

Life of Paul the Apostle



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Preface

This booklet contains the following material:

Introduction: The Historical Setting

Life of Paul (21 Lessons)

Outlines of Paul's Letters



Revised and reformatted
2018

My hope and prayer is that this study will help the reader and the student have a greater appreciation for the labors of the Apostle Paul.

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The Life of Paul

INTRODUCTION

Saul of Tarsus (Paul): the Apostle to the Gentiles. Acts 9:13-16

SETTING

Greek influence among the nations.

The Grecians had spread their culture and language throughout the world.

“Barbarian” was one who didn’t speak Greek. Rom.1:14, 1Cor.14:11, Act.28:2-4

Paul spoke Greek as well as Hebrew. Act.21:37-40

The original New Testament was written in Greek.

Greeks had displaced many Jews to the West, as the Babylonians earlier had moved many Jews to the East.

In some cities the Jews formed synagogues.

Note locations mentioned in Act.2:9-11

Greek religions consisting of many gods had degenerated into indulgences of passions and lusts.

This provided the setting for the Gospel, which leads mankind out of immorality and impurity.

Romans provided a reasonably stable government, allowing local rule whenever safe and advisable.

Paul used his citizenship to his advantage. Act.16:35-39; 25:10-12

Romans provided roads and vessels of commerce which allowed free and easy travel.

Thus “the fulness of time” (Gal.4:4) was more than mere preparation of the Jews. The Greeks had provided a universal language, and religion which demonstrated man’s inability to guide his own steps. The Romans provided a setting where Paul could have free access to all nations, with ease, of travel. The Jewish synagogues provided “stepping stones” for the spread of the Gospel.

THE JEWISH NATION

Three major religious sects: Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes. Minor sects: Zealots and Herodians.

Pharisees. Most influential:. More than a fraternal order.

Very strict. Act.26:5. Scrutinized the law with the scribes.

Focal point of Jewish “Legalism.” They felt that they alone could teach the Law correctly.

Joh.9:34,40-41

Placed emphasis on “traditions of the fathers.” Gal.1:14. Mar.7:1-13

Paid much attention to external worship. Mat.23:23, 25-33

Josephus: “...a body of Jews who professed to be more religious ... and explained the laws more precisely.”

Sadducees. Political party of Jewish aristocrats.

Josephus: “(they) gained only the well-to-do.”

Many priests were Sadducees. (Usually references to priests and chief priests refer to Sadducees.)

Rejected traditions.

Denied the resurrection (Mat.22:23, Act.23:8) and the existence of angels.

Essences. Not mentioned in New Testament.

Lived a simple life in their own settlements.

Did not participate in the temple worship; had their own purification rites.

Possibly they were the people who wrote the Dead Sea scrolls.

THE SYNAGOGUE

(assembly)

The first synagogues were probably built during Babylonian captivity. Their purpose was for the instruction in the Holy Scriptures.

Officials:

Ruler, who was responsible for the building and property. Had general oversight of public worship. Act.13:14-15

Minister (attendant) Luk.4:16-20. Had care of the scrolls, and instructor of children.

Assembly: Men and women were segregated. The more prominent taking the chief seats. Mat.23:6

Order of worship:

Recitation of Deu.6:4-5 (Shema)

Prayer

Scripture lesson from the Law. Act.13:14-15

Lesson from the Prophets. Luk.4:16

“Word of exhortation.” Act.13:15

Blessing by a priest (if no priest, a prayer) closed the service.

Out of this setting we see the coming of God’s “Apostle to the Gentiles.” Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee of Pharisees, born of Jewish parents in Cilicia, a Roman citizen by birth, instructed at the feet of Gamaliel, steeped in the traditions of the fathers. A zealous persecutor of both men and women who followed “the way”, Saul is prepared by God to do His bidding: preaching to the nations the Good News of salvation in Christ.

Reading Assignment for Lesson 1: “Paul’s Early Life”

Matthew 23:13-33

Acts 5:34-39, 7:58-8:1, 9:1-3, 18:3, 22:3-5, 23:6, 26:9-11

Galatians 1:14

Philippians 3:4-6

SAUL, THE MAN FROM TARSUS

EARLY LIFE

Born in Tarsus, capital of Cilicia. Act.22:3

Born about A.D. 1-5. It is estimated that Jesus was, at the most, 10 years older than Saul.

Tarsus was decreed a “free city.” But this did not mean that all of its inhabitants were “free.” “Free born.” His father had received the status of “citizen.”

Probably by reward for service, or by purchase.

Born of Jewish parents.

His father was of the tribe of Benjamin. Phi.3:5

His father was a Pharisee. Act.23:6

Taught the trade of tent making. Act.18:3

Received his Jewish instruction from Gamaliel (in Jerusalem). Act. 22:3

Customarily, this education began at age 13.

Saul excelled above his contemporaries. Gal.1:14

EARLY MANHOOD

A Pharisee. Act.23:6, Phi.3:4-6

Note: the Pharisees emphasized “traditions.”

Living during the time of John the Baptist and Jesus, he may have heard them speak. Certainly he did hear about them and their teachings.

He thought Jesus the Nazarene was the leader of the sect called “the way.” (Joh.14:6)

He didn’t concur with Gamaliel’s advice to leave the disciples alone. Act.5:34-42

He was present at Stephen’s death. Act.7:58, 8:1,3

He continued his persecution of the disciples. Act.9:1-3

Also note Act.26:9-11, 22:4-5

The name, “Saul of Tarsus” sent fear into the hearts of the disciples. Act.9:13-14, 21, 26-28

His name was changed to “Paul” during his first missionary journey. Act.13:9

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

His Roman citizenship.

His trade of tent making.

Gamaliel’s teaching and his advice.

The extent of Saul’s persecution of the disciples.

The harm of teaching traditions as more important.

The danger of a conscientious, but misinformed, protector of God’s way.

Reading Assignments for Lesson 2: “From Persecutor to Proclaimer”

Acts 9:1-19, 22:3-16, 26:12-16

John 16:1-3

Galatians 1:11-12

FROM PERSECUTOR TO PROCLAIMER

PREPARING TO GO TO DAMASCUS

After the killing of Stephen, the followers of “the way” were scattered because of a great persecution. Act.8:1-2

Saul of Tarsus had an active part in this persecution. Act.8:3, (26:10-11)

Saul secured authority to go to Damascus to persecute those belonging to the Way. Act.9:1-2 (22:5, 26:12)

Saul proceeds to Damascus with several men. Act.9:7a

ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Approaching the city, the Lord appears to Saul.

About noon, a bright light shone. Act.9:3 (22:6, 26:13)

Falling to the ground, he hears a voice. Act.9:4 (22:7, 26:14)

Saul inquires, “Who are you?”, and Jesus identifies himself. Act.9:5 (22:8, 26:15)

Jesus gives Saul instructions. Act.9:5-6 (22:10, 26:16-18)

The others were awestruck, but didn’t understand the voice. Act.9:7 (22:9)

IN DAMASCUS

Blinded, Saul is brought into the city. Act.9:8-9 (22:11)

For three days he fasted and prayed.

He receives a vision. Act.9:12

Ananias has a vision. Act.9:10-16

He is instructed to go to Saul, not fearing him.

Note: Ananias knew why Saul had come to Damascus.

Ananias comes to Saul. Act.9:17-19 (22:13-16)

Saul is baptized.

He abides there several days. Act.9:19-20

Proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God, rather than persecuting the followers of Christ.

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

The prophecy of such persecution. Joh.16:1-13

The result of the Christians being persecuted.

Saul’s use of the word “Lord” in Act.9:5

Saul’s conversion: separating the miraculous aspects from the ordinary.

Galatians 1:11-12

Saul, Apostle “out-of-due-season” in 1Co.15:8

The city of Damascus.

Reading Assignments for Lesson 3: “Saul’s First Years in the Church”

Acts 9:19-31

Galatians 1:16-21

SAUL'S EARLY YEARS IN THE CHURCH

IN DAMASCUS

Saul stays "several days" with the disciples, and proclaims Jesus in the synagogues saying "He is the Son of God." Act.9:19-22

The Jews were amazed by his speech.

He confounded the Jews by proving "Jesus is the Christ."

His message came directly from God. Gal.1:11-12

IN ARABIA

Arabia: the area of the large peninsula which includes the Arabian and Syrian deserts, and Mount Sinai. Gal.1:16-17

The exact area of his sojourn is not mentioned.

The length of time he spent is also unknown.

What Saul did in Arabia is open to speculation.

Was it a time for meditation, instruction or preaching?

RETURN TO DAMASCUS

"After many days." Act.9:23-25

Counted as three years in Gal.1:18

Jews plot to kill Saul.

They had the support of the governor. 2Co.11:30-33

Some disciples help him escape. (A humbling experience.)

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM AND ON TO TARSUS

In Jerusalem he was "persona non grata" among his former associates, and "suspect" among the disciples.

His desire to associate with the disciples is met with fear. Act.9:26-28

The testimony of Barnabas assured them.

During his brief visit of 15 days, he met only two of the Apostles, Cephas (Peter) and James. Gal.1:18-19

In arguing with the Hellenistic Jews, he was in danger of being killed. Act.9:29

The Lord appears to him in a vision and urges him to leave Jerusalem immediately. Act.22:17-21

The brethren send him away to Tarsus. Act.9:30

While in the regions of Cilicia and Syria, he preached "the faith he once tried to destroy." Gal.1:21-24

NOTE:

The peace (or "rest") that the church enjoyed (Act.9:31) was probably the result of several factors. The most active of the church's persecutors had ceased his attacks and now numbers himself with them.

The dispersion of the disciples to other areas.

The orders of Caligula to set up his statute in the temple at Jerusalem (to be worshiped as god).

Reading Assignments for Lesson 4: "Saul at Tarsus and Antioch"

Acts 10, 11, 12, 13:1-3

PREPARATION FOR SAUL'S WORK AMONG THE GENTILES

EVENTS AT CAESAREA

Cornelius, a devout Gentile, has a vision. Act.10:1-8
 Peter has a vision which convinces him to go to Cornelius' house. Act.10:11-23
 The Holy Spirit falls upon Cornelius and his household as a sign of God's acceptance.
 Act.10:34-35, 44-48

EVENTS AT JERUSALEM

Word is received by the brethren concerning what happened in Caesarea. Act.11:1
 Peter called upon to defend his actions. Act.11:2-4ff (cf. :17)
 The brethren accept Peter's testimony as evidence that "God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life." Act.11:18

EVENTS AT ANTIOCH

Some of those scattered by the persecution preach to the Gentiles, with many turning to the Lord.
 Act.11:19-21
 Barnabas sent to Antioch. Act.11:22-24
 Barnabas leaves for Tarsus to bring Saul to Antioch. Act.11:25-2b
 The disciples were first called "Christians" here.
 Barnabas and Saul take a contribution from Antioch to the brethren in Judea (who were in the midst of a famine). Act.11:27-30

BARNABAS AND SAUL IN JERUSALEM

About this time Herod Agrippa I had James put to death and put Peter in prison. Act.12:1-4
 Peter is miraculously delivered from his bonds.
 Herod is struck by an angel of the Lord, dies. Act.12:23 23
 The church continues to grow. Act.12:24
 Barnabas and Saul return to Antioch with John Mark accompanying them. Act. 12:25

THE CALL OF BARNABAS AND SAUL

They are sent to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Act.13:11-3

NOTES:

BARNABAS:

first mentioned. Act.4:36-37
 Joseph, who was surnamed Barnabas (Son of Encouragement)
 native of Cyprus
 full of the Holy Spirit Act.11:24

JOHN MARK:

(sometimes called "Mark" or "John")
 Acts 12:12 first mentioned
 cousin of Barnabas. Col.4:10

Reading Assignments for Lesson 5: "Saul's First Missionary Journey"

Acts 13:4 through 14:28

SAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

FIRST STOP: CYPRUS

Preached in the synagogues of Salamis. Act.13:4-5

Saul and Barnabas cross the island coming to Paphos. Act.13:6-12

While attempting to speak to the proconsul, they were opposed by Bar-Jesus (Elymas).

Sergius Paulus, the proconsul believes.

Note: Saul is now called "Paul" (13:9).

From this point forward Paul is mentioned first. (:13 and :42)

TO PERGA

John Mark returns to Jerusalem. Act.13:13

ON TO ANTIOCH (PISIDIA)

Entering the synagogue, Paul is asked to give a word of exhortation Act.13:14-41

He declares unto them "salvation in Christ Jesus."

Many became followers. Act.13:42-43

On the following Sabbath, the whole city assembles to hear the Word of God. Act.13:44-48

Jews become jealous; contradict Paul.

Paul focuses his attention on the Gentiles.

The word spreads through the whole region. Act.13:49

The Jews instigate a persecution; Paul and Barnabas are driven out of the area. Act.13:50

The disciples continued on in Antioch. Act.13:51-52

IN ICONIUM

Paul and Barnabas speak to the Jews and Greeks. Many believe. Act.14:1

Jewish opposition divides the city, so Paul and Barnabas flee. Act. 14:2-7

ON TO THE REGION OF LYCAONIA

At Lystra, Paul heals a man lame from birth. Act.14:8-10

The people of Lystra regard Paul and Barnabas as gods. Act.14:11-18

Jews from Antioch and Iconium come and stir up opposition to Paul and Barnabas; Paul stoned and left for dead. Act.14:19-20

In Derbe, they make many disciples. Act.14:21

Timothy. Act.16:1-2; Gaius. Act.20:4

BACK THROUGH LYSTRA, ICONIUM AND ANTOICH

They retrace their steps. Act.14:22-23

Strengthening and encouraging the disciples.

Appointing elders in every church.

PERGA, ATTALIA AND RETURN TO ANTIOCH

Paul and Barnabas preach in Perga. Act.14:24-25

Returning to Antioch, they give a report to the church. Act.14:26-28

They stay for some time.

Reading Assignments for Lesson 6: "The Council at Jerusalem"

Acts 15:1-35 and Galatians 2:1-21

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

AT ANTIOCH

Some men come from Jerusalem teaching the observance of the Law of Moses as a requirement for salvation. Act.15:1

“False brethren who had sneaked in to bring us into bondage.” Gal.2:4

Paul and Barnabas, along with others, are sent to Jerusalem to settle the issue. Act.15:2

Paul sent as a result of revelation. Gal.2:2

Titus is one of those sent. Gal.2:3

They pass through Phoenicia and Samaria describing the conversion of Gentiles.

IN JERUSALEM

Paul and Barnabas give a report of their work. Act.15:4

They have a private meeting with “those of reputation.” Gal.2:2-10

The believing Pharisees make their assertion. Act.15:5

The meeting is convened. Act.15:6

After much debate, Peter addresses the assembly. Act.15:7-11

Paul and Barnabas give their report. Act.15:12

James concludes the discussion. Act.15:13-20

The assembly drafts a letter to the Gentile Christians. Act.15:22-29

The letter is carried by Paul, Barnabas and others from Jerusalem, including Silas, Judas, and possibly John Mark. (cf. :37)

BACK IN ANTIOCH

The letter is read to the congregation. Act.15:30-31

The brethren from Jerusalem leave after spending some time there. Act.15:32-34

Silas remains in Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas continue to preach and teach along with many others. Act.15:35

Paul and Barnabas plan to return and visit brethren. Act.15:36-39

A sharp disagreement arises over John Mark.

Barnabas takes John Mark and sails to Cyprus.

Paul chooses Silas and travels through Syria and Cilicia. Act.15:40-41

DISCUSS

The role Antioch has in this dispute.

The Judaizers' estimate of Paul.

The difficulty the Jews had in having fellowship with the Gentiles.

The need for Gentiles to be sensitive of Jewish scruples.

NOTE: Paul makes five trips to Jerusalem as an Apostle. (1) Coming from Damascus, (2) from Antioch with aid for brethren, (3) from Antioch to attend the council, (4) between his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys, and (5) when he brought aid from the Gentiles and was arrested. Galatians chapter 2 seems to refer to his third trip.

Reading Assignment for Lesson 7: “Paul’s Second Journey” (Part 1)

Acts 15:40-16:40

PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY (PART 1)

THROUGH SYRIA AND CILICIA

Paul selects Silas to travel with him. Act.15:40-41
(Barnabas had taken John Mark and sailed to Cyprus.)

IN DERBE AND LYSTRA

Paul meets Timothy, who is chosen to travel with Paul and Silas. Act.16:1-3

THROUGH THE REGIONS OF GALATIA AND PHRYGIA

They deliver the decree of the Council, strengthening the churches. Act.16:4-5
There were many churches in the area. Gal.1:2, 1Co.16:12
Paul possibly became sick at this time. Gal.4:13-14

ON TO TROAS

They were forbidden to preach in Asia, or to go to Bithynia. Act.16:7-8
Paul has a vision of a man of Macedonia. Act.16:9-10
Paul and Silas meet Luke. Act.16:10

PUT OUT TO SEA FROM TROAS

Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke make the trip. Act.16:11
They land at Neapolis, then go on to Philippi. Act.16:12

AT PHILIPPI

Lydia responds to Paul's preaching. Act.16:13-15
Paul casts out a spirit of divination from a slave girl. Act.16:16-18
Her masters stir up trouble. Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into prison. Act.16:19-24
In prison, while they sang and prayed, an earthquake opened the prison doors. Act.16:25-28
The fearful jailer hears the word of the Lord and is baptized. Act.16:29-34
Paul and Silas demand a "public" release. Act.16:35-39
Having encouraged the brethren, Paul and Silas depart.
Timothy goes with them. (cf. Act.17:14)
Luke remains in Philippi. (cf. Act.20:6)

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

Biography of Timothy.
Biography of Luke.

Reading Assignments for Lesson 8: "Paul's Second Journey (Part 2)"

Acts 17:1-34

PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY (PART 2)

TO AMPHIPOLIS, APOLLONIA AND THESSALONICA

Paul, Silas, and probably Timothy, travel together. Act.17:1
 In the synagogue Paul proclaims Jesus as the Christ. Act.17:2-4
 Some Jews, being jealous, form a mob. Act.17:5-9
 They storm Jason's house looking for Paul and Silas.
 Jason, and some others, are dragged before the authorities.
 They are released after posting bond.
 (Note Paul's conduct as described in 1Th.2:1-11.)

TO BEREA BY NIGHT (about 50 miles)

Paul's preaching in the synagogue is eagerly received. Act.17:10-12
 When some Jews from Thessalonica arrive and stir up the crowds, Paul is sent away. Act.17:13-15
 (to the sea – about 40 miles)
 Silas and Timothy stay in Berea.

ON TO ATHENS

Paul, brought to Athens by some of the brethren from Berea, sends word back for Silas and Timothy to come quickly.
 Being provoked by the sight of idols, Paul reasons daily in the synagogue and in the market place. Act.17:16-17
 Some philosophers who heard Paul, take him to the Aeropagus. Act.17:18-21
 Paul proclaims "the unknown God" to them. Act.17:22-31
 The mention of a resurrection brought the session to close. Act.17:32-33
 Some believe his message. Act.17:34
 Paul departs for Corinth, where Silas and Timothy will join him. Act.18:1

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

Paul's purpose for going to the metropolitan areas, such as Thessalonica.
 The city of Athens with all its idols.
 The Epicurean and Stoic philosophies.
 The purpose and/or reasons why Paul labored at tent-making.

Reading Assignments for Lesson #9: "Paul Second Journey (Part 3)"

Acts 18:1-22, 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

PAUL'S SECOND JOURNEY (PART 3)**IN CORINTH**

Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla, who were tent-makers.

He stays with them and works with them. Act.18:1-3

Every Sabbath Paul reasons in the synagogue. Act.18:4

When Silas and Timothy arrive, Paul devotes all of his time to preaching. Act.18:5-11

Many of the Jews resist Paul, but some (along with many Corinthians) believed and were baptized.

Paul receives a vision to encourage him; he spends at least 18 months in Corinth. (1Co.2:2-3)

Paul pens 1 and 2 Thessalonians.

(1 & 2 Thessalonians}

The Jews seek to set the new governor against Paul. Act.18:12-17

Gallio refuses to become involved in the matter.

SETS SAIL FOR SYRIA

At Cencrea, Paul boards a ship with Aquila and Priscilla. Act.18:18

During a brief stop at Ephesus, Paul reasons in the synagogue. Act.18:19-21

Aquila and Priscilla stay at Ephesus.

Paul travels to Caesarea, greets the church in Jerusalem, returns to Antioch. Act.18:22-23

THINGS TO DISCUSS

Aquila and Priscilla, and their reason for being in Corinth.

What hindered some of the Jews and Greeks from believing? (cf. 1Co.1:18-2)

Construct a list of known converts at Corinth. (Using Acts 18 and 1Co.1)

The contents of 1 and 2 Thessalonians

The difficulty in determining the movement of Silas and Timothy during this period. (cf. 1Th.3:1-7)

Reading Assignment for Lesson #10: "Paul's Third Journey, Part 1"

Acts 18:22-19:41

PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY (PART 1)

THROUGH GALATIA AND PHRYGIA

Paul busies himself strengthening the disciples. Act.18:23

TO EPHEBUS

Apollos comes to Ephesus. Act.18:24-28

Knowing only the baptism of John, he is taken aside by Aquila and Priscilla.

Afterwards, he travels on to Achaia preaching Jesus as the Christ. (Cf. 1Co.3:6)

Upon arriving, Paul finds some followers who were baptized into John's baptism. Act.19:1-7

After baptizing them into Jesus Christ, Paul laid his hands on them.

Paul preached for 3 months in the synagogue, but opposition caused him to leave. Act.19:8

In the school of Tyrannus, Paul continues to teach for two years. Act.19:9-10

He also taught from house-to-house. Act.20:20

God performed extraordinary miracles by Paul. Act.19:11-12

Some Jewish exorcists, while attempting to cast out evil spirits by using the name "Jesus," find their attempt backfiring.

This causes many believers to fear greatly and confess their magical practices and to rid themselves of their books.

Paul sends Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia. Act.19:21-22

Demetrius, the silversmith, instigates a riot.

He was disturbed over loss of business. Act.19:23-28

Gaius and Aristarchus are dragged into the assembly by a mob. Act.19:29-31

After two hours of uproar, the town-clerk quiets and disperses the assembly. Act.19:32-41

THINGS TO DISCUSS

The city of Ephesus as a center of worship of Diana.

The practice of magical arts.

What possible reason God may have had in performing "extraordinary miracles" in Ephesus.

Brethren who are known to have been with Paul in Ephesus:

Timothy (Act.19:22, 1Co.4:17, 16:10-11)

Erastus (possibly the same as in Corinth) (Rom.16:23)

Titus (possibly, note 2Co.2:12-13)

The appointment of elders at sometime. cf. Act.20:17

Reading Assignment for Lesson 11: "Paul's Third Journey (Part 2)"

Acts 20:1-15 and the 1 Corinthian letter

PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY (PART 2)

WHILE AT EPHEBUS

Brethren from Corinth visit Paul.

Members of Chloe's household. 1Co.1:11

Fortunatus, Achaicus and those of household of Stephanas. 1Co.16:15-18

Apollos returns from Corinth. 1Co.16:12

Possibly Erastus. Act.19:22 with Rom.16:23

The 1 Corinthian letter is written.

(1 Corinthians)

After receiving a letter from them (1Co.7:1) and hearing from some of the members. 1Co.1:11

Probably, this letter was preceded by a letter of which no copy has been preserved.

1Co.5:9-11

Paul possibly made a brief visit to Corinth during this period. (Note: 2Co.12:14, 13:1-2 "third visit")

TO MACEDONIA

Paul travels by way of Troas. Act.20:1 and 2Co.2:12-13

He doesn't find Titus (who had gone to Corinth) as expected. 2Co.12:18

At Philippi, Paul finds Titus. 2Co.7:5-16

Paul pens the **second letter to the Corinthians.**

(2 Corinthians)

THROUGH "THOSE DISTRICTS"

Probably included Illyricum (Dalmatia). Act.20:2 and Rom.15:19

ON TO GREECE

Stays with Gaius while in Corinth. Rom.16:23

Paul received word from Galatia, and writes the letter to the churches of Galatia.

He also writes the Roman letter.

(Romans and Galatians)

A plot by the Jews causes Paul to alter his trip to Syria, traveling by way of Macedonia. Act.20:3-4

Sopater (Berea), Aristarchus and Secundus (Thessalonica), Gaius (Derbe), Timothy, Trophimus and Tychicus (Asia) accompany Paul.

BY WAY OF MACEDONIA

Luke rejoins Paul in Philippi. Act.20:5

ACROSS TO TROAS

Paul meets with the church. Act.20:6-12

Eutychus falls out of the window.

Paul and his traveling companions head for Miletus. Act.20:13-15

THINGS TO DISCUSS

The contents of 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians and Romans.

Travel by brethren between Ephesus and Corinth.

The details of the collection Paul has encouraged.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #12: "Paul's Third Journey (Part 3)"

Acts 20:16 through 21:16

PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY (PART 3)

AT MELITUS

The elders of Ephesus are called to Melitus by Paul. Act.20:17

Paul speaks at length to the elders. Act.20:18-35

Speech filled with recollections, warnings, and admonitions.

A tearful farewell. Act.20:36-38

Note: Rom.15:25-32 where Paul's apprehensions are expressed.

THE TRIP TO JERUSALEM

The group travels by boat to Cos, Rhodes, and Patara. Act.21:1-2

Changing ships, they sail to Tyre. Act.21:2-6

They meet with the brethren.

Paul is warned not to go to Jerusalem.

During a one day stop at Ptolemais, they meet with the brethren. Act.21:7

Arriving at Caesarea, they stay at Philip's house. Act.21:8-14

Agabus warns Paul about what awaits him in Jerusalem.

Accompanied by some brethren from Caesarea, they travel to Jerusalem. Act.21:15-16

They are given lodging at Mnason's house.

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

The composition of the group traveling with Paul.

The inner feelings Paul must have experienced in going to Jerusalem.

The attitude of the Jews towards Paul.

The thinking that prevailed among the Jews who believed, concerning the Law and Paul.

The determination of Paul to go ahead, in spite of the dangers.

The brotherly love that existed between the churches and Paul's group.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #13: "Paul in Jerusalem"

Acts 21:17 - 22:29

PAUL IN JERUSALEM

PAUL MEETS WITH JAMES AND THE ELDERS

He relates the work of God among the Gentiles. Act.21:17-19

Paul is informed of what is being said about him by many believing Jews. Act.21:20-21

A conciliatory act is suggested so as to quiet the furor against Paul. Act.21:22-26

PAUL IS MOBBED IN THE TEMPLE

Jews from Asia stir up the people. Act.21:27-30

They charge Paul with bringing a Gentile into the temple (they supposed he brought in Trophimus).

A riot ensues; Paul is in danger of being killed.

The Roman cohort rescues Paul from the mob. Act.21:31-36

A request to speak to the people is granted by the official. Act.21:37-40

PAUL SPEAKS FROM THE STEPS OF THE BARRACKS

The crowd listens until he mentions being sent by God to the Gentiles. Act.22:1-21

The crowd bursts into a rage. Act.22:22-24

PAUL IS ORDERED TO BE EXAMINED BY SCOURGING

Mention of his Roman citizenship spares Paul. Act.22:25-29

Paul remains in custody overnight.

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

Which "James" is mentioned here?

Did Paul actually teach the Jews not to circumcise, or walk according to customs?

How fault-finders manage to manufacture faults ("suppose").

The location of the temple and the barracks in Jerusalem.

Do we know who was the "Egyptian" mentioned in Act.21:38?

Note what Paul used as his reasons for going to the Gentiles.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #14: "Paul Before the Council"

Acts 22:30-23:35

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL ASSEMBLES

They were ordered to assemble by the Roman commander. Act.22:30
 The purpose was to ascertain why the Jews had accused Paul.
 Paul is brought to the council by Claudius Lysias.

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Paul's intense look and claim of a "good conscience," so arouses the high priest that he has Paul's mouth struck. Act.23:2-5
 Paul has strong words for the high priest. (Law. Lev.19:15, Deu.25:2)
 Bystanders question Paul's rebuke.
 With no chance for a fair hearing, Paul utters words which stirs up a bitter debate. Act.23:6-10
 Fearing for the safety of Paul, the commander takes him away by force.

THE LORD APPEARS TO PAUL

This is the fourth such occurrence. Act.23:11
 Other occurrences were:
 On the road to Damascus. Act. 9:5
 In Jerusalem. Act.22:17-21
 At Corinth. Act.18:9-10

A CONSPIRACY TO KILL PAUL

More than 40 bind themselves with an oath. Act.23:12-15
 The chief priests, elders and members of the Council are involved.

THE PLOT IS FOILED

Paul's nephew, hearing of the plot, informs Paul. Act.23:16
 The commander is told of the plot. Act.23:17-22

DURING THE NIGHT, PAUL IS SENT TO CAESAREA

His safety is insured by a large group of soldiers. Act.23:23-24
 A letter of explanation is sent along with Paul. Act.23:25-32
 The foot soldiers travel only as far as Antipartis.
 Paul, having been delivered to Felix, is kept in Herod's Praetorium awaiting his accusers. Act.23:32-36

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

Paul's claim of a "good conscience before God."
 The composition of the Council.
 Whether Ananias was really the high priest.
 God thwarting the plans of men which run counter to His plans.
 How enmity between sects can prevent any joint effort.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #15: "Paul Before Felix and Festus"
 Acts 24:1-25:12

PAUL BEFORE FELIX AND FESTUS

IN CAESAREA BEFORE FELIX

Ananias, Tertullus, and others come to Caesarea. Act.24:1

Tertullus presents the charges against Paul before Felix. Act.24:2-9

Charge #1: Paul was a pest who stirred up dissension among the Jews everywhere.

Charge #2: He was a ringleader of the “Nazarene” sect.

Charge #3: He tried to desecrate the temple.

Paul’s defense. Act.24:10-21

Shows that charge #1 is unfounded (:11-13).

Declares charge #2 has some truth in it (although he differed with their view of “the way”).

But he maintains his unwavering belief in the Law and the prophets. (:14-16)

Charge #3 is declared untrue, and mere hearsay. (:17-19)

That the elders and high priest know what he did before the Council, let them testify about that. (:20-21).

Felix puts off making a decision. 24:22-23

Paul is kept in custody, but friends are allowed to come to him.

PAUL IS GIVEN AN AUDIENCE WITH FELIX AND DRUSILLA

In one of many such conversations, Paul preached “faith in Christ Jesus.”Act. 24:24-26

Felix thought Paul might attempt to buy his freedom.

Paul remains in custody for 2 years, awaiting the outcome.

FESTUS SUCCEEDS FELIX

(Felix leaves Paul in custody as a political expedient.)

While in Jerusalem, Festus hears of the Jews’ complaint against Paul. A hearing is set for Caesarea (not Jerusalem). Act.25:1-5

PAUL BEFORE FESTUS

The Jews bring many unproved charges. Act.25:6-8

Festus, wishing to please his new subjects, asks Paul if he’d consent to go to Jerusalem. Act.25:9

Paul appeals to Caesar. Act.25:10-12

THINGS TO DISCUSS

The lawyer’s version of what happened in Jerusalem.

Paul’s truthfulness in his defense.

The character of Felix (as noted by historians).

How Paul’s account, not Tertullus’, agreed with the letter from Claudias Lysias.

The circumstances surrounding Felix’s removal from office (as recorded by historians).

Reading Assignment for Lesson #16: “Paul’s Defense Before Agrippa”

Acts 25:13 - 26:32

PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE KING AGRIPPA

PAUL REMAINS IN CUSTODY IN CAESAREA

King Agrippa and Bernice arrive in Caesarea. Act.25:13
 Festus discusses Paul's case with Agrippa. Act.25:14-21
 King Agrippa requests to hear Paul. Act. 25:22

PAUL IS BROUGHT BEFORE KING AGRIPPA

Festus convenes a hearing attended by military commanders and prominent men. Act.25:23
 Festus makes a request of those assembled. Act.25:24-27
 King Agrippa gives Paul permission to speak. Act.26:1

PAUL'S DEFENSE

His comments concerning the king's knowledge. Act.26:2-3
 Describes his former life as a Pharisee. Act.26:4-18
 Believing what he was taught as a Jewish youth.
 Persecuting the followers of Jesus.
 His vision on the road to Damascus.
 Tells of his obedience to the "heavenly vision." Act.26:19-23
 Proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, to Jews and Gentiles.
 Suffering violence at the hands of his countrymen.

FESTUS INTERRUPTS

Accuses Paul of being "out of his mind." Act.26:24
 Paul replies that the king also knows of these matters. Act.26:24-25

PAUL CONFRONTS KING AGRIPPA

Appeals to the king to accept the fulfillment of the prophets. Act.26:27-29

THE HEARING ENDS

King Agrippa declares that Paul has done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. Act.26:30-32

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

King Agrippa's knowledge of Jewish matters.
 The basis of Paul's defense.
 His remarks being directed to the king. (Act.26:2-3, 7, 13, 19, 27-29)
 Was the audience any help to Festus in describing the charges against Paul?
 The appeal process afforded to Roman citizens.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #17: "The Trip to Rome"

Acts 27:1-28:14

THE TRIP TO ROME

THE VOYAGE BEGINS

Paul is accompanied by Luke and Aristarchus. Act.27:1-2

At Sidon, Paul is allowed to go ashore. Act.27:3

At Lycia, a change of ships is made. Act.27:4-6

Encountering contrary winds, they sail under the shelter of Crete and stop at Fair Havens. Act.27:7-8

The centurion is not persuaded by Paul's warning concerning the danger of going on. Act.27:9-12

THE STORM AT SEA

Having set sail with favorable winds, they encounter a violent wind and storm that assails them for many days. Act.27:13-20

All hope of being saved was gradually abandoned.

Paul speaks words of encouragement to those aboard. Act.27:21-26

An angel had spoken to Paul, telling him no one would be lost; and the ship would run aground on a certain island.

THE SHIPWRECK AT MALTA

During the night, the sailors sense that land was near. Act.27:27-29

Some sailors try to slip away in the ship's boat, but are warned to stay aboard by Paul. Act.27:30-32

Paul again encourages the people onboard (all 276 of them). Act.27:33-37

The ship breaks up on a reef, but all reach shore safely. Act.27:38-44

ON MALTA

Much kindness is shown by the inhabitants. Act.28:1-2

Paul, bitten by a viper, is unharmed. Act.28:3-6

The natives consider him a god.

Paul heals Publius' father (and many others). Act.28:7-10

THE VOYAGE IS RESUMED

After three months, they board another ship. Act.28:11

Landing at Puetoli, Paul spends seven days with some brethren. Act.20:12-14

Paul arrives in Rome, with some brethren accompanying him. Act.28:15

THINGS TO DISCUSS

The kind treatment by Julius.

The detail of the voyage as given by Luke.

Paul's visit by an angel in a moment of hopelessness.

The viper's bite having no effect on Paul.

The encouragement Paul must have felt as some brethren accompanied him the last few miles.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #18: "Two Years In Rome"

Acts 28:16-31

TWO YEARS IN ROME

PAUL, THE PRISONER

He is able to stay in his own quarters. Act.28:16

Remains in chains. (:20)

On the third day he calls a meeting with the leading Jews. Act.28:17-22

Later, he is given an opportunity to preach Jesus to a large number of Jews. Act.28:23-29

For two years, Paul preaches to all who came to him. Act.28:30-31

As a result of his preaching:

The cause of Christ became well known among the Praetorian guard. Phi.1:13

Some of Caesar's household were converted. Phi.4:22

Other proclaimers became more courageous. Phi.1:14

THE TRIAL IS NOT HELD IMMEDIATELY

It was necessary for his accusers to appear in person.

The charges against him were three-fold (Acts 24:5):

A pest who stirred up dissension everywhere.

Ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

Desecrated the temple in Jerusalem.

According to Roman law, each charge would be dealt with individually, thereby drawing out the proceedings.

All proceedings would be at the convenience of the Emperor.

PAUL'S INTERACTION WITH HIS FELLOW-WORKERS

Aristarcus. Traveling companion of Paul from Thessalonica. Act.19:29, 20:4, 27:2, Col.4:10, Phm.24

Luke. Made the voyage with Paul; was with him in Rome. Col.4:14, Phm.24

Timothy. Paul's "son in the faith." Phi.2:19-24, Phm.24

Mark. Barnabas' cousin who had regained Paul's confidence. 2Ti.4:11, Col.4:10, Phm.24

Demas. Fellow-worker who later deserts Paul. Col.4:14, 2Ti.4:10

Jesus (Justus). Col.4:11

Epaphras. A fellow worker from Colossae. He brought news of the church there. Col.1:7-8,4:12, Phm.23

Epaphroditus. A messenger from the church in Philippi. Phi.2:25-30,4:18

Tychicus. Messenger from Asia. Act.20:4, 2Co.8:19ff, Eph.6:21, Col.4:7-9

Onesimus. A converted runaway slave who served Paul. Col.4:9, Phm.10-19

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

How Paul's bonds actually helped in spreading the Gospel.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #19: "While in Rome (Part 1)"

Philemon, Colossians

WHILE IN ROME (PART 1)**ENCOUNTER WITH ONESIMUS**

Onesimus becomes a Christian. Phm.10

A slave of Philemon, Onesimus had come to Rome.

Philemon was a Christian in Colossae. Col.4:8-9

Paul desired to keep Onesimus with him at Rome, but sent him back to Philemon. Phm.13-14

Paul sent a letter along with Onesimus.

(Philemon)

This letter is a classic example of “applied Christianity.”

concern and consideration for others

praising another’s goodness

consideration for the rights of others

suppression of own desires

settling of accounts

expressing confidence in others

the use of tact

intercession

TYCHICUS SENT TO COLOSSAE

Probably traveled with Onesimus. Col.4:7-9

Probably carried Paul’s letter to the church at Colossae.

(Colossians)

There were errors prevalent in Colossae:

angel worship

asceticism

self-styled philosophy or “gnosis “

rigid observance of Jewish festivals

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

The contents of Philemon.

The matter of living as a Christian, as well as preaching Christ.

The contents of Colossians.

The matter of Christian’s having slaves.

The common punishment for runaway slaves.

Reading Assignment for Lesson #20: “While in Rome (Part 2)”

Ephesians and Philippians

WHILE IN ROME (PART 2)

PAUL WRITES THE EPHESIAN LETTER

Tychicus probably carried this letter along with the Colossian letter and the personal letter to Philemon.
 Eph.6:21-22 (cf. Col.4:7-9) **(Ephesians)**

There are many corresponding passages to what is contained in the letter to the Colossians.
[See chart below]

EPAPHRODITUS ARRIVES FROM PHILIPPI

Brings gifts to Paul. Phi.4:14-18
 This was not the first time that the church aided Paul.
 He becomes deathly sick, but recovers. Phi.2:25-30
 Paul sends him back with the letter to the Philippians.

(Philippians)

THINGS TO DISCUSS:

- What do the similarities between Ephesians and Colossians suggest?
- Was Ephesians a “circulatory” letter?
- Could Ephesians be the “lost” letter to Laodicea?
- Note the small amount of censure in the Philippian letter.
- Note the large amount of personal references in the Philippian letter.
- Who traveled with Tychicus as he carried these letters to the churches?
- How many letters of the New Testament did Paul write while he was in Rome (this time)?
- Discuss the contents of Ephesians.
- Discuss the contents of Philippians.

EPHESIANS	COLOSSIANS
1:15-19	1:9-11
1:20-23	1:15-19
1:10	1:20
2:1-10	1:21-23
3:7	1:25
3:9-10	1:26-27
3:17	2:7
2:11-22	2:11-15
4:14	2:8
4:15-16	2:19
4:25	3:9
4:22-24	3:9-10
4:32	3:12
5:19-20	3:16-17
5:21, 6:6-9	3:18-22, 4:1
6:19	4:3
5:16	4:5

Reading Assignment for Lesson #21: “Following His Release”
 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy 4:9-20

FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE

TRAVELS TO SPAIN?

Tradition says he went to Spain, fulfilling his expressed desire. (Rom.15:28). There is, however, no evidence to sustain this view.

PLACES PAUL VISITED

There is evidence that Paul, at one time or another, went to the following places. However, the exact order is hard to determine.

Colossae. Fulfilling his intentions to visit Philemon. Phm.22

Ephesus, where he leaves Timothy, charging him to carry on the work in that area. 1Ti.1:3

Macedonia, which would include Thessalonica and Philippi. cf. Phi.2:24

At this time, Paul pens his first letter to Timothy.

(1 Timothy)

Crete, where he leaves Titus to finish the work. Tit.1:5

Nicopolis, where he hopes to winter. Titus was to join him there. Tit.3:12

Miletus, where he leaves Trophimus sick. 2Ti.4:20

Troas, where he leaves behind his cloak and parchments. 2Ti.4:13

Corinth, where his helper, Erastus, remained. 2Ti.4:20

BACK IN ROME

This time as a “criminal” in chains. 2Ti.2:9

Paul sees no hope for his release. 2Ti.4:6-8

The trial has already begun. 2Ti.4:16-18

Writes his second letter to Timothy.

(2 Timothy)

Timothy is aware that many in Asia oppose Paul. 2Ti.1:15

Phygelus and Hermogenes are specifically mentioned.

Hymenaeus and Philetus are said to have “gone astray.” 2Ti.2:17-18

Demas deserts Paul, goes to Thessalonica. 2Ti.4:10

Only Luke remains with him. 2Ti.4:11

PAUL'S FELLOW-WORKERS CARRY ON THE WORK

Crescens in Galatia. 2Ti.4:10

Titus goes to Dalmatia.

Tychicus is sent to Ephesus. 2Ti.4:12

Erastus remains in Corinth. 2Ti.4:20

Timothy is asked to come to Rome by way of Troas; bringing Mark with him. 2Ti.4:11,13

THINGS TO DISCUSS

The mounting opposition to Paul's authority in Asia.

The importance of having churches organized.

The persecution of the church by Nero.

The contents of 1 Timothy, Titus, and 2 Timothy.

Did Demas forsake Christ, as well as Paul?

OUTLINES OF LETTERS

Book of Hebrews Not Included

ROMANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 58 A.D.

THEME: *The Gospel of Christ, the Power of God Unto Salvation*

INTRODUCTION

Greetings from the Apostle	1:1-7
Paul's concern for them; his plans to visit them	1:8-15
Statement of the theme of the letter	1:16-17

ALL MANKIND UNDER CONDEMNATION OF SIN

Sinfulness of the Gentiles.	1:18-32
Sinfulness of self-righteous.	2:1-16
Sinfulness of Jews	2:17-3:8
Sinfulness of all mankind.	3:9-20

JUSTIFICATION OF SINNERS WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Righteousness obtained by faith in Christ.	3:21-31
Example of Abraham justified by faith	4:1-25
Result of justification by faith	5:1-11
Contrast between Adam and Christ	5:12-21

VICTORY OVER SIN

Believer is freed from sin (guilt) and is to refrain from it.	6:1-23
Believer is not under Law	7:1-25
Victory comes through the law of the Spirit	8:1-39

SPIRITUAL RECOVERY OF JEWS (AND GENTILES)

Paul's concern for Israel	9:1-5
Jews had failed to see God's sovereign right to choose.	9:6-29
Jews failed to pursue law of righteousness by faith	9:30-33
Righteousness is the result of faith	10:1-11
All who hear, believe and call upon the Lord are saved	10:12-17
Israel rejected because of unbelief.	10:18-21
A remnant of Israel saved (by faith in the Son)	11:1-15
The figure of the olive tree	11:16-32
Natural branches (Jews) cut off because of unbelief	
Wild branches (Gentiles) grafted in by faith	
Natural branches can be grafted back in—by faith	
God's wisdom in these matters is beyond comprehension	11:33-36

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

Life as part of the body of Christ.	12:1-16
Life in relation to others.	12:17-21
Life in relation to civil government.	13:1-7
Life in relation to all mankind.	13:8-14
Life in relation to weaker brethren.	14:1-15:3
All may have joy, peace and hope in Christ	15:4-13

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Paul's reason for not making a personal visit	15:14-33
Personal greetings, parting exhortations and warnings	16:1-27

1 CORINTHIANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 57-58 A.D.

THEME: *Problems in the Church and The Solutions*

SALUTATION 1:1-9

PROBLEMS

Division

- Party spirit caused by improper view of teachers 1:10-17
- Man's wisdom verses God's wisdom 1:18-31
- Paul proclaimed God's wisdom received by the Spirit 2:1-16
- Teachers are fellow-workers for God 3:1-4:5
- Arrogant members admonished to be humble 4:6-21

Immorality

- Immoral member to be removed 5:1-8
- Christian fellowship is limited 5:9-13

Lawsuits against each other

- Matters should be settled among themselves 6:1-11

Defiling the body

- Body is the temple of God 6:12-20

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

About marriage

- Responsibilities in marriage 7:1-7
- Concerning those unmarried or widowed 7:8-9
- Concerning those already married 7:10-24
- Advice in view of "present distress" 7:25-40

About liberty

- The matter of eating meat offered to idols 8:1-13
- Paul's use of liberty 9:1-27
 - Self-denial, self-dedication, self-discipline
- Liberty is not license to engage in idol activities 10:1-33
 - Example of Israel :1-13
- Woman, as Christian, is not freed from subjection to man 11:1-16
- Not free to corrupt the Lord's supper; do so to their own peril 11:17-34

CONCERNS

Spiritual gifts

- Different gifts, all from one Spirit 12:1-11
- All serve a definite purpose; none less important 12:12-31
- "A more excellent way" 13:1-13
- Gifts which aid others to be preferred 14:1-25
- Orderly exercise of gifts in the assembly 14:26-40

Resurrection

- Fact witnessed by more than five hundred 15:1-11
- If there is no resurrection, there is no hope 15:12-19
- Fact: Christ has risen, will raise us up at last day 15:20-34
- The "how" and "with what body" explained 15:35-49
- Victory over death through the Lord Jesus Christ 15:50-58

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Collection for the church in Jerusalem

- Manner of collection and delivery 16:1-9

Timothy coming to Corinth; Apollos declines to come 16:10-12

Personal remarks 16:13-24

2 CORINTHIANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 57-58 A.D.

THEME: *Follow-up Letter to 1 Corinthians*

SALUTATION

Thanksgiving for divine comfort 1:1-11

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAUL AND THE CORINTHIAN BRETHREN

Explanation for postponing his visit 1:12-2:4

Instructions concerning the penitent offender 2:5-11

Paul was anxious to know how they received the first letter 2:12-13

DESCRIPTION OF TRUE MINISTRY

Credentials of a true apostle:

 Makes known the knowledge of Him 2:14-17

 Their existence certifies his Apostleship 3:1-5

 He has the true ministry (which is far superior to the old covenant) 3:6-18

True ministry versus false ministry

 The power is in the message, not the man 4:1-6

 Willingness to suffer part of the true ministry 4:7-15

God has a better dwelling place for the spirit of man 4:16-5:12

True ministry is one of reconciliation 5:13-19

His plea for mutual affection; separation from unbelievers 6:11-7:4

Joy over Titus' report of many repenting; submitting to his ministry 7:5-16

CONCERNING AID FOR NEEDY SAINTS

The good example of the brethren in Macedonia 8:1-8

The supreme example of Jesus Christ 8:9

A matter equality 8:10-15

The coming of Titus and others to convey the collection 8:16-9:5

The happy result of cheerful, liberal giving 9:6-15

PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP

Defense against charges of weakness and cowardice 10:1-11

The rightful claim of Paul over Corinthians 10:12-18

Reason for asserting his Apostolic authority 11:1-6

 Blunts the efforts to undermine confidence in him

His reason for refusing financial support from them 11:7-15

Foolishly, he compares himself with false teachers in order to make a point 11:16-33

Visions, miracles and "thorn in the flesh" proof of his Apostleship 12:1-13

His unselfish love for them is additional proof of his Apostleship 12:14-18

HIS PLANS TO COME, EXERCISING FULL APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

He hopes the letter produces repentance among the disobedient minority 12:19-13:10

 Thus harshness would not be necessary when he arrives

CONCLUSION

Farewell, exhortations and benediction 13:11-14

GALATIANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 57-58 A.D.

THEME: *Defense of the One True Gospel*

OPENING SALUTATION	1:1-5
PROBLEM OF SOME TURNING AWAY FROM THE GOSPEL.	1:6-10
There is no other; only some distort the gospel.	
PAUL'S DEFENSE OF THE TRUE GOSPEL HE PREACHED	
Received it by revelation of Jesus Christ	1:11-24
Not the product of Jewish background	
He did not receive it from other men	
His apostleship acknowledged by "pillars" in the church	2:1-10
They added nothing to his teaching	
They extended the "right hand of fellowship"	
Paul's rebuke of Peter; and his declaration of justification by faith.	2:11-21
FOLLY OF RELAPSING TO BEING UNDER LAW	
Compares the results of faith and of law	3:1-14
Holy Spirit given by faith, not law.	
Righteousness comes by faith, not law.	
Law curses, Christ redeems us from curse, by faith	
Law cannot invalidate the prior promise made to Abraham.	3:15-18
True purpose of Law: to lead them to Christ.	3:19-25
Faith in Christ is what makes one a child of God	3:26-4:7
Problems encountered in returning to the Law (observing forms and days)	4:8-20
They are again enslaved to the Law.	
They are turning away from the truth, as taught to them by Paul	
Allegory: True sons of Abraham (by faith) are the sons of promise.	4:21-5:1
ADMONITIONS TO BELIEVERS	
Not to seek justification by Law, but by obeying truth	5:2-12
Not to use new freedom as opportunity to serve the flesh.	5:13-21
Walk by the Spirit, have "fruits of Spirit"	5:22-26
Help one another	6:1-5
Help the one caught in a trespass and the one with a heavy load	
Help others by carrying your own load	
Principle of "sowing and reaping" applied to them	6:6-10
FINAL COMMENTS	
Contrast between Judaizers' boastful pride and Paul's humiliating persecutions . . .	6:11-18

EPHESIANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 63-64

THEME: *Spiritual Blessings and Responsibilities in Christ*

SALUTATION

Addressed to saints (the faithful in Christ Jesus) 1:1-2

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OF TRUE BELIEVERS

Possess all spiritual blessings in Christ 1:3-14

Originated with the Father's plans
Realized in Son's accomplishments
Provided by Spirit's activity

Thanksgiving and prayer on behalf of true believers. 1:15-23

That they understand and appreciate all that God made available
through His Son

Made alive in Christ Jesus 2:1-10

Contrasts former life to life in Christ
Emphasizes the greatness of the "riches of His grace"

Made to be one (with Jews) living temple of God 2:11-22

PAUL'S STEWARDSHIP IN PROCLAIMING CHRIST

Revealing the mystery of Christ 3:1-5

Proclaiming Gentiles as fellow-heirs 3:6-7

Considered it a privilege to proclaim the gospel 3:8-13

Prayer: That they fully comprehend all that God has provided for them in Christ . . 3:14-21

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUE BELIEVERS

Maintaining Christian unity 4:1-16

Proper conduct to maintain unity of Spirit
Use gifts (abilities) to build up the church

Live the Christian life by putting away old way of life; renewing the mind. 4:17-32

Put away lying; speak truth
Put away uncontrolled anger; control anger
Put away stealing; work to share with needy
Put away unwholesome words; edify with speech
Put away improper feelings; have right attitude

Be imitators of God. 5:1-14

Do not listen to the disobedient
Do not partake with the disobedient
Expose their evil

Be filled with the Spirit (praise and thanksgiving) 5:15-21

Be in submission to one another. 5:22-6:9

Wives in subjection to their husbands; obligations of husbands
Children obedient to parents; obligations of parents
Slaves (servants) to be obedient to masters; obligations of masters

Spiritual warfare requires spiritual armament 6:10-20

Loins girded with truth
Breastplate of righteousness
Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
Shield of faith
Helmet of salvation
Sword of the spirit (which is the word of God)
With all prayer and petition

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The coming of Tychicus; final greetings and benediction 6:21-24

PHILIPPIANS

WRITER: Paul (“Prison Letter”)

DATE: 63-64

THEME: *Rejoice in the Lord*

SALUTATION 1:1-2

REJOICING IN THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL

- Thanksgiving and supplications for the saints at Philippi 1:3-11
- Progress of the Gospel, in spite of persecution, envy and strife 1:12-18
- Paul’s determination to exalt Christ in his body (by living or dying) 1:19-26

EXHORTATION TO ‘WORTHY’ CONDUCT

- Importance of humility 2:1-11
 - Needed for unity.
 - Christ exhibited humility; which we are to emulate
- Work out own salvation with fear and trembling 2:12-18
 - Prove yourselves blameless
 - Hold fast to the Word
- Examples of worthy conduct. 2:19-30
 - Timothy’s genuine concern for the saints at Philippi
 - Ephaphroditus, who became sick while bringing aid to Paul

REJOICE IN THE LORD, NOT THE FLESH

- Not rejoicing in the flesh as Judaizing teachers do 3:1-3
- Paul could express confidence in the flesh, but didn’t 3:4-16
 - Counted all things “rubbish” to gain Christ
 - His righteous based on faith; put confidence in Christ
 - Pressed on to the goal of the upward call
- Contrasts enemies of the cross with followers of Christ 3:17-4:1
 - Destruction versus salvation (resurrection)
 - Minds on earthly things versus minds on Christ

EXHORTATION TO PEACE

- Euodia and Syntyche to be at peace 4:2-3
- Exhorted to trust completely in God for peace. 4:4-6
- Urged to maintain a pure mind, and righteous life promoting peace. 4:7-9

JOY OVER ASSISTANCE OF PHILIPPIANS

- Not that he spoke from want 4:10-13
 - He had learned to be content in all circumstances
- It’s not the first time they had provided for his needs. 4:14-16
- The gift sought, not for personal benefit, but their benefit. 4:17-20

CLOSING SALUTATIONS 4:21-23

NOTES:

- “Joy” and “rejoicing” found 16 times (NASB version)
- Very little rebuking and correction is contained in the letter.

COLOSSIANS

WRITER: Paul ("Prison Letter")

DATE: 62-64 A.D.

THEME: *Preeminence of Christ in Doctrine and in Life*

OPENING REMARKS

Salutation	1:1-2
Words of thanksgiving.	1:3-8
Apostle's prayer for them.	1:9-12

PREEMINENCE OF JESUS CHRIST IN DOCTRINE

Supreme glory of the person of Christ	1:13-18
Supreme glory of the work of Christ	1:19-23

PAUL'S LABOR IN PROCLAIMING CHRIST

Paul's stewardship of the gospel for their benefit.	1:24-2:5
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WARNS OF TEACHINGS AGAINST THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

Warning against philosophies, empty deceptions, traditions of men, elementary principles of the world	2:6-8
Fulness of the deity of Christ makes one complete	2:9-15
Warning against teaching of the Law, which are mere shadows	2:16-17
Warning against worship of angels; against mysticism	2:18-19
Warning against asceticism*	2:20-23

CHRIST IS TO BE PREEMINENT IN LIFE

Set mind on things above; remove sin	3:1-9
Put on righteous actions; do all things in His name	3:10-17
Gives instructions to various classes:	3:18-4:1
Wives and husbands	
Children and fathers	
Slaves and masters**	
Exhortation to prayer, for self and others	4:2-4
Exhortation to proper conduct among outsiders.	4:5-6
Speak with grace ("seasoned as with salt").	

CONCERNING PAUL'S FELLOW WORKERS

Tychicus being sent to Colossae with Onesimus	4:7-9
Greetings from Aristarchus, Mark, Jesus (Justus), Ephaphras, Luke and Demas . . .	4:10-17

CLOSING SALUTATION 4:18

* asceticism: doctrine that through self-torture or self-imposed denial, one can discipline himself to reach a higher state, spiritually or intellectually. The belief that the ascetic life releases the soul from bondage to the body and permits union with the divine.

** compare Ephesians 5:22-6:9

1 THESSALONIANS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 52 A.D.

THEME: *Exhortation Toward Further Progress, With a View Toward the Second Coming of the Lord and the Resurrection*

SALUTATION 1:1

PAUL'S PAST AND PRESENT DEALINGS WITH THE CHURCH IN THESSALONICA

- Thanksgiving for their reception of the Gospel. 1:2-10
- Paul's conduct towards them 2:1-12
 - Doing the Lord's work brings opposition
 - Recalls his conduct while among them
- Opposition of the Jews 2:13-16
 - It was the Jews who killed Christ and the prophets
 - It is the Jews who hinder the Gospel being preached to the Gentiles
- Paul desires to know their present condition. 2:17-3:10
 - Unable to come in person, he sent Timothy
 - Timothy returned with a good report

BENEDICTION, CLOSING THE FIRST PART OF THE EPISTLE 3:11-13

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

- Holiness, sexual morality, purity 4:1-8
- Love of brethren 4:9-10
- Proper conduct towards outsiders 4:11-12
- Don't grieve over deceased brethren 4:13-18
- Don't be concerned with "when" Christ will return 5:1-11
 - Rather be ready and prepared at all times
- Various instructions. 5:12-22
 - Appreciate those who labor, watch over you
 - Admonish the unruly
 - Help the weak
 - Be patient with all men
 - Do not repay evil with evil
 - Rejoice always
 - Pray without ceasing
 - In everything give thanks
 - Do not quench the Spirit
 - Do not despise prophetic utterances
 - Examine everything carefully
 - Abstain from every form of evil

CLOSING BENEDICTION AND SALUTATIONS. 5:23-28

2 THESSALONIANS

WRITER: Paul (written soon after first letter)

DATE: 50-54 A.D.

THEME: *Dispels False Notions Concerning the Coming of the Lord*

SALUTATION 1:1-2

PROGRESS AMID PERSECUTION 1:3-12

Thankful for their growth in faith and love
Thankful for their perseverance and faith
Promised retribution for those who afflict Christians
Relief will be given to those who are persecuted
Paul prays for them

CONCERNING THE COMING OF THE LORD 2:1-17

The Lord has not yet come
 Don't be disturbed by erroneous teachings
The apostasy (falling away) must precede that event
The Man of lawlessness to be revealed:
 Claiming to be divine
 Presently restrained; afterwards to be revealed
 He will be brought to an end by the coming of the Lord
God will send a deluding influence to those who believe not
Hold fast to the truth
 As taught by Paul in word and letter
Be comforted in every good work and word

EXHORTATIONS TO PROPER CONDUCT WHILE WAITING FOR THE LORD 3:1-15

Paul requests their prayers
Paul expressed confidence in them
Urges separation from unruly members
Admonishes them not to grow weary in well-doing
Instructed to make note of disobedient; not to associate with them
 However, do not treat them as an "enemy," but as a "brother"

CONCLUDING REMARKS 3:16-18

Mark of authenticity (Each of Paul's letters bear a mark of authenticity)*

*References to the other letters written by Paul:

Rom.16:24	Phi.4:23	2Ti.4:22
1Co.16:21-23	Col.4:18	Tit.3:15
2Co.13:14	1Th.5:28	Phm.25
Gal.6:18	1Ti.6:21	Heb.13:35
Eph.6:24		

1 TIMOTHY

WRITER: Paul (after first imprisonment)

DATE: 64-65 A.D.

THEME: *Proper Order in the Church*

GREETING 1:1-2

MAINTAINING SOUNDNESS

Maintaining sound doctrine in the church 1:3-11

Warnings against myths and endless genealogies

Warnings against misuse of the Law

Paul's personal thanksgiving for being put into service 1:12-17

"Christ came to save sinners" is an important point

Salvation reflects both the mercy and patience of God

Timothy warned to maintain a sound faith 1:18-20

Sound instructions for the church 2:1-15

Pray for all in authority

Spells out proper conduct of men

Enjoins modesty and subordination of women

Proper oversight of the church 3:1-13

Qualifications of men desiring to be bishops (elders, overseers)

Qualification of deacons

Reason for giving instructions 3:14-4:5

The church is to be the "pillar and support of truth"

Some will fall away from the faith

PROPER CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH

Conduct of the evangelist 4:6-5:2

Preach and teach sound doctrine continually

Be an example to other believers

Conduct oneself properly towards men and women, young and old

Disposition of widows 5:3-16

Proper conduct towards elders 5:17-21

Personal comments to Timothy as an evangelist 5:22-25

Proper conduct of slaves 6:1-2

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Beware: Some have a distorted view of godliness 6:3-8

Beware of the peril of pursuing riches 6:9-10

Proper course for the "man of God" 6:11-16

Instructions for those who are rich 6:17-19

Final charge to Timothy 6:20-21

2 TIMOTHY

WRITER: Paul (during second imprisonment)

DATE: 67 A.D.

THEME: *A Good Minister of Christ Jesus*

SALUTATION	1:1-2
TIMOTHY, A GOOD MINISTER OF CHRIST JESUS	
Thanksgiving for his “sincere faith”	1:3-5
Reminders for Timothy	1:6-14
Kindle afresh the gift of God	
Do not be ashamed of the testimony of Lord	
Join Paul in suffering for the gospel	
Retain “sound” teachings	
Reminders of the conduct of others	1:15-18
Phygelus and Hermogenes, who turned away	
Onesiphorus, who was not ashamed of Paul	
TIMOTHY ADMONISHED TO CONTINUE AS A GOOD MINISTER	
Be strong soldier of the Lord	2:1-4
Be like a competitive athlete	2:5
Be like the hard-working farmer	2:6
Remember, the way of salvation has hardships	2:7-13
Be unashamed workman	2:14-19
Charge others not to wrangle over words	
Avoid worldly, empty chatter	
Be a vessel of honor by proper conduct	2:20-26
TIMOTHY WARNED OF APOSTASY	
Description of difficult times	3:1-9
Some will have only the “form of godliness”	
Some will oppose the truth	
Timothy to avoid such by following Paul’s example	3:10-13
Timothy to continue preaching the things he has learned	3:14-17
FINAL CHARGE TO TIMOTHY	
Preach the Word “in season and out”	4:1-4
Some will want their “ears tickled”	
Do the work of an evangelist	4:5
Paul sees the finish of his own work	4:6-8
PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TIMOTHY	
Requests Timothy to come soon	4:9
Disposition of those who had been with Paul	4:10-18
Final words; further plea for Timothy to come	4:19-21
CLOSING BENEDICTION	4:22

TITUS

WRITER: Paul

DATE: 64-65 A.D.

THEME: *Instructions for the Church*

SALUTATION	1:1-4
APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS TO OVERSEE THE CHURCH	
Qualifications and work	1:5-9
SUPPRESSION OF FALSE TEACHING IN THE CHURCH	
The destructive work of false teachers; the disastrous effect on the church	1:10-16
INSTRUCTIONS TO VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE CHURCH	
Older men	2:1-2
To be temperate, dignified, sensible	
To be sound in faith and love	
Older women	2:3-4
To be reverent in behavior	
Not to be malicious gossips; not enslaved to much wine	
Teaching what is good; encouraging the young women	
Young women	2:5
Love husbands and children	
Be sensible, pure, workers at home; kind	
Be subject to own husbands	
Young men	2:6-8
Be sensible; example of good deeds	
Be pure in doctrine; dignified; sound in speech	
Servants	2:9-10
Be subject to own masters; well-pleasing	
Not argumentative; not pilfering	
Showing all good faith	
Basis for the instructions	2:11-15
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS	
Proper conduct towards rulers; all men	3:1-2
Show kindness to others, as God has done	3:3-8
FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TITUS	
Shun foolish controversies	3:9
Reject the factious man if he does not heed warnings	3:10-11
Come to Nicopolis	3:12
Help Zenus, Apollos and the brethren	3:13-14
CLOSING SALUTATION AND BENEDICTION	3:15

PHILEMON

WRITER: Paul (Prison Letter)

DATE: 62 A.D.

THEME: *Appeal to Philemon on Behalf of Onesimus*

SALUTATION	:1-3
THANKSGIVING FOR PHILEMON'S GOOD CONDUCT	:4-7
His love and faith towards the Lord Jesus	
His love and fellowship extended to others	
APPEAL ON BEHALF OF ONESIMUS	:8-20
Appeals as "Paul the aged," a prisoner of the Lord	
Paul had desired to keep Onesimus with him	
But would not do it without Philemon's consent	
Onesimus is to be considered more than a slave. He now is a "brother"	
Paul offers to repay any loss suffered by Philemon	
PAUL EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE	:21-22
He believes Philemon will do more than asked	
CLOSING SALUTATION	:23-25

NOTE: Three people involved:

Philemon: master of Onesimus

Onesimus: runaway slave converted by Paul's preaching while in Rome

Paul: apostle of the Lord who wrote this intercessory letter