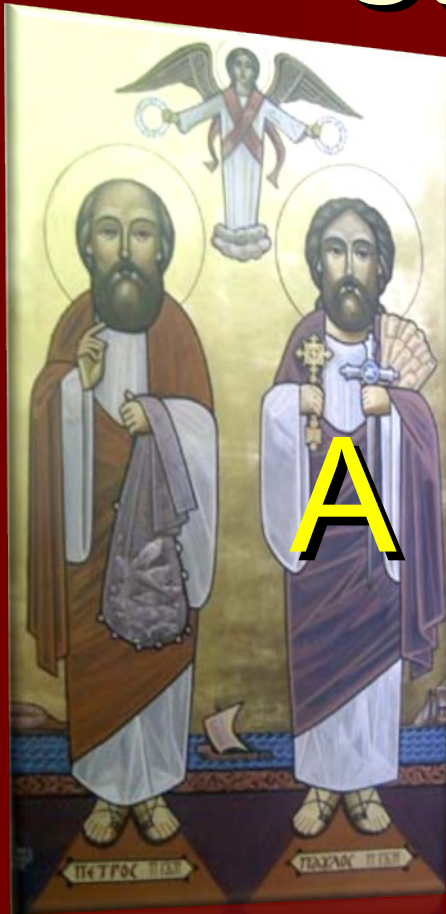


# St. Paul the Apostle



## A Brief on his Life and Ministry

Mustard Seed 2013

# *The life of St. Paul*

*00-10 Born in Tarsus*

*00-10 Moved to Jerusalem*

*10-20 Study under Gamaliel*

*20-30 Pharisee in Jerusalem*

*30-34 Persecutor of The Way*



# His Conversion - Acts 9:1-9



- ❖ What happens when water boils?
- ❖ What happens when water freezes?



# His Conversion - Acts 9:1-9



- ❖ When water changes to ice or steam, we say that it has been “converted.”
- ❖ It is different from the original water.



# Saul's transformed

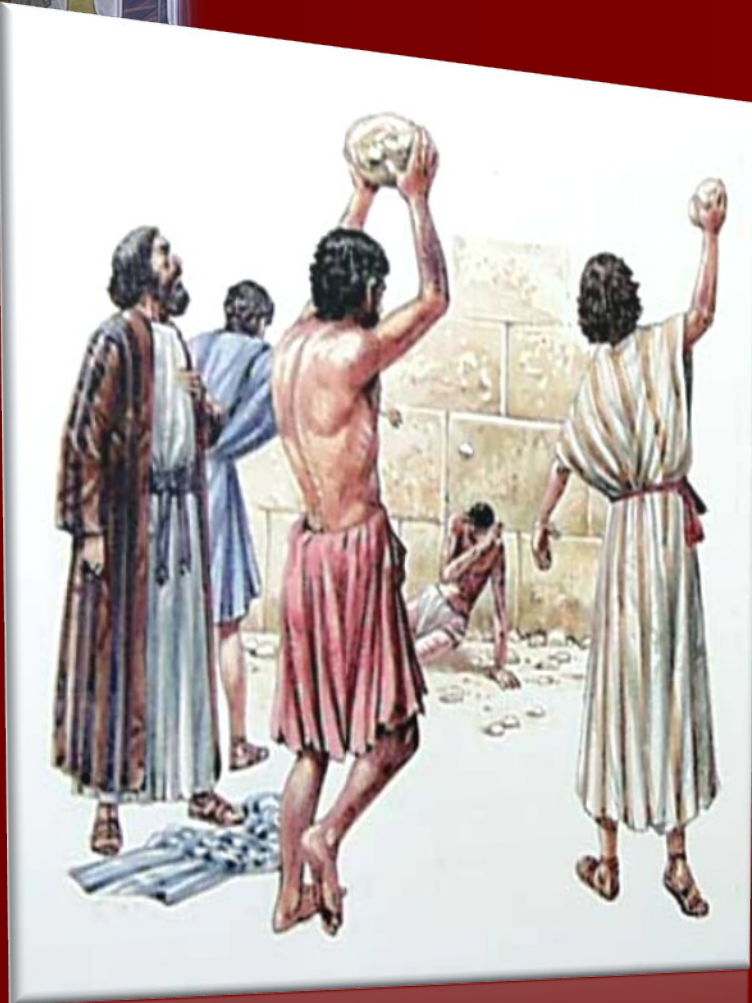
- The transformation of Saul is for many people one of the most intriguing stories in the book of Acts.
- A violent persecutor of the church is transformed into a mighty apostle. The change in the direction of this man's life is due to the supernatural intervention of God.
- Saul is introduced as a man implacably opposed to the cause of Christ and his people. In v1 he is described as **"breathing out murderous threats against the Christians"**.



# Before His Conversion

## Enemy - Persecutor

- ▣ Acts 7:58 - An accomplice
- ▣ Acts 8:1-3 - Havoc of church / prison
- ▣ Acts 9:1-2 - Threats & murder
- ▣ Acts 22:4-5 - Death
- ▣ Acts 26:9-11 - “Enraged against them”





## Before His Conversion



## Very Religious

□ A Pharisee - Acts 23:6

### **Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.



## Before His Conversion

### Very Religious

▣ A Pharisee - Acts 23:6

#### Galatians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.







## Before His Conversion

### Devout - Sincere

- ▣ Acts 22:3 – zealous towards God
- ▣ Acts 23:1 - I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day
- ▣ Acts 24:16 - I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.
- ▣ Acts 26:9 - Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.



# Saul Transformed



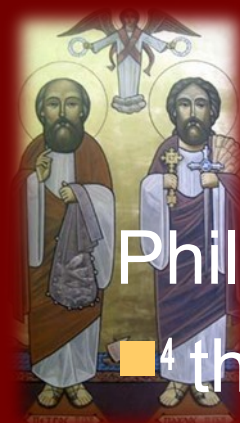
- How do we account for this terrible attack on the followers of the Way?
- Remember, Saul had been exposed to the gospel through Stephen's teaching.
- He hadn't liked what he'd heard: it challenged the foundation of his own dearly cherished religious beliefs.
- He believed that by attempting to be very religious and very good, and by helping his neighbour he could earn the favour and acceptance of God.

# Saul Transformed



- The gospel undermines the view that man can save himself!
- The followers of Jesus taught that it was only by The name of Jesus that anyone could be saved!
- St. Paul had spent all his life and energy trying to save himself by doing everything in the law.
- St. Paul describes himself as being this in his letter to the Philipians chapter 3 when he remembers how he used to be the old Saul:

# Saul Transformed



Philipians 3:4-8

- <sup>4</sup> though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:
  - <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;
  - <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
  - <sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.



# Saul Transformed



Philipians 3:4-8

- <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ
- <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
- <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

# Saul Transformed



- At a time when Christians did all in their power to keep out of Saul's way because they could not imagine that such a life could be transformed,
- God imagined such a reality. God is found at work in what many would describe as 'a hopeless case' for nothing could stand in the way of God's irresistible, drawing and converting grace.

# *The life of St. Paul*

- 34-34 Road to Damascus*
- 34-38 Ananias in Damascus*
- 38-46 Preaching in Anatolia*
- 46-49 First Journey*
- 50-50 Council of Jerusalem*
- 50-54 Second Journey*
- 54-58 Third Journey*
- 56-57 Wrote to Romans*
- 58-63 Final Journey*
- 66-68 Martyred in Rome*





# 1) *Paul's New Christian Life* (ca. AD 35–49)

- A. Jesus is “revealed” to Saul. while Saul is on the road to Damascus
- B. Acts 9:3-30; 22:6-21; 26:12-18 – three accounts: blinding light
- 1 Cor 9:1a – “Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?”
  - 1 Cor 15:8 – “Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he [Jesus] appeared to me.”
  - Gal 1:11-16 – “God was pleased to reveal his Son to me”



## Brief Analysis of Saul's Conversion

- ◆ **Saul before his conversion** – sincere, zealous, persecutor
- ◆ **The “HOW” of his conversion** – Jesus appeared to him and sent him to Damascus where he was told what to do -
- ◆ **Saul after his conversion** – Preached the gospel – suffered much for the cause of Christ



# Saul's Conversion

## Jesus Appeared

- ▣ Bright Light (9:3; 22:6; 26:13)
- ▣ Voice (9:4-6; 22:7-10; 26:14-18)
  - ❖ “Why persecute me?”
  - ❖ “I am Jesus”
  - ❖ “Go into city told what to do”
  - ❖ “Appeared to you -send to Gentles” (22:21; 26:17-20)
- ▣ Blinded (9:7-9; 22:11)



## Saul's Conversion

### Jesus Appeared

- ▣ Purpose of appearance:
  - ❖ Qualified to be an apostle (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor. 9:1)
  - ❖ Sent him to Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16; 22:21; 26:16-18)



## Saul's Conversion

### Jesus Sent A Preacher

▣ Ananias told Saul what he **MUST** do – Acts 9:10-19

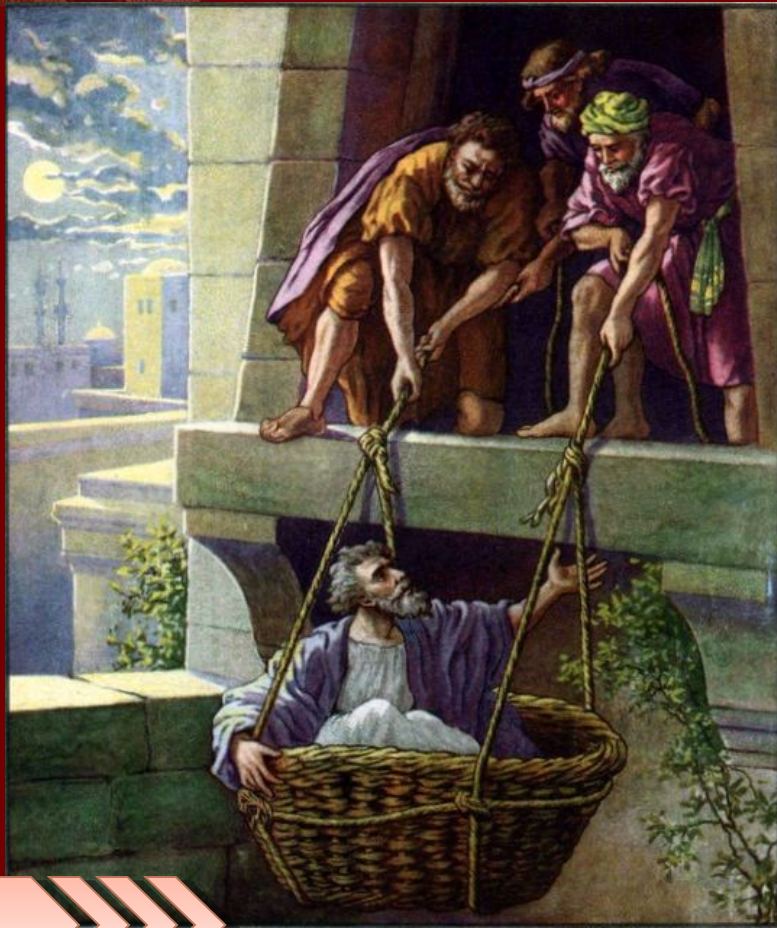
- ❖ Repented (Acts 17:30-31)
- ❖ He was told to be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16)







## Saul After His Conversion



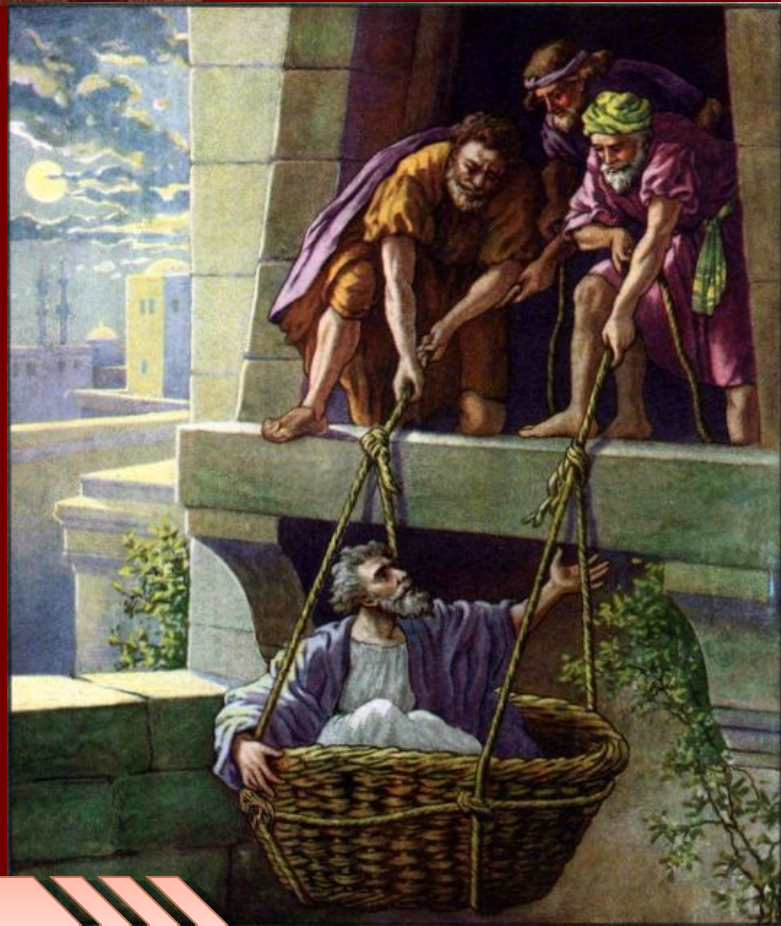
A Sincere, Devoted,  
Loyal Disciple

**Acts 26:19-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. <sup>21</sup> For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*.



## Saul After His Conversion



### A Sincere, Devoted, Loyal Disciple

#### **1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me.*

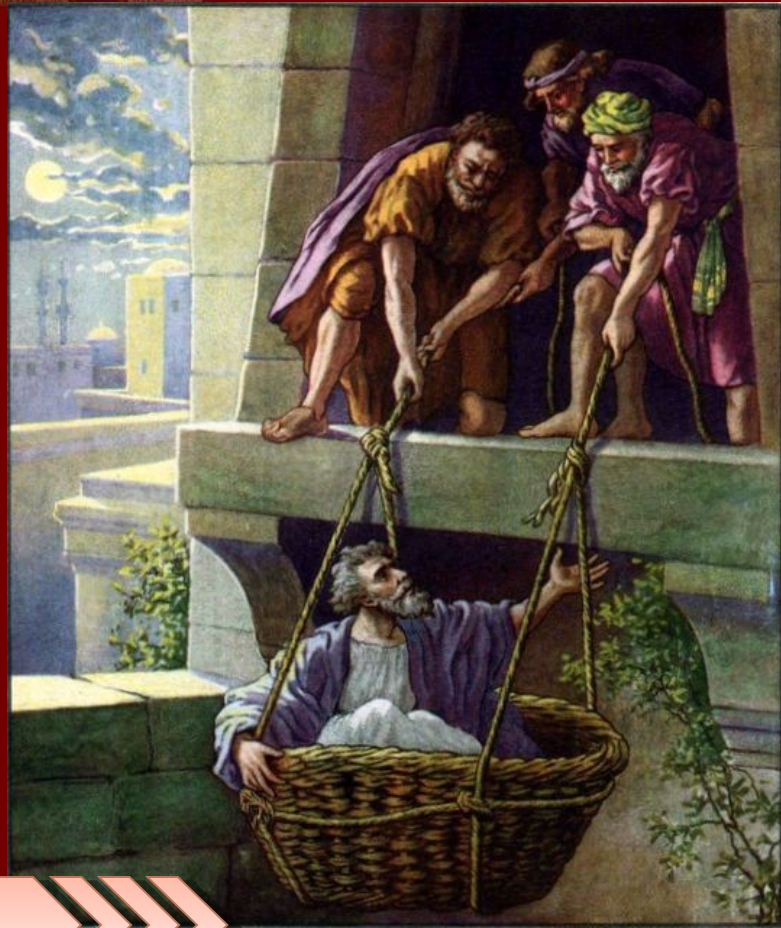


### 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Are they ministers of Christ?--I speak as a fool--I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- <sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.



## Saul After His Conversion



A Sincere, Devoted,  
Loyal Disciple

**2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, . . .







# Jesus' "Revelation" to Paul

■ Galatians 1:11–2:1 – “Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. <sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup> For you heard of my former way of life in Judaism... <sup>15</sup> But when God, who from my mother’s womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; rather, *I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus*. <sup>18</sup> Then *after three years I went up to Jerusalem* to confer with Kephas and remained with him for fifteen days...  
<sup>21</sup> *Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia*...  
**2:1** Then *after fourteen years I again went up to Jerusalem* with Barnabas, taking Titus along also...





# Paul in Syria (Acts 9; Gal 1)







# 1) *Paul's New Christian Life* (ca. AD 35–49)

- A. Jesus is “revealed” to Paul.
- B. Paul begins preaching in **Arabia, Damascus, Syria,** and **Cilicia**, with some opposition (Gal 1:17-24; 2 Cor 11:23-33).
- C. Barnabas takes an interest in Paul, helps him, introduces him to other Christians (Acts 9:26-30; 11:25-30; 12:25).
- D. Sent out by church of **Antioch**, in northern **SYRIA**, Barnabas & Paul go preach in Cyprus, Pamphylia, Phrygia (Acts 13–14); Barnabas is leader, with Paul as his assistant (esp. Acts 14:12, Barnabas = “Zeus,” Paul = “Hermes”).
- E. Barnabas & Paul participate in “**Council of Jerusalem**” (ca. AD 49, possibly later, compare Gal 2:1-10 and Acts 15)



## 2 Cor 11:21-33 – St. Paul’s Sufferings

“But what anyone dares to boast of (I am speaking in foolishness) I also dare.

<sup>22</sup> Are they **Hebrews**? So am I. Are they **Israelites**? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

<sup>23</sup> Are they ministers of Christ? (I am talking like an insane person.) I am still more, with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, far worse beatings, and numerous brushes with death.

<sup>24</sup> Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one.

<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day on the deep;





## 2 Cor 11:21-33 – St. Paul's Sufferings

<sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in *dangers* from rivers, *dangers* from robbers, *dangers* from my own race, *dangers* from Gentiles, *dangers* in the city, *dangers* in the wilderness, *dangers* at sea, *dangers* among false brothers;

<sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings, through cold and exposure.

<sup>28</sup> And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches.



# 2 Cor 11:21-33 – St. Paul's Sufferings (cont.)

<sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to sin, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus knows, he who is blessed forever, that I do not lie.

<sup>32</sup> **At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus, in order to seize me,**

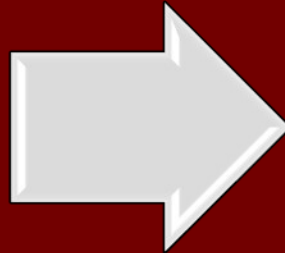
<sup>33</sup> **but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.**  
-- (cf. Acts 9:23-25)

# Conversion of Saul From Tarsus



## Before

- Adversary
- Enemy
- Destroyer
- Persecutor



## After

- Advocate
- Defender
- Builder
- Persecuted

# Paul's First Journey A.D. 48-49



● Rome

● Philippi  
● Thessalonika

● Corinth

● Ephesus ● Colossae

● Galatia

● Tarsus

● Antioch

● Jerusalem



# Paul's Second Journey A.D. 50-54



Rome

Philippi  
Thessalonika

Corinth

Ephesus

Colossae

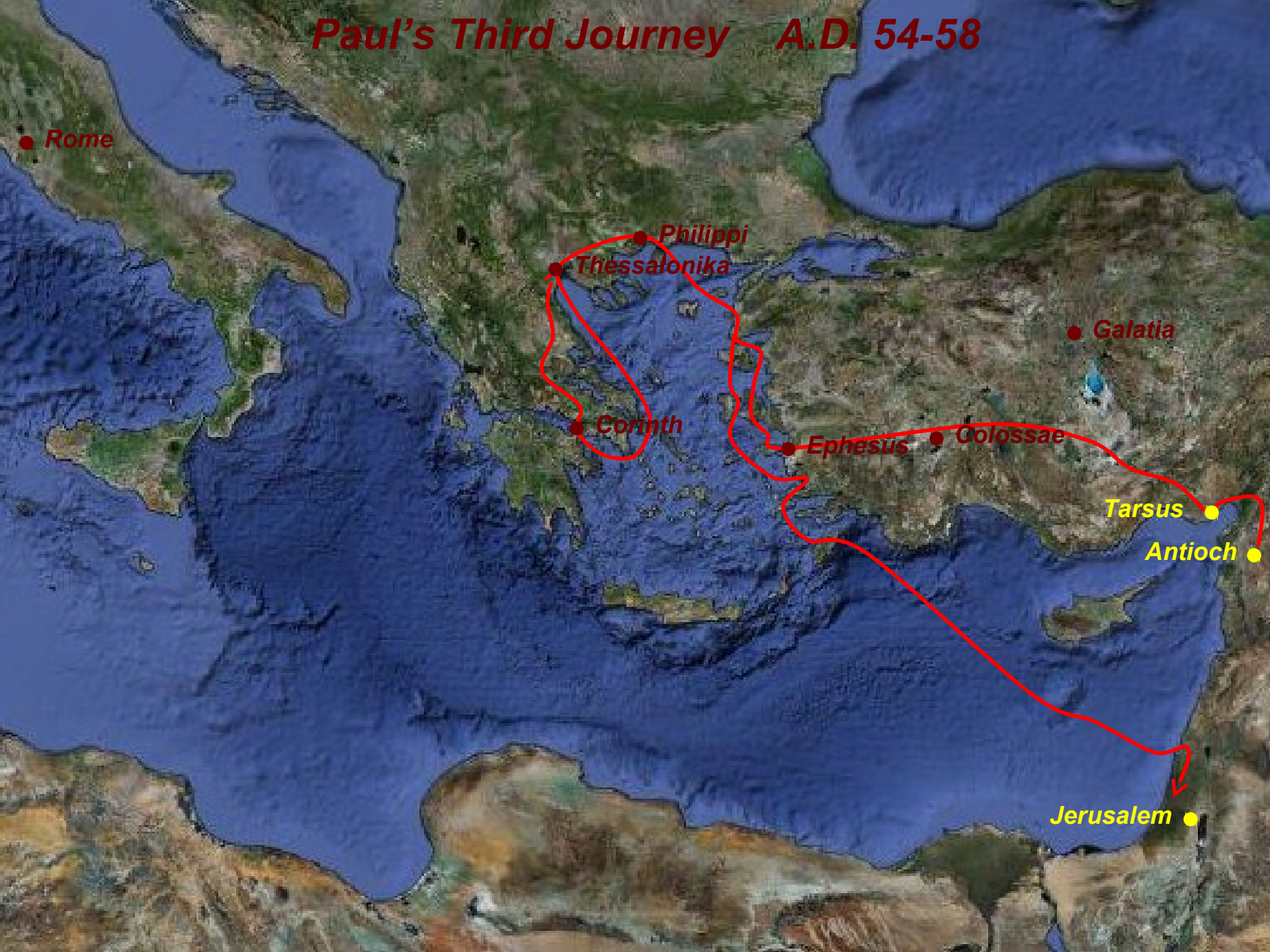
Galatia

Tarsus

Antioch

Jerusalem

# *Paul's Third Journey A.D. 54-58*



Rome

Thessalonika  
Philippi

Corinth

Ephesus

Colossae

Galatia

Tarsus

Antioch

Jerusalem

# Paul's Final Journey A.D. 58-63



Rome

Philippi  
Thessalonika

Galatia

Corinth  
Ephesus  
Colossae

Tarsus  
Antioch

Jerusalem