

# Final Performance Task Options for Unit 7

## Important Information for Both Options

The following are the main ideas that you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content:

- Early Christian leaders wrote these letters to pass on wisdom, correction, and ideas for formation.
- The Epistles provide insight into the miraculous growth of the Church and the deep love early Christians had for Jesus and for one another.
- The Epistles focus again and again on the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and on the mystery of the Church as the living Body of Christ acting in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- By studying these letters, modern readers gain insight into the formation of the early Christian Church and gain wisdom for how we are called to be the Church today.

## Option 1: Letter to Me

Think back to ten years ago. Where were you? What were you doing? Using the format and content of Saint Paul's letters as a model, write a letter to yourself in the past, providing insights and suggestions for how to live your life in the manner that best glorifies God.

Your letter should be approximately two pages in length and must include the following:

- **A proper greeting** that includes an explanation of why you are writing to yourself as well as thanking yourself for all you have accomplished thus far.
- **A body** containing at least five points that you are trying to make. These points may be related to growth in faith and the importance of Jesus. They may be constructive, critical, or positive reinforcement.
- **A conclusion** thanking yourself for something and praising God.
- **A proper closing**, one similar to Paul's, and then your signed name.

Like the letters of Saint Paul, your letter will be handwritten. Your letter should be written on some form of paper other than lined or plain white computer paper. Be creative! If you are concerned about your handwriting, you may include a typed copy of your letter along with the required handwritten letter.



## Option 2: Praxis of Themes: The Epistles in Action

Attend a weekly Eucharist at your church or another Christian church. At this service, be an observer. Sit in the back and watch what is taking place. It is up to you whether you participate in the service. Take notes on what you see, answering each of the following questions.

1. What type of a service did you attend, and where did you attend it (denomination and location)? Please submit a church bulletin with your essay.
  
2. How was the worship space organized?
  - Where were the people seated?
  
  - Where was the leader located?
  
  - Where were the ceremonial objects located?
  
3. Approximately how many people were in attendance, and what was their general age range?
  
4. What songs were used in the liturgy? Did the congregation sing along?
  
5. What were the readings?
  
6. What was the homily or sermon about? Did it reflect the readings in any way?



7. Notice the prayers that were said. Who said them? Did they sound familiar?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How did the service end? For example, were there announcements after the closing prayer? Was there a closing song?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Did people remain after the service to talk with one another or the leader? If so, how long did they stay? What was the nature of their interaction?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Is there anything in particular that struck you as interesting about the service? as unusual?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. When you left, did you feel you had benefited from attending? Why or why not?



Now reflect on your experience and the information about the community in the bulletin in view of the following passages from Saint Paul's letters.

- Romans, chapter 12: humble service in the Body of Christ
- 1 Corinthians, chapter 12: concerning spiritual gifts and the unity and diversity in the Body of Christ

Use your answers to the following questions to create a two-page essay on the ways you saw the instructions of Saint Paul in the Epistles acted out in the church you visited.

1. How did the service you attended promote Saint Paul's position on the Body of Christ?

2. How did the people who worshipped in this service contribute to the collective Body?

