

STUDY SESSION I

BCA GROUP TOUR NOV 2025

Walking in the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul:

An Overview of Paul's Missionary Journeys and
Significance of Greece and Italy



WHO WAS THE APOSTLE PAUL?

An arch-enemy of Christianity turned Greatest Missionary of all time. He was ...

- Shipwrecked
- Attacked by murderous mobs
- Beaten
- Starved
- Imprisoned
- Betrayed by friends



PAUL'S CONVERSION

The Road to Damascus

How Did Paul Become a Christian?

Paul asked the chief priest in Jerusalem for authorization to arrest any follower of Jesus in Damascus (about 100 miles away). On his way from Judea to Damascus, a light from heaven blinded him. He fell to the ground, and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered, "Who are you?" The voice responded, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up! Go into the city, and you will be told what to do."

Paul was instructed to go to a house and wait for a Christian man named Ananias to come and restore his sight. (Acts 9:1-12)



WHAT DID PEOPLE THINK?

Reactions to Paul's Conversion

What Did Other Christians Think?

The Lord spoke to Ananias, who was afraid because of Paul's reputation. However, he obeyed and went to the house. The Lord told Ananias that Paul was chosen to take His name to the Gentiles, their kings, and the Jews. Ananias placed his hands on Paul, restoring his sight. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized.

He immediately began speaking in synagogues, convincing people that Jesus was the Messiah. Many were amazed and confused. The believers in Jerusalem were skeptical of his transformation until Barnabas vouched for him (Acts 9:13-28).

What Did the Pharisees Think?

Since the Lord had spoken to him, Paul continued preaching in Damascus, proclaiming that Jesus was the Son of God. He used Scripture to prove that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.

To the Jews, this was blasphemy, and they were outraged. They plotted to kill Paul as he left the city gates. When Paul learned of the plot, his friends lowered him in a basket through the city wall to escape (Acts 9:20-25).



PAUL'S MESSAGE



LETTERS WRITTEN BY PAUL

Letter	Key Verse	To	Where Written	When Written	Theme
Galatians	5:22, 23	Church at Galatia	Antioch in Syria	AD 49	Free in Christ Through Faith
1 Thessalonians	5:16-23	Church at Thessalonica	Corinth	AD 51	Letter to New Christians
2 Thessalonians	3:4-6	Church at Thessalonica	Corinth	AD 51	Persevere Until Christ Returns
1 Corinthians	13:4, 5	Church at Corinth	Ephesus	AD 56	Addresses Problems in the Church
2 Corinthians	12:9	Church at Corinth	Macedonia	AD 56	Paul's Authority Against False Teachers
Romans	1:21, 2a	Church at Rome	Corinth	AD 57	Salvation; Righteousness from God
Ephesians	2:8,9	Church at Ephesus	Rome	AD 60/61	The Church and Body of Christ
Colossians	2:9,10	Church at Colossae	Rome	AD 60/61	Christ Is Everything
Philemon	17-19	Philemon, a friend at Colossae	Rome	AD 60/61	Brothers in Christ
Philippians	2:1, 15	Church at Philippi	Rome	AD 62	Joy at All Times
1 Timothy	4:12, 13	Timothy, leader of Church at Ephesus	Macedonia	AD 62/63	Caring for the Church
Titus	3:4-7	Titus, leader of Church in Crete	Corinth	AD 63	Living in Faith
2 Timothy	3:15-17	Timothy, leader of Church at Ephesus	Rome	AD 67	Paul's Last Words

KEY TEACHINGS BY PAUL



- **Sin & Law** – All have sinned; the law reveals sin but cannot save.
- **Grace & Justification** – We are saved by faith, not works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- **Righteousness** – Given by God through Christ (Romans 3:21-26).
- **Holy Spirit & Sanctification** – Transforms believers into Christ's likeness.
- **Christ as Lord & Messiah** – Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- **Union with Christ** – Believers are “in Christ” (Paul's key theme).
- **Crucifixion & Resurrection** – The foundation of salvation and eternal hope.
- **Second Coming** – Christ's return gives us hope for the future.
- **Jews & Gentiles** – Salvation is for all people (Romans 3:29).
- **Spiritual Gifts** – The Holy Spirit empowers believers to serve (1 Cor. 12).
- **The Church & Leadership** – A unified body with called leaders (Ephesians 4:11-13).
- **Marriage & Family** – Roles in Christian households (Ephesians 5-6).
- **Prayer** – Vital for spiritual life and growth (1 Thess. 5:17).

PAUL’S TIMELINE

PART 1

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
AD 5	Born	Born an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin, a Roman citizen in Tarsus of Cilicia, given the Hebrew name of Saul	Acts 7:58, 22:25-29
AD 10-30	Educated	Received the best of Roman education in Tarsus and studied under the Jewish scholar Gamaliel.	
AD 30-35	Persecutor	Persecutor of Christians.	
AD 32 or 33	Attends Stephen’s Execution	Watches with approval the stoning of Stephen	Acts 7:57-60
AD 37	His Conversion & Ministry Begins	He has a conversion and starts preaching about Christ in synagogues.	Acts 9:1-25
AD 37	Goes to Jerusalem	Goes to Jerusalem, but the Christian leaders are suspicious of him.	Acts 9:26-29; Galatians 1:18-19

PAUL’S TIMELINE

PART 2

GREECE & ITALY TOUR

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
AD 37-40	Travels to Arabia	Spends three years in Arabia, then returns to Damascus	Galatians 1:17; Acts 9:23
AD 37-46	Flees to Syria & Cilicia	When the Christians hear about a plot to kill him, they send him to Syria and Cilicia.	Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21
AD 46	Ministers for a year in Syrian Antioch	Barnabas takes Paul to Syrian Antioch, where they minister for a year.	Acts 11:25, 26
AD 47	Ministers in Jerusalem	When a prophet predicts a famine will hit Jerusalem, the Christians collect contributions and send them to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Paul	Acts 11:27-30; 12:25
AD 47-49	First Missionary Journey		
AD 49	Jerusalem Council		Acts 15:1-35

PAUL’S TIMELINE

PART 3

GREECE & ITALY TOUR

‘25

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
AD 49	Galatians Letter Written		
AD 49-51	Second Missionary Journey		
AD 51	Appears Before Gallio		
AD 51	1 & 2 Thessalonians Written		
AD 52-57	Third Missionary Journey		
AD 53-55	In Ephesus		Acts 15:1-35
AD 56	1 & 2 Corinthians Written		
AD 57	Arrested in Jerusalem		
AD 57	Romans Letter Written		

PAUL’S TIMELINE

PART 4

GREECE & ITALY TOUR

‘25

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
AD 57-59	In prison in Caesarea		
AD 59	Shipwreck		
AD 57-62	Journey to Rome		
AD 60-61	Philemon Letter Written		
AD 60-61	Ephesians Letter Written		
AD 60-61	Colossians Letter Written		
AD 62	Philippians Letter Written		
AD 62-63	1 Timothy Letter Written		
AD 63	Released from prison		

PAUL’S TIMELINE

PART 5

YEAR	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
AD 63	Titus Letter Written		
AD 67	2 Timothy Letter Written		
AD 67	Imprisoned Again in Rome		
AD 64 or 68	Paul's Death		

GREECE & ITALY TOUR

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

KEY LOCATIONS: JERUSALEM,
ANTIOCH, EPHESUS, CORINTH,
ATHENS, AND ROME



Paul's Missionary Journeys

FIRST SECOND THIRD ROME



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

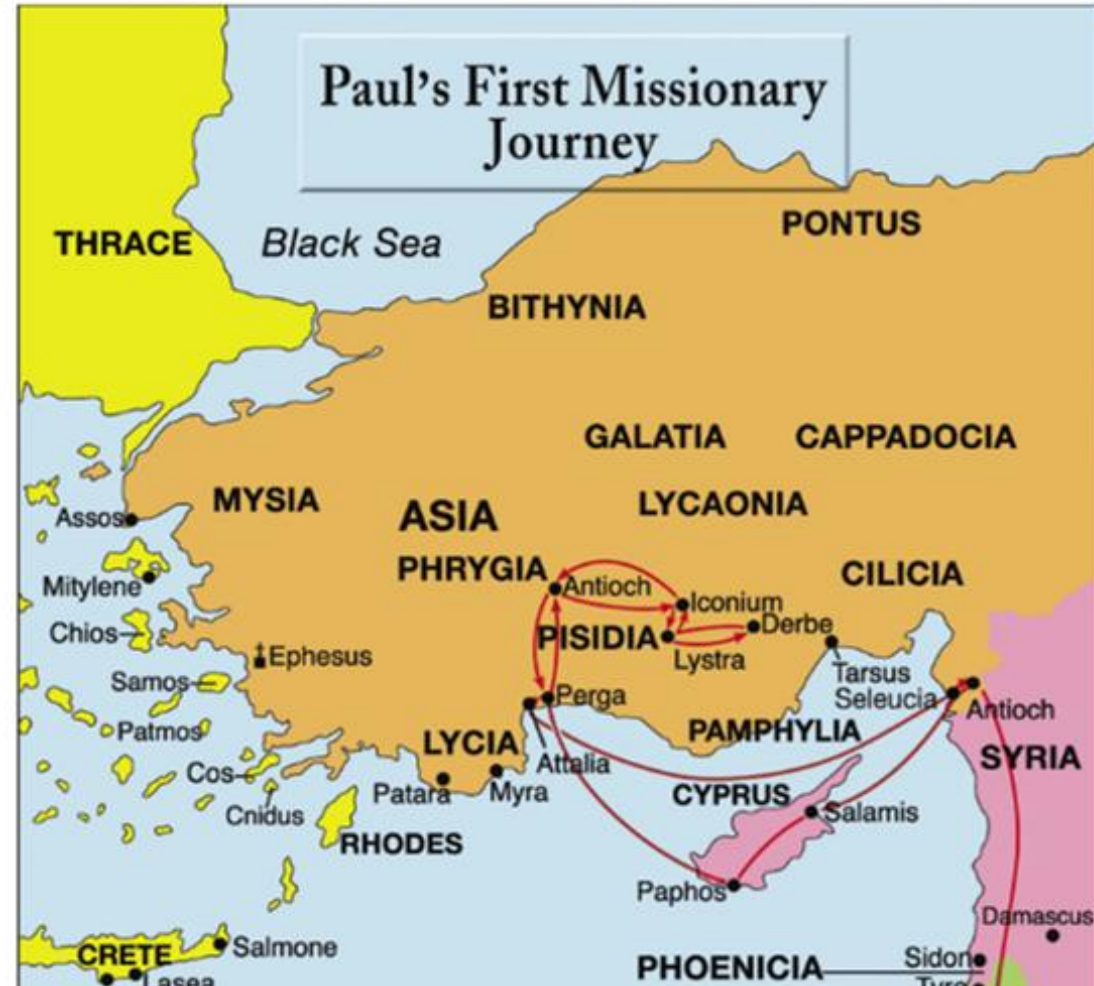
Travelers: Paul, Barnabas, John Mark

Route: Cyprus & Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey)

Distance: ~1,400 miles

Key Events:

- Antioch in Syria – Paul and Barnabas are set apart for their mission.
- Salamis & Paphos (Cyprus) – Paul confronts Elymas the sorcerer, blinding him. From here, he is called **Paul** instead of Saul.
- Perga in Pamphylia – John Mark leaves and returns to Jerusalem.
- Antioch of Pisidia – Paul preaches his longest recorded sermon but is forced out.
- Lystra – Paul heals a lame man, is mistaken for a god, then stoned and left for dead.
- Derbe – Many become believers.
- Return Trip – Paul and Barnabas appoint elders in their newly established churches.
- Antioch (Syria) – Paul reports his journey and writes **Galatians**.
- Jerusalem Council (AD 49) – Paul and Barnabas discuss whether Gentiles must follow Jewish law (Acts 15).



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Travelers: Paul, Silas, Timothy, Priscilla & Aquila, Luke
Route: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem
Distance: ~2,800 miles

Key Events:

- Antioch in Syria – Paul and Barnabas split over John Mark. Paul takes Silas; Barnabas sails to Cyprus.
- Syria & Cilicia – Paul and Silas deliver a letter from the Jerusalem Council to the churches.
- Derbe, Lystra, Iconium – Timothy joins Paul on the journey.
- Troas – Paul has a vision of a Macedonian man calling for help; Luke joins the mission.
- Philippi – Lydia converts, and Paul & Silas are imprisoned for freeing a slave girl. An earthquake breaks their chains; the jailer and his family convert.
- Thessalonica & Berea – Paul is persecuted but gains new converts. Berean Jews study Scripture eagerly.
- Athens (Mars Hill, Areopagus) – Paul preaches to Greek philosophers, using their altar to an **unknown god** to introduce them to Jesus.
- Corinth – Paul stays **18 months**, establishing a **thriving church**.
- Return to Antioch – Paul completes his journey and reports to the church.

Paul's **second journey** marks the **first major outreach** into Europe, expanding Christianity into **Greek and Roman cities**.



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Travelers: Paul, Timothy, Luke, others
Route: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel
Distance: ~2,700 miles

Key Events:

- Galatia & Phrygia – Paul revisits churches to strengthen believers.
- Ephesus – Paul stays **two years**, writes 1 Corinthians, and so many convert that idol makers riot.
- Macedonia & Greece (Achaia) – Paul writes 2 Corinthians & Romans.
- Philippi & Troas – A young man falls from a window and dies while Paul is preaching—Paul revives him.
- Miletus – Elders from Ephesus warn Paul of his impending arrest.
- Caesarea – A prophet predicts Paul's imprisonment.
- Jerusalem – Paul reports to church leaders and undergoes a purification ritual to counter accusations that Christianity opposes Judaism.

Paul's third journey focused on strengthening churches, writing key letters, and preparing for his final trials.



THEMES IN PAUL'S MINISTRY

THREE MAIN THEMES

- Faith
- Perseverance
- Cultural Adaptation



WHY VISIT GREECE & ITALY?



CULTURE & HISTORY

- Greece: The Intellectual and Philosophical Center
- Rome: The Political and Military Powerhouse
- Jewish and Pagan Influence




ROLE IN SPREADING CHRISTIANITY

- Strategic Locations for the Gospel
- Use of Greek as a Common Language
- Rome as the Final Destination

Q & A TIME

<https://bcachurch.com/walking-in-the-footsteps-of-the-apostle-paul/>

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STUDY RESOURCES

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