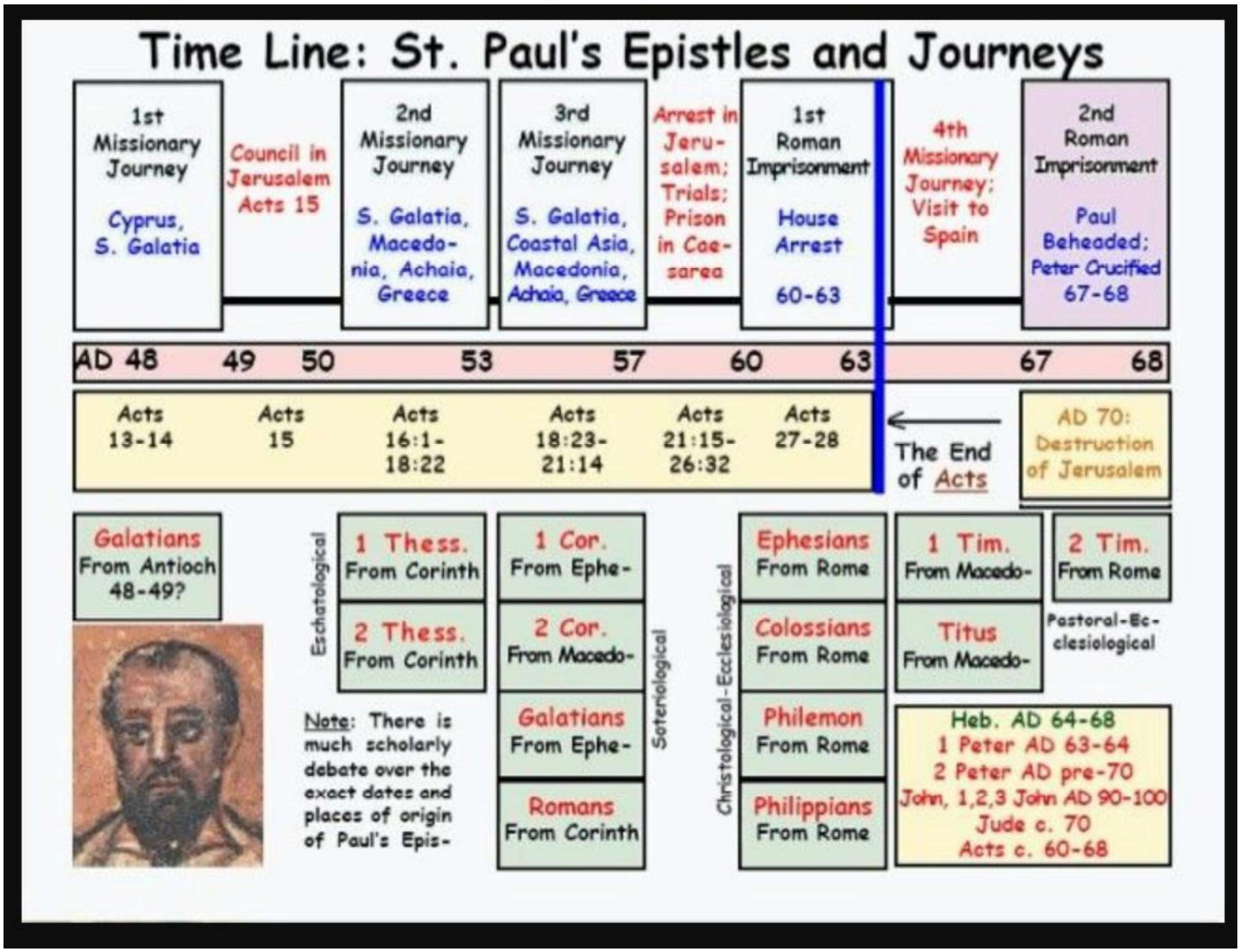
LESSON #3-SAINT PAUL MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

Print this page, if possible laminate then give copies to the students



Saint Paul's Strategy - Church planter

Acts chapters 13,14, 18 & 19
Review last lesson: Link St Paul the Missionary
Paul was a pioneer missionary whose ambition was not to build on another man's foundation, but to preach the Gospel in places where it had never been heard before (Rom. 15:20-21). He founded churches in four provinces, 2 in Asia Minor and 2 in Greece.
All along the way, Paul understood the culture he was stepping into and thus entered in with a strategy, conscious of the culture's traditions
Paul was a master strategist when it came to church planting,

1. Geographical movement: Confined Efforts to Four Provinces (Galatia, Asia, Macedonia and Achaia.)
2. All journeys start from Antioch
3. Chose major cities as strategic centers, or seaports as his targets
4. Once arrive start with the Jewish community first, synagogues
5. Planting Churches (min 14)
6. Elect leader for those churches, priests and deacons and prepare them, teach them "Timothy"
7. Maintained Contact. Follow up on those new churches through to solve problems, straight up the faith, encouragement, Paul had a great love for his converts, and writes about his continual concern for their spiritual well-being (2 Cor. 11:28-29). Many of his letters were written to these churches, later becoming part of the canon of Scripture
    - Epistles
    - Send missionaries and servants to check on them (Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus)
    - Call-in servants and leaders to check on them
    - Make secondary visits for follow up and solve problems
8. Became "All Things to All Men"
9. Preaching anywhere everywhere, in the market in the prison or Infront of kings, at the pagan temples,
10. Skillfully communicated put an Unchanging Message

9. Four Missionary Journeys

All voluntarily trips have originated form Antioch, where the head quarter "Cathedral" for Paul's journeys

The fourth trip he was a prisoner been transported from Jerusalem to Rome to be presented before the Caesar.

St Paul's trips

	1st Trip	2nd Trip	3rd Trip	Journey to Rome
Reference	Acts (13,14)	Acts (15-18)	Acts (18-21)	Acts (21-28)
Time	A.D. 45-48	A.D. 49-52	A.D. 53-58	A.D 60-63

Put the maps in a power point slides, read the boxes in the map,

Paul's 1st Missionary Journey – Acts 13:1-15:35 [Cyprus –Asia Minor]



Acts 13 and 14.
Paul and Barnabas set sail with John as their helper
from about 46 to 48 A.D.

- **Electing Paul and Barnabas to preach to the gentiles**
- **Antioch-** Seleucia- Cyprus- Perga- Antioch Pisidian- Iconium- Lystra- Derbe- then back to Antioch

- **First stop was Cyprus**. Acts 13 records that they made it to **Salamis** in Cyprus, and proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish Synagogues.

As they traveled through the whole island they came **to Paphos** where they ran into a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named **Bar-Jesus** who was an attendant to the proconsul. Paul and Barnabas were actually summoned by the proconsul because he wanted to hear more about Jesus.

But when they arrived, the false prophet sought to turn the proconsul away from the truth, but the Holy Spirit came upon Paul who then rebuked the man and caused him to be blind. It was because of this that the proconsul saw the power of God and converted.
After they left Cyprus,

- **Then they made their way to Perga in Pamphylia** where John left them to go back to Jerusalem. They went from there
- **to Pisidian Antioch.**
  In Pisidian Antioch, they went to the synagogue and began preaching; many received them and what they taught and urged them to continue on, even following them in order to learn more. But they were removed from the city after the jealousy of the Jews rose up and they stirred up the God-fearing women and leading men of the city and persecution broke out against Paul and Barnabas.
  They then traveled to Iconium and taught in the Jewish Synagogue where a great number of Jews and Gentiles converted to the faith. But again, other Jews stirred up trouble for the two missionaries. They left sometime after arriving because a plot against their lives arose.
- **Next was Lystra and Derbe where** the Galatian church was planted. While they were there they got mistaken for gods. After Paul healed a crippled man, the city erupted, claiming that Barnabas was Zeus and Paul was Hermes. This greatly distressed both of them, so they went out into the masses to set the record straight and tell them the Gospel message, but as they were doing this, the crowds were won over by Jews trying to cause trouble for Paul and Barnabas. As a result, Paul was stoned, almost to death. **The very next day he and Barnabas went to Derbe.**
- **Upon arriving in Antioch,** they called the church together and reported everything God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, too. And they stayed there with the believers for a long time.

Acts 14:27-28

After a time of preaching in Derbe, they

- **returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Attalia**, then they
- **returned to the church in Antioch** where they first set sail from and spent

- some time there before heading out a second time.

During his missionary journeys, Paul wrote multiple letters that became known as the epistles. And during Paul's first missionary journey he wrote a letter to the church in Galatia which was his first epistle

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey – Acts 15:36-18:22 [Asia minor- Greece]

- 49AD-52AD
- **Antioch-** Derbe-Lystra-Antioch Pisidian in Galatia region- Troas- Philippi-Thessalonica-Berea-Athens-Corinth-Ephesus—Caesarea- Antioch



While Paul was in Antioch, men were coming and preaching that the Gentiles must be circumcised so he with other church leaders were appointed to go to Jerusalem to address this issue. After this was settled, Paul proposed a second missionary journey to Barnabas, to go visit and strengthen the believers and churches they had planted during the first missionary journey.
This, however, did not go as planned.
Barnabas and Paul had a disagreement about whether or not to bring John, who had deserted them during the first journey, and in the end, they went their own separate ways—Barnabas bringing John along, and Paul, Silas.

Paul's second missionary journey lasted from 49 to 52 A.D. and is recorded in
Acts chapters 16-18.
Paul and Silas

- **First came to Derbe and Lystra** where they **met Timothy**, who they decided to bring with them on their journey.

- They traveled through the region of **Phrygia and Galatia** and eventually on to **Troas** where Paul had **a vision** in the night calling him and his companions to travel to Macedonia and preach the Gospel there. He intentionally avoided Asia as the Holy Spirit would not allow him to go there and preach.

Acts 16:9-10
During their time in **Macedonia** , Paul once again faced much opposition but in spite of this, they planted the **churches in Philippi** and **Thessalonica.** Once they reached Macedonia,

a) they met a woman named **Lydia in Philippi** who converted to the faith.
b) During their stay with her **in Philippi**, they went out and were followed by a young **girl who was demon-**possessed. After some time of this girl shouting and causing trouble, Paul finally cast the demon out of her, which then caused the crowds to stir up against them and
c) led to their **imprisonment.** In the night, however, an angel of the Lord came and set them free, and as a result, the jailer was saved.

They went on to travel through **Thessalonica, Brea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus,** then to **Jerusalem** and finally back to **Antioch** for a short time.
During his journeys, he went to the synagogues in every city and reasoned with the Jews.

All along the way, Paul understood the culture he was stepping into and thus entered in with a strategy, conscious of the culture's traditions. In chapter 17, Paul begins reasoning with **the Greek philosophers**, speaking to them in the way that they were familiar with and would receive which led to the conversion of many Greek philosophers.

While he was traveling from country to country on his second missionary journey, Paul wrote 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. He wrote this letter to the church of Thessalonica because he had to leave them in the midst of persecution and was not there to walk through it with them.
The first letter was to urge them on through the persecution, and the second letter was addressing fears of having already missed the second coming of Christ.

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey – Acts 18:23-21:14 [Visiting the believers in previous cities]

- 53AD-58AD
- Antioch- Derbe-Lystra-Antioch Pisidian in Galatia region- Ephesus- Troas-Macedonia region- Athens-Corinth- then back through same route to Troas- Miletus- Cyprus- Tyre- Ptolemais- Caesarea- Jerusalem
- Paul's Arrest - Acts 21:15-25:12
- Paul's Appeal to Caesar - Acts 25:13-26:32



- **Again, form Antioch,** Paul traveled the region of **Galatia and Phrygia,** with the intent of strengthening his brothers and sisters in Christ.
- His third missionary journey lasted from 53 to 57 A.D. and is found in Acts chapters 18:23-21:14.

Paul's third missionary journey was a longer trip than the previous two, and he spent his time shoring up the churches he had planted on his first two journeys. Acts tells us that he spent a significant portion of his time in **Ephesus, about 2-3 years**. And while he was there he

- Encountered some **disciples** who had not heard the full Gospel message or the Holy Spirit. So he told them of Christ's death and resurrection and placed his hands on them and then they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Ephesus went through a great revival during Paul's time there, he **performed many miracles,** signs, and wonders, and the people were to Christ in great numbers.
- When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and **openly confessed** what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought **their scrolls together and burned them publicly**. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Acts 19:17-20

- In response to this great revival**, a riot broke** out in the city against Paul because their way of life was being threatened by the Gospel. A silversmith who made shrines of Artemis was angered because of his loss of business, so he stirred up the city into a state of rage and confusion. It took several hours before the city clerk was able to quiet them down.
- Paul then **met with the disciples** in Ephesus and encouraged them, said goodbye, and left for Macedonia, accompanied by Sopaterm Aristarchus, Secundus, Galius, Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus.

They visited the churches in **Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea** before he made his way **to Corinth** after a short time there, Paul sought to go back to Syria but was stopped short when he discovered a plot against his life.

Paul then retraced his steps back **through Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea**, stopping in **Troas** where he stayed for seven days.
Led by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem, and eager to be there for Pentecost, Paul bypassed Ephesus knowing that he would need to stay there longer than he had time, so he called for the Ephesian elders to come and meet him **In Miletus.**

- This meeting was a difficult one for all the disciples and elders because Paul knew he was saying goodbye for the last time.
- When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

Acts 20:36-38

None of Paul's journeys were easy or without persecution, but his journey **to Jerusalem** was nothing but pain and difficulty. In about 55 A.D.

- Paul made his way to Jerusalem where he would be "bound hand and foot by the Jews and given over to the Gentiles (Acts 21:10)."
- After Paul had received a prophecy that he would be persecuted in Jerusalem, the people whom he was staying with at Caeserea pleaded with him not to go, but Paul refused to stay. Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be

bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

Acts 21:13-14, he went, and this concluded his third and final missionary journey.

While in Ephesus on his third trip, Paul wrote 1st and 2nd Corinthians to the people of Corinth. In these two letters, he addressed some false doctrines that were being taught, as well as some specific concerns they had brought to Paul's attention.

Paul's Journey to Rome – Acts 27:1-28:31 [establishing a church in Rome]



Paul's Proposed Fourth Missionary Journey

After Paul arrived **in Jerusalem**, he was quickly met by men who sought to destroy him. He was beaten, falsely accused, imprisoned, transferred from one place to the next, shipwrecked, held under house arrest, all in the course of around 4 years.

After Paul entered the Jewish Synagogue for the first time to teach, he was immediately met with opposition by the Jews. They **incited a riot so violent** and chaotic that Paul was arrested and carried off by two soldiers for his own safety.

Paul later discovered a plot against his life and brought it to the commander's attention and was then **transferred to Caesarea** where he was

- Imprisoned for two years—58 to 60 A.D.
- Finally Festus planned to transfer Paul back to Jerusalem to be put on trial there, but before this happened, Paul **appealed to Caesar** and was transported by ship to Rome.

It was during this journey **to Rome that** Paul was shipwrecked and experienced many difficulties before finally making it to Rome in 60 A.D. where he was under house arrest for two years.

Paul may have been released after 2 years in prison c. 62 AD and gone on a 4th Missionary Journey, or he may have been kept in prison until the time of the Fire of Rome in 64 AD.

It is hard to say for sure whether Paul went on a fourth missionary journey or not, and some count his trip from Caesarea to Rome as his fourth, as he ministered to many people along the way. Others, however, believe that his letters to Timothy point to Paul being imprisoned in Rome two times, and it is after the first release that he embarked on a fourth journey, possibly to Spain, though there isn't solid evidence for this.

Nevertheless, we know that during Paul's imprisonment he wrote many of the epistles, which are actually known **as the prison epistles**: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

What We Can Learn From Paul's Journeys

So much can be learned from the life of Paul and his missionary journeys, not only can we learn the example by which we are to model present-day missions, but we can also learn what living an abandoned life for Christ actually looks like.
But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-8
Missions work is no easy business, in some countries you may not face the threat of death, in others you might, but one thing is true of all countries, living in a different culture can be incredibly challenging.

But don't worry, God is on our side.

In Philippians 3, Paul is explaining and contrasting his life before surrendering to Christ, and he had everything—status, money, respect, knowledge, all of it. But none of it meant a single thing to him next to knowing Christ.

I believe this is the life that all Christians are called to, I don't necessarily mean suffering to the extent that Paul did, though that is not out of the question, but rather, lives wholly abandoned to Christ. This kind of abandon ushers in radical, society altering, world-shaking impact.

By following Paul's example and posturing our hearts in the same way, we will find ourselves living Godly lives and walking in effective ministry whether overseas or in a local church. This kind of abandon opens the door to a vast array of different opportunities to serve the Lord and spread the Gospel that we couldn't otherwise have with tight grips.

So what can we learn from Paul's journeys? Among the many other things we can learn, we know by his example how to live abandoned and obedient to the call of God and we learn that the key to perseverance in difficult times is through eyes set on God and God alone.

And we know that we do not do this alone but rather are enabled through and by Christ's love for us and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, to reach into the scariest and darkest places on earth and declare the name of Jesus Christ.

For thought and contemplation:
Not too many people are involved these days in the ministry of church-planting. Those who are, need our special prayers. Why not spend a few moments in prayer right now for someone you know who is involved in this ministry?
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV)