

God's Ghostwriters
Chapter Five Exercise: Organizing and Categorizing Books

Part One

Below is a photograph taken by the author in a Newark airport bookstore on June 30, 2014.



Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twentieth Century*, a former *New York Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller is a magnum opus on the subject of economics that provides, in the words of one reviewer "a sweeping account of rising inequality." Is this book non-fiction? Who do you think placed the book here and why? What reasons can you imagine for how this happened?

Part Two

Open your Bibles. Inside you will see the letters of Paul arranged in the following order: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews.

Why do you think the letters are in this order? Note that the books are not organized in chronological order.

Not all early Christians ordered the letters in this way. One early Christian thinker known as Marcion, who is best known for his rejection of the Hebrew Bible and Judaism, placed Galatians first. Take a look at Galatians, if you were reading Paul's letters from first to last, what difference would it make to read Galatians first? Why do you think that Marcion did this?

Most scholars think that Paul was completely uninvolved in the writing of some of the above letters (most commonly 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Hebrews, but sometimes also Colossians and Ephesians), what difference does it make that the letters are organized in this way?

How do you think the letters should be organized?