



## SENTENCE STRUCTURE PRACTICE DRILL II PASSAGE

The collection of 4 prison epistles by Paul is a topical work dealing with philosophical doctrines, political,<sup>1</sup> and social issues widely discussed in the early Christian communities just after the apostolic missionary journeys. By most critical essays,<sup>2</sup> treating Paul's work has employed<sup>3</sup> theological or historical points of view. Because the Four Epistles is a passionate, masterly portrayal of living a life for Christ, a general assumption has evolved in the general critical world that the author wrote, at least in part, from personal experience. Nevertheless,<sup>4</sup> Paul's biography has been endlessly probed, explored, and it was thoroughly analyzed.<sup>5</sup> In 51 AD, Paul was convicted of consorting with early Christian factions: however, he was sentenced<sup>6</sup> to several prison terms. Many commentaries on the Four Epistles consider this experience formative and essential, certainly a major source of the highly skilled Jewish background that eventually resulted in the composition of the epistles. The entirety of the letters had been set<sup>7</sup> in prison, where he was incarcerated. When discipling<sup>8</sup> to his fellow prisoners and prison guards, he must have focused on sin and redemption and thought about the impact of the Christian life, granted that<sup>9</sup> he lived among those struggling with their faith like the Gentiles. One must ask, though, why he waited until later to write the Four Epistles. One possible answer is because<sup>10</sup> he wrote the epistles in part to speak to a wider Gentile audience while imprisoned in Macedonia leading to his eventual house arrest in Rome.