

Fall Semester, 1983
SYLLABUS

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Study material for each chapter both in the Bible and in a recommended Bible Commentary.
2. Read the Good News.
3. Turn in a term paper on approved topic by December 5, (5-8 pages).

TOPICS OF STUDY:

1. Background and story of Paul's life in the book of Acts.
2. Background and context of I Thessalonians.
3. Background and context of II Thessalonians.
4. Background and context of I Corinthians.
5. Background and context of II Corinthians.
6. Background and context of Galatians.
7. Background and context of Ephesians.

ASSISTANCE:

Please contact either Dr. Meredith or Bob Jones if any need arises at Faculty Offices (5520).

SIXTEEN OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLE PAUL



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THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

1. TARSUS:

The city stood in a ~~wide plain~~ between the Taurus Mountains and the Mediterranean. It is believed to be ~~one of the oldest cities of the world~~, with quite a historical past. During Paul's day it served as the ~~capital of Cilicia~~ and was a great ~~commercial center~~. Tarsus was probably best known as an ~~educational center~~. It boasted a famous university, ranking it intellectually with Athens and Alexander. Its university produced ~~distinguished teachers of Stoic philosophy and Roman law~~.

The city was a fitting place for Paul to be born and raised in considering the work he was to perform. Tarsus, as a busy trading center, was quite an ~~international city~~. Paul ~~learned several languages here as a child~~. Secondly, Tarsus' attention to intellectual pursuits created a ~~good background for young Paul to begin the education evidenced in his later writings~~. It was also here in Tarsus that Paul ~~acquired his Roman citizenship~~.

Excavation has so far been unable to recreate the city of Paul's day, which lies under the modern town and adjacent farmland.

2. DAMASCUS:

A beautiful ~~oasis among the desert~~ gives life to this ~~ancient~~ city. Its history is recorded in Egyptian records back to the 19th century B.C. It was the ~~scene of Abraham's rescue to Lot in Genesis 14:15~~. It is mentioned repeatedly during the time of the Kings as the capital of Aram. It was a ~~city of great note and influence~~ during this time period, as it is even to this day.

It was outside of this city that Jesus struck down the great oppressor of his people (Acts 9). It was here that Paul received his sight after the blinding vision and ~~immediately began~~ preaching the gospel in the city as he was commissioned to do.

3. JERUSALEM:

Located ~~32 miles east of the Mediterranean~~, between the Dead Sea on the south east. First mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20 as a ~~"holy city"~~. David ~~conquered it~~ and built the Israelite capital here many centuries later.

Jerusalem was the ~~site of the Church's beginning~~ on June 17, 31 A.D. (Acts 2). It served as the Church of God worldwide ~~headquarters between 31 and 69 A.D.~~ The Apostle James served as the local Church pastor.

Jerusalem was the ~~site of some of Paul's early years while training "at the feet of Gamaliel" (Acts 22:3). He was centered here as a persecutor of the Church. Later, after conversion, he made at least five visits to the headquarters city.~~

4. ANTIOCH:

Lying on the ~~main route for Mesopotamian and Arabian trade~~, Antioch was a ~~major city~~ between the West and Palestine. It was ~~founded in 301 B.C. by Seleucus Nicator, founder of the Seleucid Empire, who named the city after his father, Antiochus. It was the third largest city of the Roman Empire (est. 500,000) and was a busy center for government and commerce.~~

~~Paul~~ ~~pastored the church here for one year~~ (Acts 11:25-27) and used it as a ~~home base~~, beginning every major evangelistic tour from this point. It may be noted that the disciples were first called "Christians" in this city (Acts 11:26). Paul also ~~resided in the city for two years after his first journey through Asia Minor (Acts 14:27-28).~~

Galatians may have been written from here around October/November of 49 A.D.

5. THE ISLE OF CYPRUS:

~~Third largest island of the Mediterranean. Can be seen on a clear day from Asia Minor (looking south) and Syria (looking east). It has two mountain ranges with rich farmland in between. Its chief mercantile city was Salamis and its capital was Paphos.~~

Cyprus is ~~known for its abundance of copper~~ (the English word copper is derived from the island's name).

Paul's first evangelistic journey brought him to Cyprus from Antioch. It was here that they confronted Bar-Jesus, the false prophet, and Elymas, the Sorcerer (Acts 13:4-12). Later Barnabus and John Mark preached on the island (Acts 15:3).

6. GALATIA:

Galatia can be used in either an ethical or provincial term. We will focus on the ~~province which was instituted in 25 B.C. as a Roman territory. Inclusive in this area were ~~compartments~~ Paul visited on his first journey: The territory included ~~Antioch (of Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra and Derbe (Acts 13-14).~~~~

Paul and Barnabus were rejected of the Jews in Antioch (of Pisidia), yet many gentiles believed. The Jews expelled Paul and

Barnabus from Antioch (of Pisidia), so the Apostles came to Iconium (Acts 13:14-52). In Iconium both Jews and Gentiles believed, but unbelieving Jews conspired to stone the Apostles so they fled (Acts 14:1-6). Next the Apostles came to Lystra and Derbe where they were worshipped for healing a cripple. Then the unbelieving Jews of Antioch (of Pisidia) and Iconium stirred up the people to turn and stone Paul (Acts 14:19)! The people believing him to be dead left his body outside the city gates. The disciples came to his aid and Paul turned around and went back through each of the Galatian cities and preached the gospel once again (Acts 14:20-23).

Later on Paul's second journey, he meets Timothy in Galatia (Acts 16:1-6). He also visits the region on his third journey (Acts 18:23).

These churches were the destination of Paul's letter to "The Galatians." Acts describes churches in the area that would have encountered such problems as discussed in the letter. These churches consisted of both Jews and Gentiles.

7. PHILIPPI

Philippi was founded ~~by and named after Philip II of Macedonia in 360 B.C.~~ It is located 10 miles inland from the Aegean Sea and is situated in the north-east corner of Macedonia. Neapolis serves Philippi as its seaport. It was originally founded as a mining center to process gold and silver ~~found nearby.~~

At Paul's time Philippi was a ~~Roman colony~~ heavily populated by ~~retired soldiers of the Roman army~~ (Acts 16:12). There were ~~few Jews~~ in the city, cited by the fact that the city ~~lacked synagogues~~ (Acts 16:13).

Philippi was the ~~first European city visited by the Apostle.~~ He arrived on Pentecost 50 A.D. as he was directed by a vision received in Troas (Acts 16:9-13). Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten and imprisoned in Philippi, only to be freed by a miraculous earthquake (Acts 16:16-40). Later on Paul's third journey he sailed from Philippi (Neapolis, its seaport) after the Days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 20:6).

The ~~Philippians were very loyal to Paul~~ (Phil. 4:16) and were the recipients of one of the ~~epistles he wrote while imprisoned in Rome.~~

8. THESSALONICA:

The city was ~~founded in 515 B.C. by Cassander who named it in honor of his wife, the half-sister of Alexander the Great.~~ Its harbor is excellent, and served as the natural port for Macedonia.

The city was ~~Greek~~, with added Roman and Jewish elements. It was well ~~within~~ the sight of Mount Olympus, "Home of the Greek gods."

Paul visited the city on his second journey. Many believed yet the Jews stirred rioting which forced Paul and Silas from the city (Acts 17:1-10). Paul also passed through the area on his return leg of the third journey (Acts 19:21).

Paul's first canonized epistle was ~~sent~~ to the Church in Thessalonica ~~from Corinth around 50 A.D.~~ A second epistle was ~~sent the next year.~~

Few visible ruins of Thessalonica remain. Excavation is not feasible because the ~~modern city (Salonica) covers the ruins.~~ The current population is ~~400,000~~, about ~~double that of New Testament times.~~

9. ATHENS:

Athens is located in the ~~southeastern section of Achaea~~ (southern Greece) about ~~four miles inland from the Aegean.~~ It had been a ~~city of great importance in Greece over a thousand years prior to~~ New Testament times. Its main claim to fame was its culture. The Acropolis stands to this day testifying of the Athenian culture. It also ~~prided itself in its university,~~ ~~of the greatest in the world.~~

Paul made a brief visit here after fleeing persecution in Thessalonica (Acts 17). Moved by the abundance of idols found throughout the city, Paul gave his appeal for the Unknown God on ~~Marble Hill~~ (Acts 17:16-34). He made several converts before departing to Corinth.

10. CORINTH:

~~Located between east-west trade routes,~~ situated ~~on a narrow isthmus~~ between the Corinthian Gulf and the Aegean Sea. It was a ~~thriving~~ ~~commerce center,~~ housing ~~Greeks, Latins, Syrians, Indians, Egyptian and Jews.~~ Its ~~history goes back to the very beginning of Mediterranean Civilization.~~

This large city of approximately ~~400,000~~ citizens was known as a ~~center of pagan worship.~~ Thousands of temple prostitutes could be found in the cities places of worship. In fact, Corinth became so well known for its vice and immorality that the term ~~"Corinthian"~~ ~~is used to describe an immoral individual!~~

Paul first arrived in Corinth during his second evangelistic tour around 50 A.D. He resided there with Aquilia and Priscilla

and worked by day as a tent maker. The Jews rejected him here, but many of the Gentiles were called into the Church of God.

Many problems arose in the congregation at Corinth. Paul wrote two lengthy epistles while in Ephesus to correct such problems as divisions, immorality, improper observance of Passover, misuse of "tongues" and rumors to name a few.

Paul may have been able to return to them during his third journey (II Corinthians 13:1). Titus, Apollos and Timothy were able to serve the congregation in Corinth over the years.

11. EPHESUS:

The origin of the city is hidden in antiquity. The Greeks colonized it in 1044 B.C. and the Romans annexed it in 133 B.C. The city served as the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Asia was located on the western border (against the Aegean Sea) of modern day Turkey.

During Paul's day, Ephesus was the commercial metropolis of Asia. It stood between two chains of mountains, opening to a developed natural harbor. Roads radiated in every direction from the city into all of Asia. Ephesus boasted a population of some 300,000 residents.

The city was widely known for the temple of Diana (Acts 19:24), one of the seven wonders of the world. It was considered the grandest shrine in all the world and was visible to sailors in the Aegean Sea off the city's coasts.

Paul's first visit to Ephesus was on the return leg of his second journey (Acts 18:19). This brief visit was made while on route to Jerusalem (fourth visit). Paul returned on his third journey as recorded in Acts 19. He resided here for two years until the worshippers of Diana took offense at his teachings (Acts 19:23-41) and stirred violent rioting. This is quite understandable since the Ephesians took such pride in their world famous religion. Paul returned to the area (Miletus) to address the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:16-38) upon returning to Jerusalem for his fifth and final visit.

Paul, while imprisoned in Rome, wrote the Ephesians the epistle that bears the name. The letter is believed to have been sent around 60-61 A.D.

Today, much of the old city is still visible. The Amphitheater described in Acts 19:29 is still preserved in the Turkish hillside. We now know that it was capable of holding 25,000 people during that great riot.

12. CAESAREA:

This city served as the Jewish capital under the Roman procurators (e.g. Pilate). It was named in honor of Caesar Augustus by Herod the

Great. It was a fine seaport with ~~many palaces and lavish public buildings.~~

Paul's first recorded visit to Caesarea was at the conclusion of his second journey (Acts 18:22). He visited the evangelist Philip in Caesarea after his third journey (Acts 21:8). It was here that he was warned not to go to Jerusalem. Paul did however and ~~returned to Caesarea in chains to appear before Felix,~~ the procurator. His two year stay here gave the Apostle an opportunity to witness before the Judean leadership. He appeared before Agrippa (Acts 25:23-26:1-32) and was required to journey to Rome due to his appeal to Caesar (Acts 26:32).

13. MELITA

Commonly known as ~~Malta~~, this tiny island is situated ~~60 miles south of Sicily~~ in the Mediterranean Sea. Paul ~~remained~~ in Melita for ~~three months after becoming shipwrecked~~ while on route to Rome (Acts 28:1-11). It was here that Paul ~~shook off the viper~~ that was rendered harmless by a miracle of God. The Apostle was also able to perform many healings while on the island.

14. COLOSSAE:

A ~~relatively unimportant city~~ situated some ~~100 miles east of Ephesus~~ in the ~~Lycaonia Valley~~. It had ~~two neighboring cities, Laodicea and Hierapolis,~~ which had local Churches of God as well.

~~At the time Paul wrote his epistle to the Colossians, it appears he had never been there (Col. 1:4; 2:1). If he did visit Philomen, as he had intended to do (Phil. 22), it is most probable that he visited the Colossians also. Philomen was able to hold Church services inside his home (Phil 2) which served as a Colossian satellite church (conjecture from Col. 4:9; 4:17; and Phil. 2). His visit to the area would have probably taken place between his two Roman imprisonments.~~

The epistle to the Colossians was sent by Paul ~~during his Roman imprisonment~~ and was ~~intended to be read in all the local churches (Col. 4:16).~~

15. CRETE:

~~Fourth largest island of the Mediterranean,~~ located ~~south of the Aegean Sea,~~ about mid-way between Achaia and Asia Minor to its north. The island serves as a ~~home for legend and mythology.~~ It was on this island that the god Zeus was supposed to have been born. Its peoples have been renowned as ~~daring sailors and famous bowmen.~~ They are believed to have ~~descended from the Philistines,~~ and have been noted for retaining the ~~bad moral reputation of their ancestors.~~

The Church in Crete began much as the Church in Rome did, by ~~atives present at the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (31 A.D.).~~ Paul probably visited Crete between his two Roman imprisonments (Titus 1:5). He left Titus there to establish the Church and later ~~wrote him from Ephesus around 63-64 A.D.~~

16. ROME:

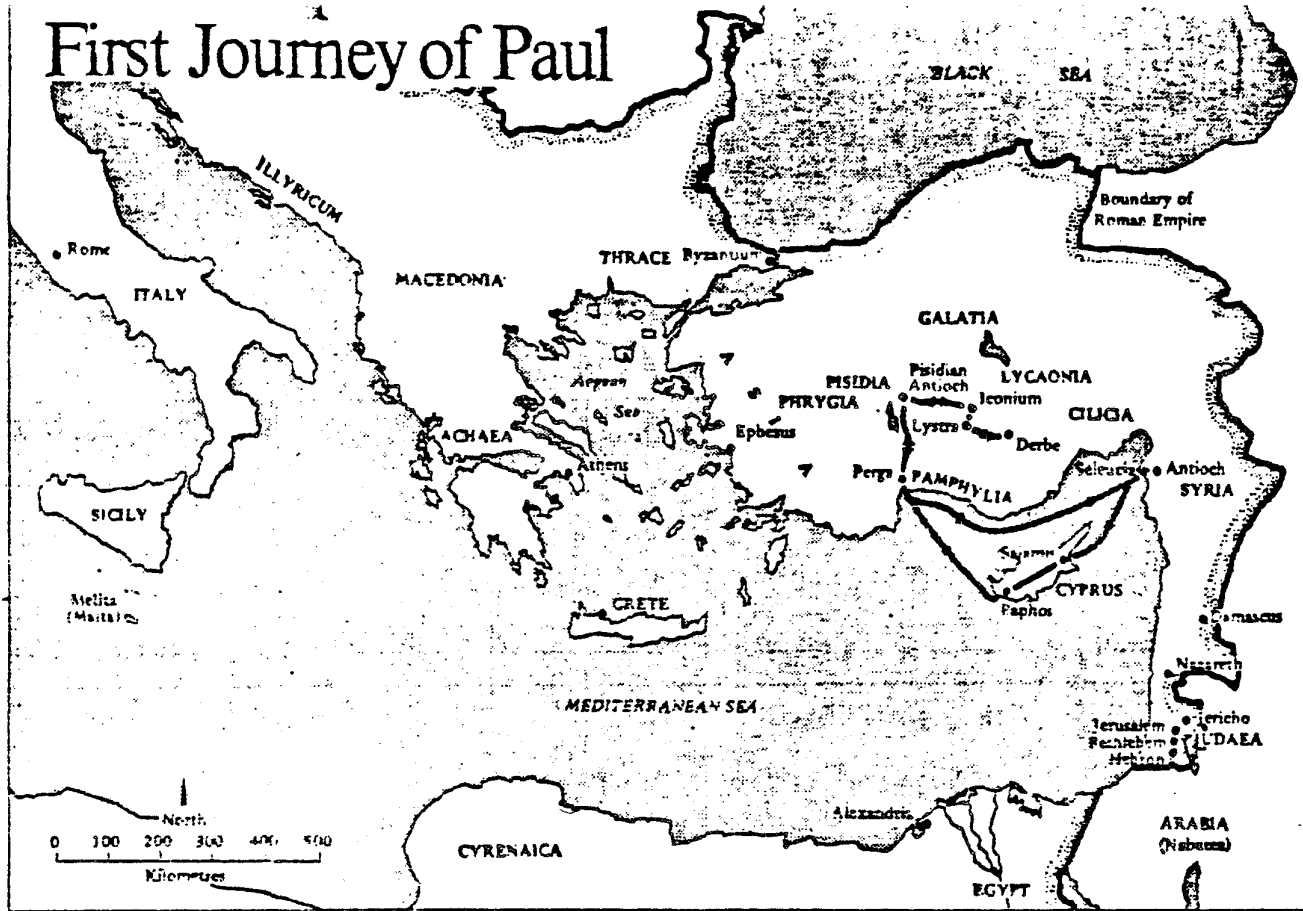
Rome, an ancient city dating back some 700 years prior to Christ's birth, was in the time Paul the powerful capital of a world-~~spanning~~ empire. The city sat upon seven hills along the Tiber River in what is today modern Italy. The city itself rests nearly fifteen miles inland from Italy's western coast.

Paul's first visit was in chains from Caesarea. He arrived in Rome after a long troublesome voyage and immediately held conference with Jewish leaders there (Acts 28:16-17). His first imprisonment was in his "own hired house" for two years (Acts 28:30). He received Onesimus here (Philem. 10) as well as Epaphroditus (Philip 4:18). He wrote the "Prison Epistles" of Colossians, Ephesians, ~~Philippians~~ and Philemon probably in 60-61 A.D. He expected acquittal as recorded in Philemon 22.

Activities between his two Roman imprisonments are rather sketchy. We may wonder if he was able to visit Philippi (Phil. 1:26; 2:24), Colossae (Philem. 22) and Spain (Romans 15:24,28). We may be rather sure he did visit Ephesus and Macedonia (I Timothy 1:3; 3:14,15) as well as Crete (Titus 1:5), Miletus (II Timothy 4:20), Troas (II Timothy 4:13), Corinth (II Timothy 4:20) and Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). It was during this time Paul probably wrote Timothy (first epistle) and Titus from Macedonia.

Finally we come to Paul's second arrest, his imprisonment and martyrdom. He is imprisoned as an ~~evildoer~~ (II Timothy 1:8; 2:8,9), and writes his final epistle to Timothy in anticipation of death between ~~65-67 A.D.~~ The epistle gives detail to Paul's situation during his second imprisonment. It was here in Rome that tradition states Paul was ~~beheaded~~.

First Journey of Paul



Second Journey of Paul

