

HANDOUT 2 – AUTHORSHIP PROS AND CONS

Author	Pros	Cons
Paul	<p>Jewish background (Acts 23:6)</p> <p>Apostle. Wrote a lot of letters that were preserved by the early Christians</p>	<p>Doesn't have the normal opening and closing salutations that Paul uses.</p> <p>The Greek is much more sophisticated than the Greek that Paul typically uses. An example is Heb 9:15-18 where the author makes use of the double meaning of the word "diatheke" which in Greek can mean either "will" or "covenant". This type of word play was not at all typical of Paul.</p> <p>Doesn't have the establishment of his apostolic authority like all the rest of his letters do: Rom 1:1 ESV Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,</p> <p>Doesn't talk about trying to visit them or having recently been to visit them like all the rest of his letters do: Rom 1:13 ESV I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.</p> <p>Doesn't use himself as an example like he does in all the rest of his letters: Rom 15:17-19 ESV In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. (18) For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience--by word and deed, (19) by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God--so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;</p>
Luke	<p>Had the requisite command of the Greek language</p> <p>Had the requisite education</p>	<p>His other books were journals. We don't have any evidence that he was accepted as an apostolic authority in the sense that he was looked to for spiritual guidance.</p>
Barnabas	<p>Jewish background</p> <p>Apostle</p>	<p>No other evidence of books or letters like this, so we don't know what his Greek might have been like.</p>
Apollos	<p>Jewish and very learned man: Act 18:24 ESV Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.</p> <p>Apostle recognized by Paul: 1Co 3:6 ESV I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.</p>	<p>No other books or letters to compare to.</p>