

**Prison epistles**

**Quick review**

- Review of Paul's journeys and journey letters

**From Corinth to Rome**

57 A.D. After Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, he made his way back to Jerusalem, traveling back through Macedonia (Acts 20). Paul and his companions made a stop in Troas where Paul talked to the Christians all night long, pausing to raise Eutychus from the dead and to eat a snack.

Paul and his companions then set sail, making a stop at Miletus. Many elders from the church in Ephesus made the journey to the coast to see Paul. They all shed tears as Paul said farewell to them, indicating that they would never see his face again.

After leaving the Ephesian Christians, Paul and his companions set sail and made their way to Jerusalem (Acts 21). Paul had previously prayed and planned to go to Rome and then to Spain (Romans 15:24). God was about to answer his prayer through imprisonment. While in Jerusalem, Paul was arrested.

57-59 A.D. He was transported to Caesarea where he was imprisoned for approximately two years (Acts 23). Paul appeared before some powerful people and gave a clear testimony to Jesus as the Savior. Since Paul had appealed his case to Caesar, he was taken to Rome. On the journey, God gave him many opportunities to point people to Jesus. Finally, they had arrived in Rome, where Paul was held under house arrest (Acts 28).

60-62 A.D. Under house arrest, God gave Paul countless opportunities to speak to a captive audience. While he was chained to a Roman guard, many people came to his house in order to hear his message. "For two whole years Paul stayed in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to visit him. He was preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without anyone stopping him" (Acts 28:30,31). During that time, God also inspired Paul to write four letters, known as the prison epistles.

**Paul's prison epistles**

While imprisoned in Rome (60-61 A.D.), Paul was visited by \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:7), who was the founder of the church in Colosse and who brought him news from the region. Paul wrote three letters (Colossians 4;7,8; Philemon 10-12; Ephesians 6:21,22) and sent them together, sending \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver them.

After some back-and-forth correspondence, Paul sent \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:25,26) back to Philippi, along with a letter to the Philippians (62 A.D.).

## Paul's letter to the Colossians

Place: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

### The letter

Theme: Christ, the Head of the Church, is all we need.

#### Outline:

- Introduction (1:1-14)
- The all-sufficiency of Christ (1:15-2:23)
- Life under the all-sufficient Christ (3:1-4:6)
- Conclusion/personal matters (4:7-18)

#### Sample: *Colossians 2:6-17*

On the basis of Paul's words, what can we say about who Jesus is?

How does Paul describe the blessings that come to us who have faith in Christ?

How has Christ's work changed our relationship to the Law of Moses (example: the Sabbath Day law)?

Why are these truths valuable to us today? Against what specific errors do they help us defend?

#### Things to remember about Colossians

- 2:9 - All the fullness of the deity
- 2:16,17 - Shadows vs. reality
- 3:16 - Let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly as you worship.

## Paul's letter to Philemon

Place: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

### The letter

#### Contents:

- Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus, the runaway slave, back.
- Paul would have loved to have Onesimus stay.

#### Things to remember about Philemon:

One of five books with only one chapter (one Old Testament and four New Testament books):

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A personal letter in which Paul makes an appeal for Onesimus

Value of the letter:

Consistency between Paul the apostle and Paul the man

Luther: "Even as Christ did for us with God the Father, thus also does St. Paul for Onesimus with Philemon."

## Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Place: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

### The letter

Theme: The Church, the Body of Christ

2:8-10 - "Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them."

Outline:

Introduction (1:1,2)

By grace the Church is God's workmanship (1:3-3:21)

By grace the Church is created for good works (4:1-6:18)

Conclusion (6:19-24)

Sample: *Ephesians 1:3-6*

For what does Paul specifically praise God?

When did this take place?

What was God's motive for doing this?

Sample: *Ephesians 2:1-5*

How does Paul describe our natural spiritual condition?

Who (and who alone) can bring about a change from that condition?

Why are these truths valuable to us today? What specific errors do they help us defend against?

Things to remember about Ephesians:

1:3-14 - The most thorough discussion of predestination

2:8,9. By grace through faith, not by works

5:22-33 - Unique roles for husbands and wives

6:11-18 - The full armor of God

## Paul's letter fo the Philippians

Place: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

### The letter

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord always!

Contents:

News from prison

Various admonitions: unity, humility, service

Warning against enemies of the cross

Thanksgiving for generosity

Sample: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Name some specific behaviors that Paul encourages in these verses.

What is the basis for his encouragement? In other words, where do Christians find their source of strength for doing these things?

How does Paul's life (and his letter to the Philippians specifically), model the actions and attitudes that he is encouraging here?

Why are these truths valuable for us today? What sins do they help us avoid?

Things to remember about Philippians:

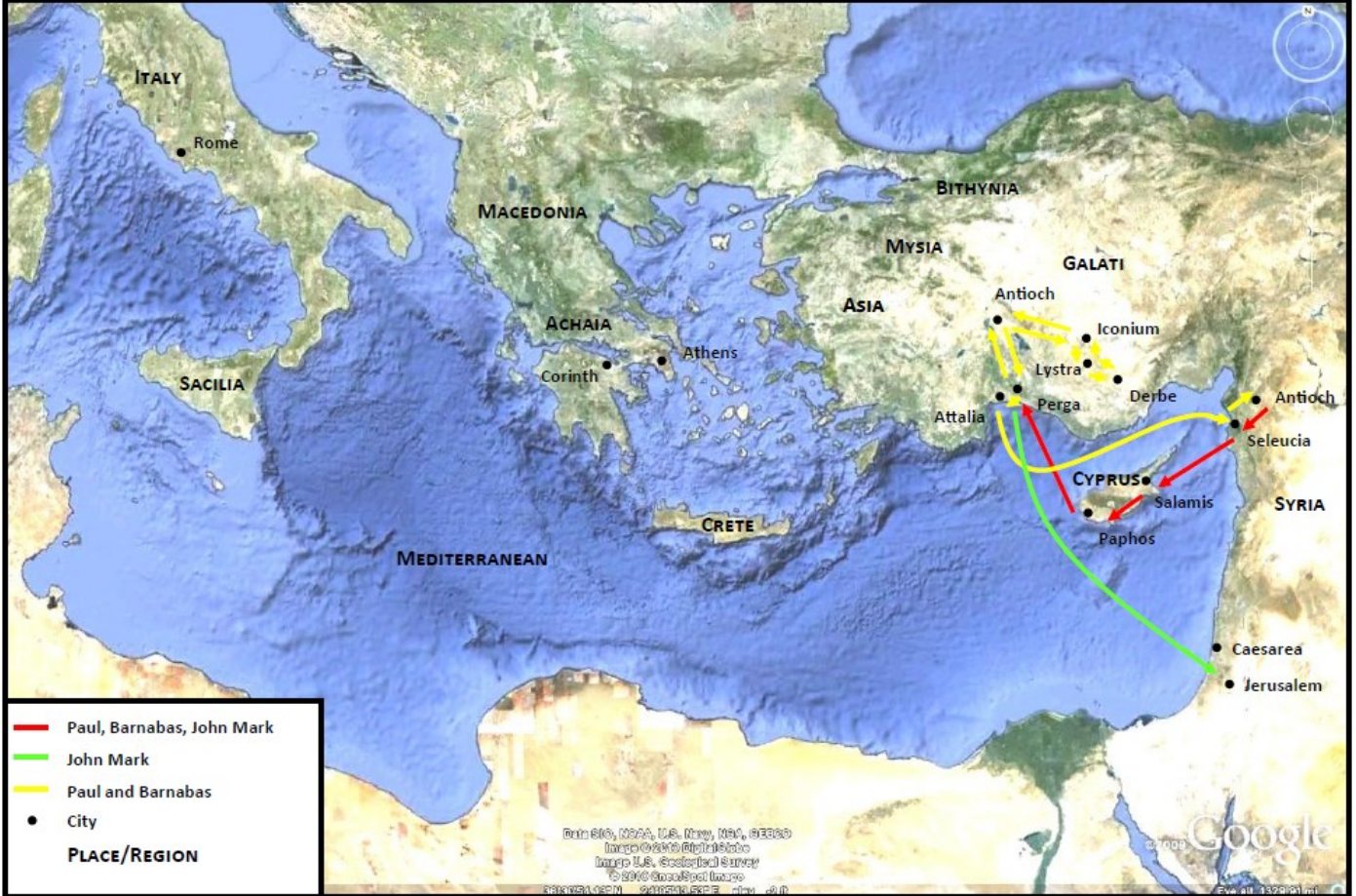
4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always (even in prison)

2:5-11 - Jesus' humiliation and exaltation

### For next week:

- Review the prison letters (Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians)
- Read the pastoral letters (1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy)

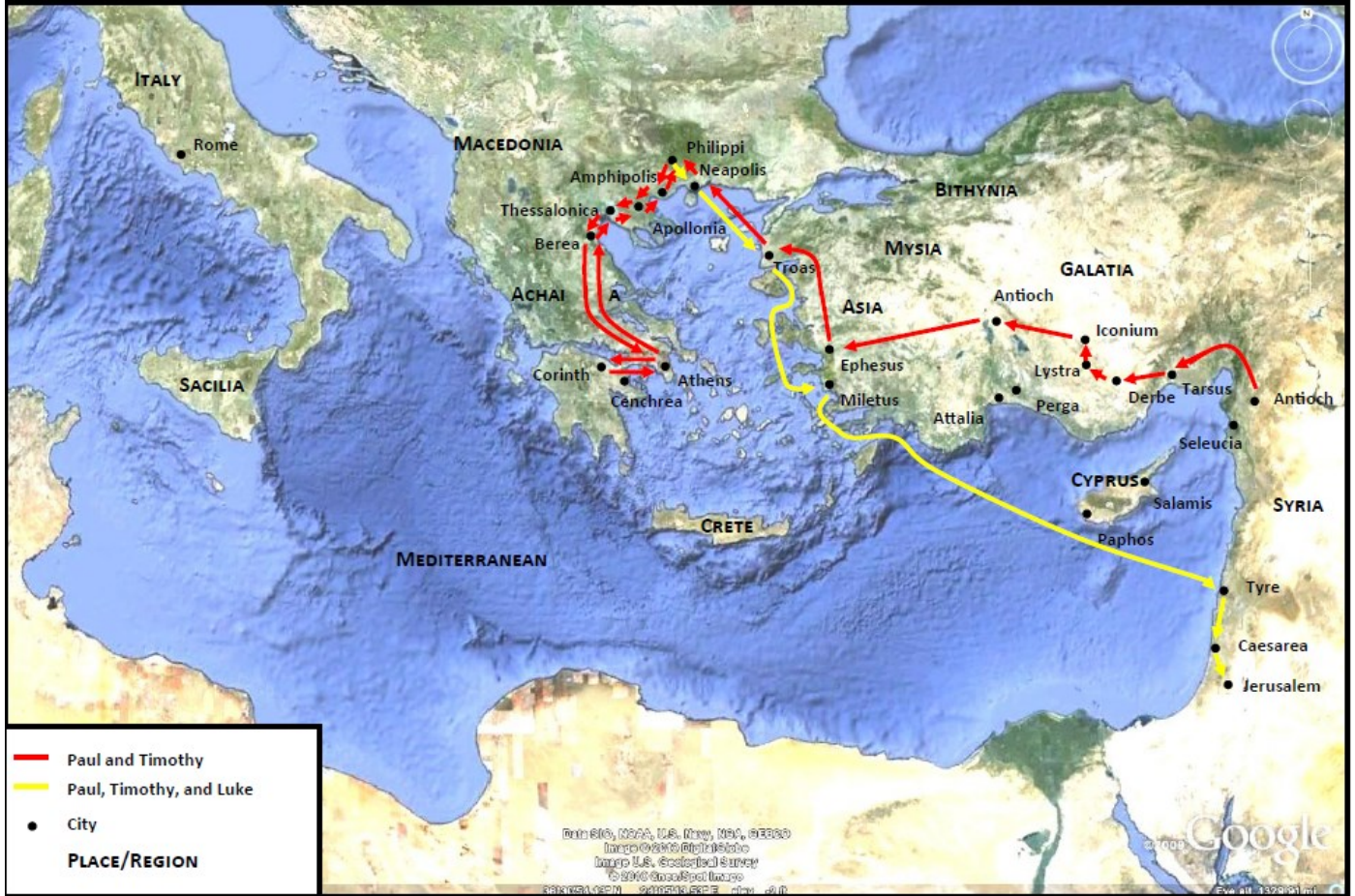
# PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



# PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



# PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY



# PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME

