

# The Apostle Paul

A Chronological Study  
Of His  
Life and Epistles

# Paul as Saul

Consenting unto Stephen's Death – Acts 8:1, 22:20

# Historical Reference Points

Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ 33 AD

Death of King Aretas of Syria – 40 AD

Start of Claudius Caesar Emperor of Rome – 41 AD

Death of Herod Agrippa I – 44 AD

Porcius Festus succeeds Felix as Procurator of Judea – 60 AD

# Paul's Conversion and Early Years

Damascus Road – Acts 9:1-22

Approximately 37 AD

Barnabas' Defense to the Skeptics - Acts 9:23-31

Between verses 22 and 23 is approx 3 years - Galatians 1:17-18

Let down over wall in basket because the Jews wanted to kill him.

Returns to Jerusalem and openly ministers

Grecians conspire to kill Saul

He is sent to Caesarea then to Tarsus

Remains there until Barnabas seeks him out – Acts 11:25

Ministers with Barnabas – Acts 11:25-30

# Saul at Antioch – Becomes Paul

Separated to Ministry - Acts 13:1-3 Between 41-44 AD

# Paul's Missionary Journeys

*Dates are Approximate*

First begins between approx 46 and ends before 50 AD

Second begins Spring of 51 ends winter of 53-54 AD

Third begins Spring of 54 ends in 58 AD

Paul is arrested and taken to Rome 60 AD

## THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

### FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY, ACTS 13—14

Passed through Seleucia		CYPRUS	SALAMIS	PAPHOS	PERGA	ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA			
Paul and Barnabas	Birthplace of Barnabas. Mark with them. Conversion of proconsul. Mark leaves them. First Gentile Congregation Revisited. Elders appointed. Success. Regarded as gods. Stoned.							Many believed ICONIUM	
	Returned to Antioch in Syria		ATTALIA	LYSTRA, ICONIUM, ANTIOCH, PERGA		DERBE	LYSTRA		
SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY, ACTS 15.36—18.22									
Paul and Silas	Through Syria and Cilicia		DERBE	LYSTRA	Through Phrygia and Galatia		TROAS	PHILIPPI	
	Timothy joined them				Luke joined them. Imprisoned. Jailor's conversion Macedonian call. Gospel first preached in Europe				Great success Opposition Escape THESSALONICA
ANTIOCH		18 months Aquila and Priscilla Opposition of Jews A brief stay. Joined by Silas and Timothy. Sermon on Mars' Hill. Conversions							
Paul and Timothy	Returned to Antioch		JERUSALEM	EPHESUS	CORINTH	ATHENS	BEREA		
	THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND VOYAGE TO ROME, ACTS 18.23—28.31								
Phrygia and Galatia		EPHESUS	MACEDONIA	CORINTH	TROAS	Passed through			
ROME		Timothy, his companion Remained two years First Epistle to the Corinthians		Second Epistle to the Corinthians Paul's appeal to Caesar A prisoner for two years Felix, Festus, Agrippa		Three months Epistle to the Romans Possibly the Epistle to the Galatians		Seven days Eutychus restored to life Address to Ephesian elders	
Prisoner two years A.D. 62-63 Here wrote four Epistles: Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon		Shipwreck Melita, Euroclydon		Paul's appeal to Caesar A prisoner for two years Felix, Festus, Agrippa		Arrest. Defence Plottings Escape		ASSOS, MITYLENE SAMOS	
		From Caesarea to Rome		CAESAREA	JERUSALEM	MILETUS			







# Order and Dates of Paul's Epistles

## During 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey

1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians	52
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians	52

## During 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey

1 <sup>st</sup> Corinthians	57
2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians	57
Galatians	55-57
Romans	57-58

## During 1<sup>st</sup> Imprisonment

Ephesians	62
Philippians	62
Colossians	62
Philemon	63

## During 2<sup>nd</sup> Imprisonment

Hebrews	64-65
Titus	64-65
1 <sup>st</sup> Timothy	64-65
2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy	66-67

# Second Missions Trip

Acts 15:39-18:22

## Key Events

Timothy joins Paul and Silas near Lystra (Timothy is circumcised)

Forbidden by Holy Ghost to preach in Asia

Not allowed by the Spirit to go into Bithynia

Paul has vision to go into Macedonia

Lydia and her household saved

Paul casts spirit of divination out of woman

Paul and Silas beaten and cast into prison, sing praises at midnight, doors open.

Thessalonian church is started, P & S sent Berea (due to uproar)

Paul goes to Athens T&S join him later.

Paul argues at Mars Hill

Paul goes to Corinth and remains 18 months.

Writes 1 & 2 Thessalonians (1<sup>st</sup> about 3-6 months after leaving and 2<sup>nd</sup> about 2 months later)

Sails to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila and leaves them there.

Sails to Caesarea and travels to Antioch

# 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

## Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter

### I. The City

You can find the modern city of Soloniki on your map, and when you do, you have found the site of the ancient city Thessalonica. It had originally been named Therma, from the hot springs in the area; but 300 years before Christ, Cassander, king of Macedon, renamed it in honor of the sister of Alexander the Great. It was a free city, with its own government, and it also was the capital city of Macedonia. Thessalonica stood on the important Egnatian Way, Rome's greatest highway.

### II. The Church

The record is found in Acts 17:1-15. Paul, Silas, and Timothy left Philippi and traveled thirty-three miles to Amphipolis, then twenty-eight miles farther to Apollonia. It is interesting to note that no ministry was carried on in either of those cities. Their next trip was some forty miles to Thessalonica, where Paul ministered in the synagogue for perhaps three weeks and saw a number of people converted. In the city was a large group of Gentile proselytes ("devout Greeks," Acts 17:4) in the synagogue, and they responded enthusiastically, along with some of the Jews. This kind of success enraged the orthodox Jews, and they engineered a mob scene to embarrass the Christians and hinder Paul's ministry. The believers thought it best for Paul and his party to leave, which they did, going first to Berea. Paul left his associates at Berea and went alone to Athens. When Timothy joined Paul at Athens, the apostle promptly sent him back to Thessalonica to encourage the new church (1 Thess 3:1-3). The men finally met together at Corinth (Acts 18:5). Timothy reported on the state of the infant church in Thessalonica. It was from Corinth, about the year A.D. 50, that Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians. Second Thessalonians was written just a few months later.

### III. The Correspondence

The first letter had several purposes behind it: (1) to encourage and confirm the new believers in the things of Christ; (2) to answer false charges made against Paul and his ministry, 2:1-12; (3) to explain that the Christian dead would participate in the second coming of Christ; (4) to warn the Christians against pagan immorality, 4:4 ff; (5) to remind the church members to honor and follow their spiritual leaders, 5:12-13; and (6) to warn believers who had given up their jobs and were idle because they thought Christ would soon return, 2:9.

# Outline of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

## I. Personal: "We give thanks remembering" (1-3)

### A. How the church was born (1)

1. An elect group (1:1-5)
2. An exemplary group (1:6-7)
3. An enthusiastic group (1:8)
4. An expectant group (1:9-10)

### B. How the church was nurtured (2)

1. A faithful steward (2:1-6)
2. A gentle mother (2:7-8)
3. A concerned father (2:9-16)
4. A loving brother (2:14-20)

### C. How the church was established (3)

1. Through the Word (3:1-5)
2. Through prayer (3:6-13)

## II. Practical: "We beseech you" (4-5)

### A. Walk in holiness (4:1-8)

### B. Walk in love (4:9-10)

### C. Walk in honesty (4:11-12)

### D. Walk in hope (4:13-18)

### E. Walk in light (5:1-11)

### F. Walk in gratitude (5:12-13)

### G. Walk in obedience (5:14-28)