The Format of the Pauline Letters

The Pauline letters have the following features in common:

Greeting

◦ Comes from sender to receiver.

◦ Is highly complimentary.

Prayer

◦ Most often provides a thanksgiving for the efforts and successes of the audience.

Body

◦ Addresses whatever issues the author wants to discuss.

◦ Includes general advice about Christian living.

◦ Discusses the accomplishments of the community.

◦ Pulls from and interprets Jesus’ teachings.

Closing

◦ Includes greetings and instructions to specific people.

◦ Provides a final blessing.