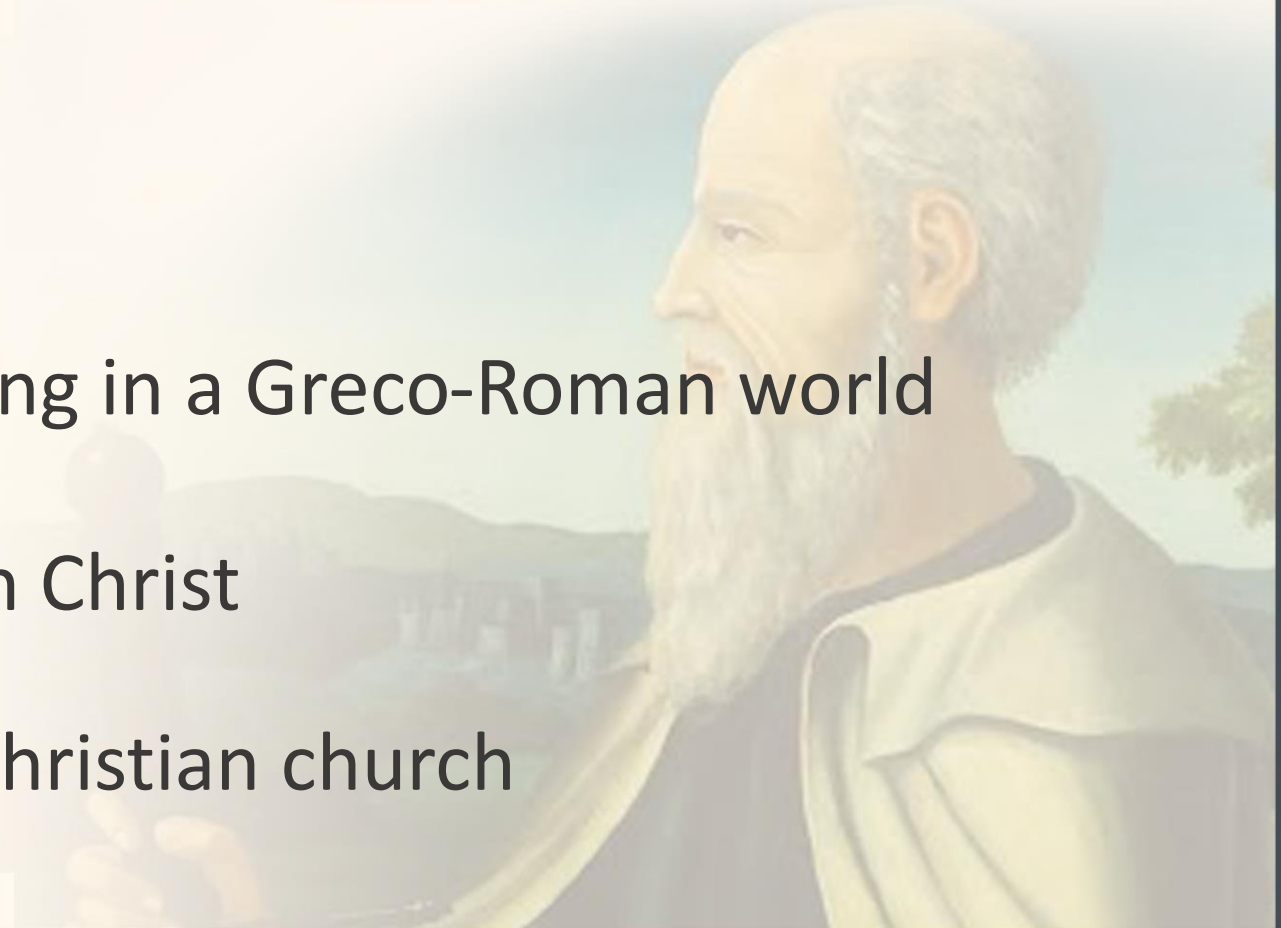
CHAPTER 2

The Shape of Paul's Thought

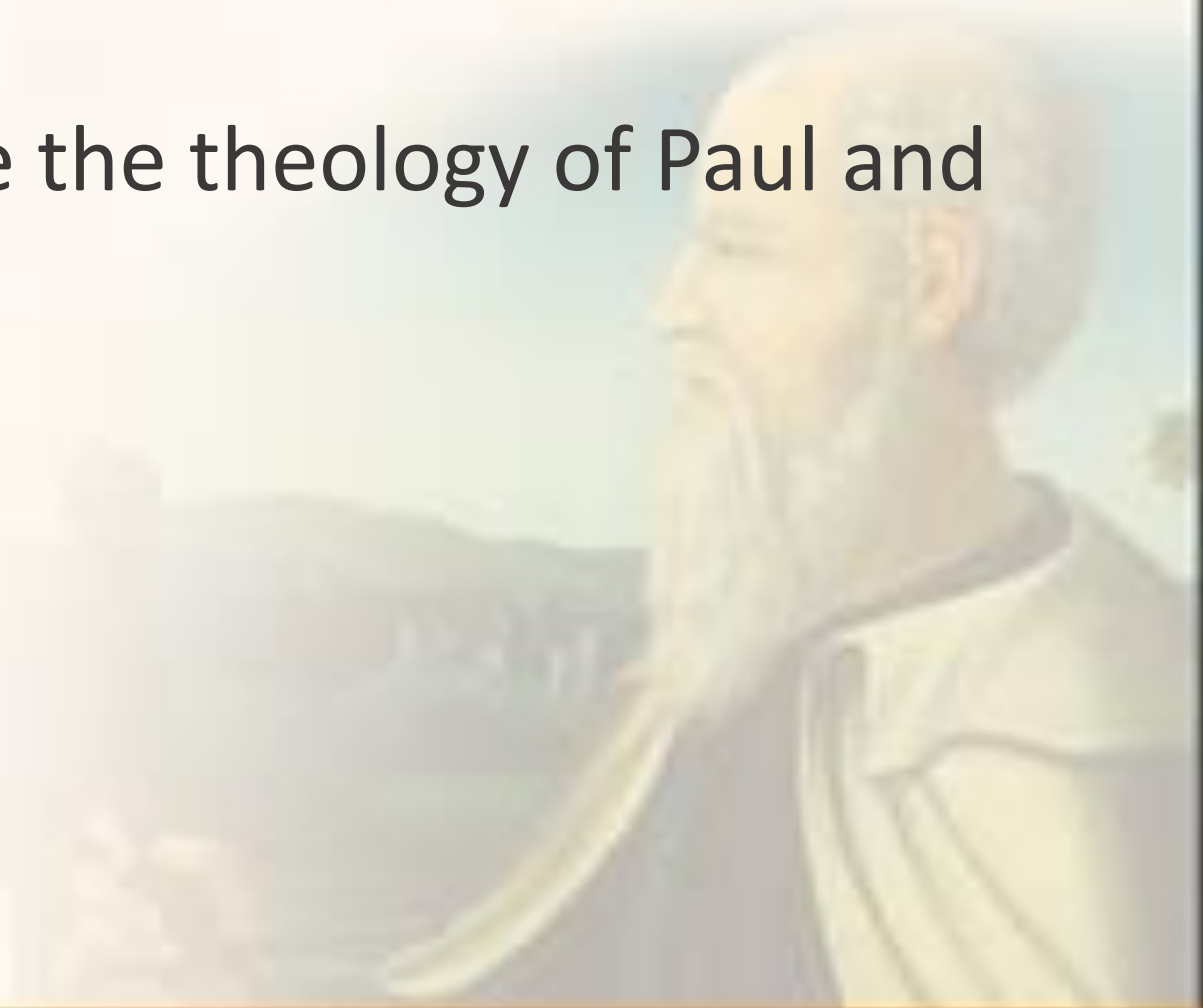


Some Methodological Issues

- Paul was influenced by
 - His background as a Jew living in a Greco-Roman world
 - His encounter with the risen Christ
 - The teachings of the early Christian church



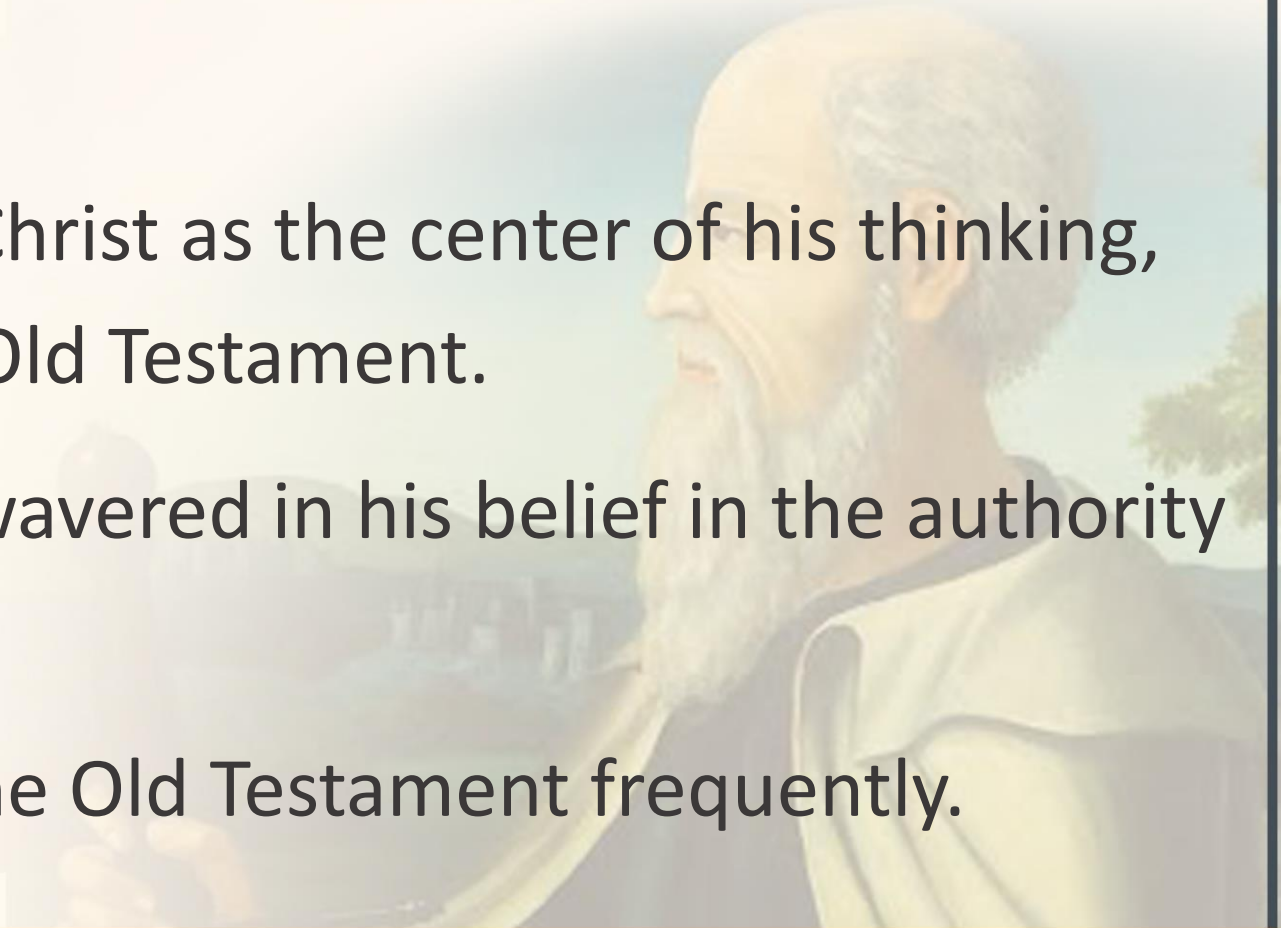
- All of these influences shape the theology of Paul and his letters.
- “Text *always* has a context.”



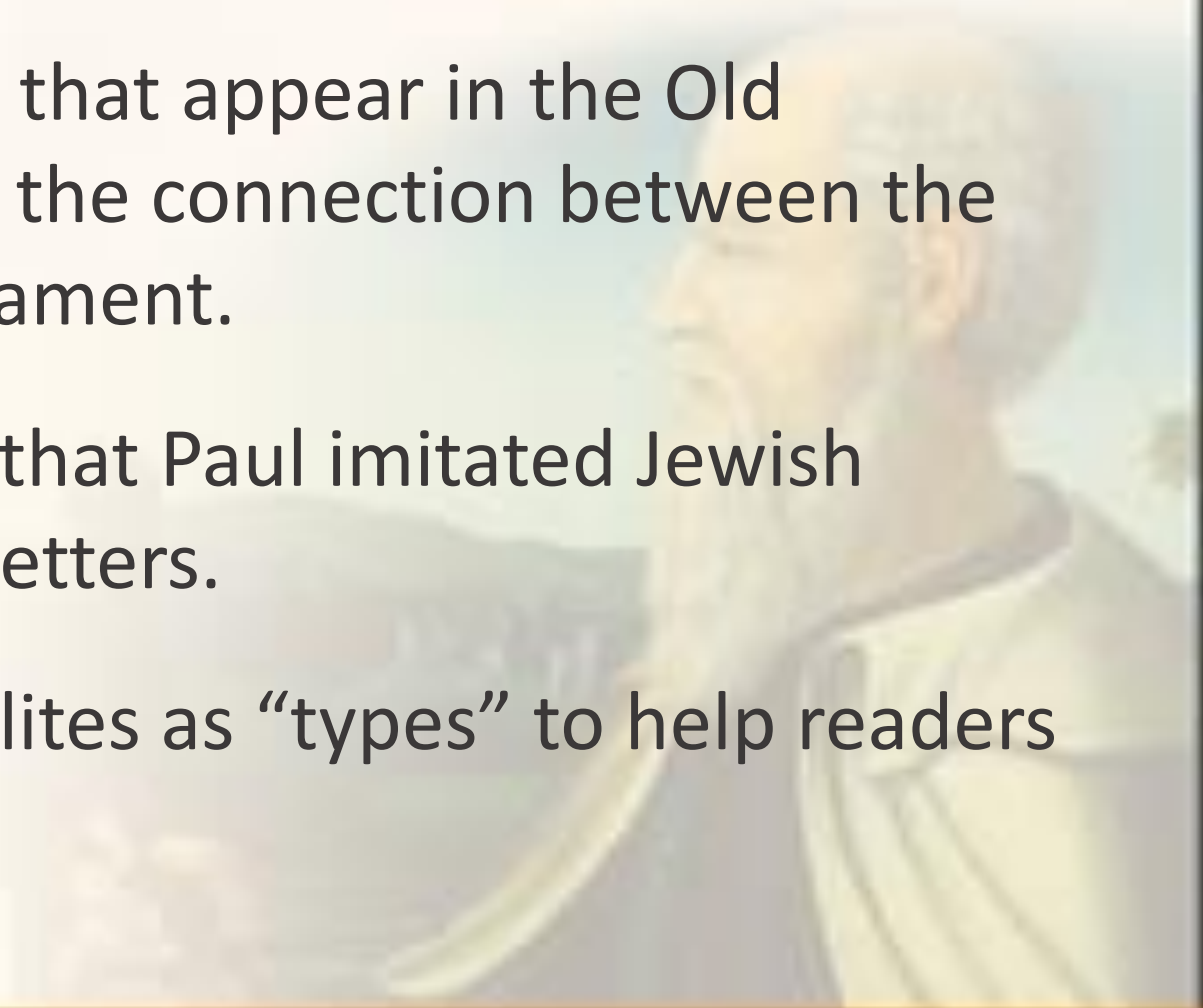
Formative Influences

- The Old Testament

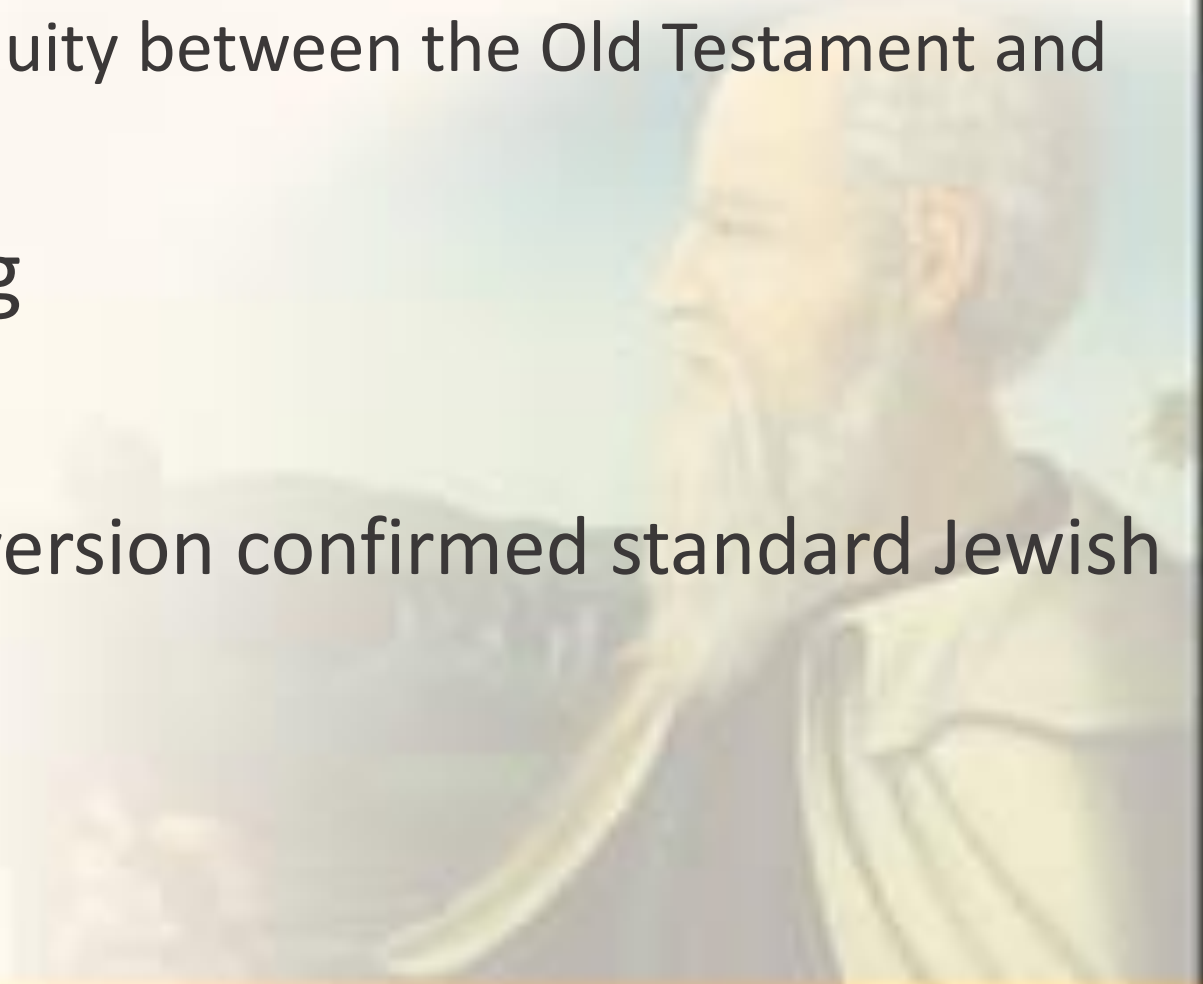
- Paul replaced the Torah with Christ as the center of his thinking, which altered his view of the Old Testament.
- Despite this shift, Paul never wavered in his belief in the authority of Scripture.
- Paul referenced and quoted the Old Testament frequently.



- Even when he didn't quote the Old Testament, Paul still alluded to it.
- Paul often used Greek words that appear in the Old Testament, and this enriches the connection between the Old Testament and New Testament.
- The author does not believe that Paul imitated Jewish structure of the Torah in his letters.
- Paul used stories of the Israelites as “types” to help readers understand his thoughts.



- Paul used appropriation techniques to appropriate Scripture.
 - He was sensitive to the context and meaning of Old Testament passages, which provides continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Second Temple Jewish Teaching
 - Paul claimed to be a Pharisee.
 - His understanding after his conversion confirmed standard Jewish teachings.

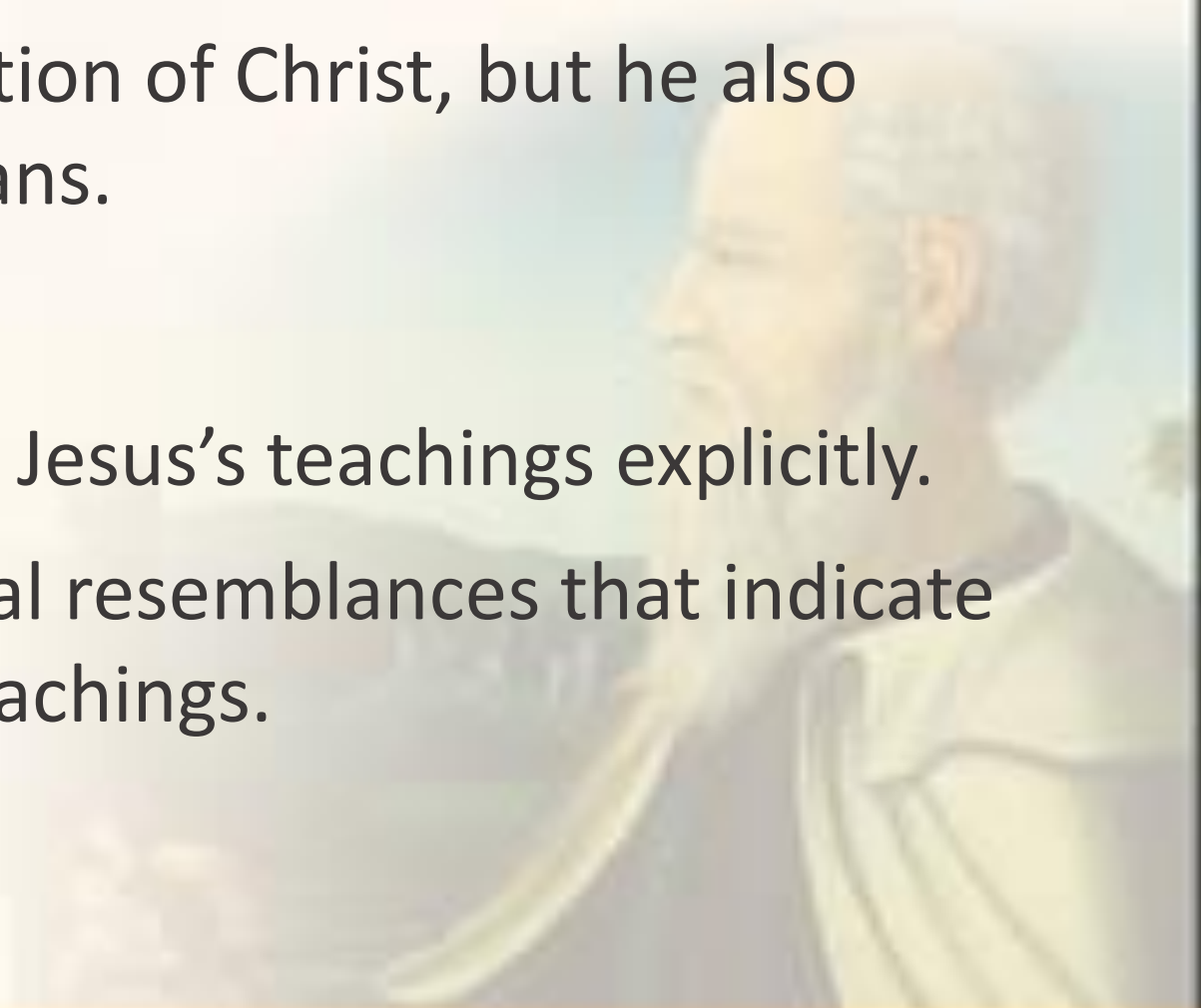


- Early Christian Tradition

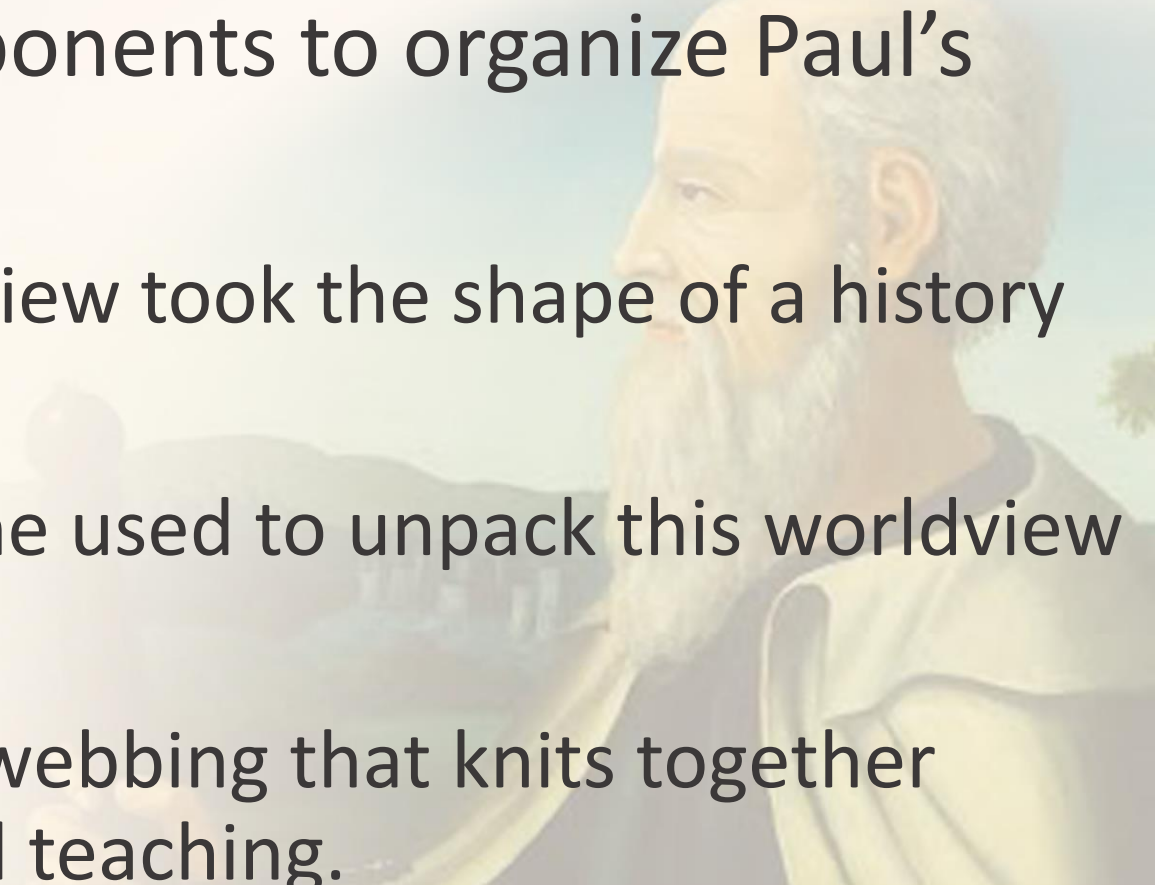
- Paul relied mainly on the revelation of Christ, but he also collaborated with fellow Christians.

- Jesus

- Paul didn't frequently reference Jesus's teachings explicitly.
- Some of his letters include verbal resemblances that indicate Paul's dependence on Jesus's teachings.



Conceptual Categories

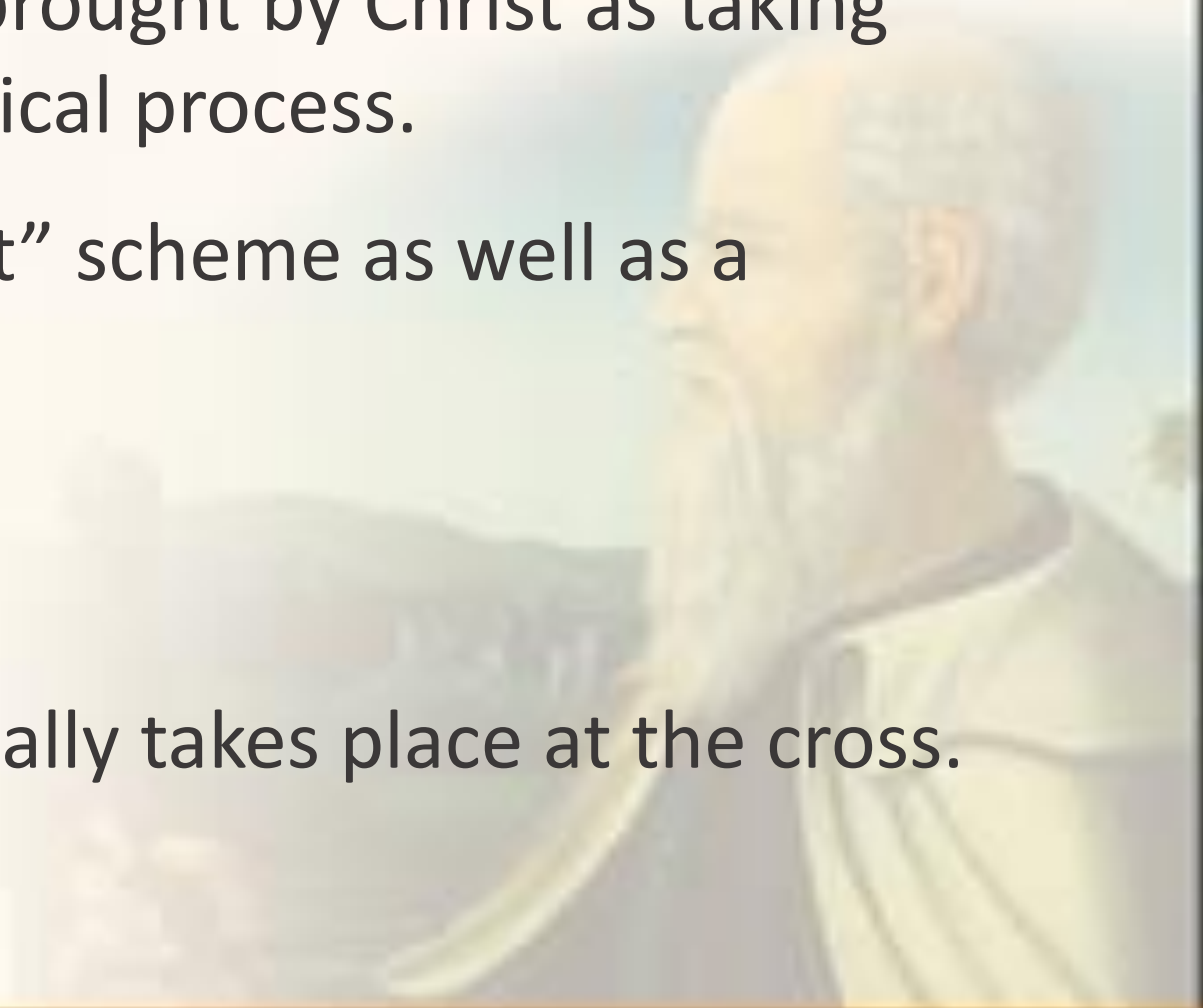
- The author used three components to organize Paul's letters:
 1. Paul's theological worldview took the shape of a history of salvation.
 2. The organizing concept he used to unpack this worldview is "realm."
 3. Union with Christ is the webbing that knits together Paul's diverse theological teaching.
- 

- Theological Framework: Salvation History

- Paul thought of the salvation brought by Christ as taking place in the context of a historical process.
- Includes a “promise-fulfillment” scheme as well as a “mystery-revelation” scheme.

- Organizing Concept: Realm

- The “change of aeons” historically takes place at the cross.
 - Is experienced only in Christ



- “Center”: Union with Christ

- The “center” is debated by scholars.
- The author suggested that “union with Christ” is the combination of different motifs in Paul’s letters and can be used as the center.

