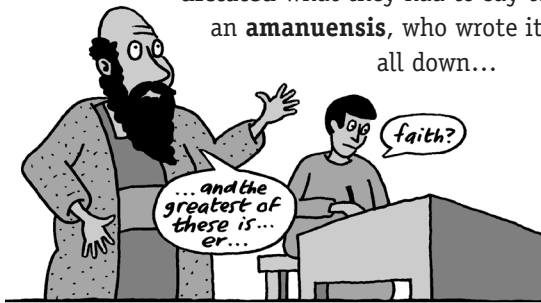


# Letter-writing

Did you know? The New Testament letter-writers didn't write their own letters. Instead, **they dictated** what they had to say to an **amanuensis**, who wrote it all down...



The amanuensis wasn't just a **dumb copyist**. He also helped phrase what the writer had to say. Once, Paul's writer signed off himself...

*I, Tertius, the writer of this letter, send you Christian greetings.*

And at other times, Paul grabbed the pen himself to finish a letter...

*With my own hand I write this: Greetings from Paul.*

## THE MAIL

The letters were carried by friends to their destinations. It could take **6–8 weeks** for a letter to reach Philippi from Rome. And a journey from Rome to Jerusalem took just over **3 months**, if the weather was good.

*Hmph. The Imperial Post took half the time...*



Roman letters of the first century AD didn't start 'Dear...' They always began with...

- the **writer's** name
- then the **reader's** name
- then a **greeting**

Paul used the standard Roman opening, but with a strong **Christian emphasis**: 'Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus... to Philemon... grace to you and peace...' (Philemon 1:1–3).