

Destin Church of Christ

October 22, 2023

Chapter 29: Paul's Mission

Acts 13 – 14; 16 – 20; Romans 1; 3 – 6; 8; 12; 15; 1 Corinthians 1; 3; 5 – 6; 10; 12 – 13; 15 – 16; Galatians 1; 3; 5 – 6; 1 Thessalonians 1 – 5

Introduction:

Paul's mission to the Gentiles involves a number of missionary journeys, and letters he wrote to churches he had started to encourage them when he was gone. They also addressed specific issues in these congregations.

Lesson Breakdown:

- Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)
- Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 16-18; 1 Thessalonians 1-5)
- Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18-20; Romans 1, 2-6, 8,12, 15; 1 Corinthians 1, 2, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 15-16; Galatians 1, 3, 5-6)

Plot Points:

- The early church exhibited a vibrant prayer life and dependence on the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- The church spread by forming disciples, people who were capable of forming other disciples.
- The church spread through the Roman world like wildfire in a forest.

As you watch the video for Session 29 of *The Story*, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ Paul was eventually beheaded for his work.
- ✓ Paul's home base is a place called Antioch.
- ✓ He offers salvation to anyone who believes.
- ✓ Paul is aligning his life to the Upper Story of God.
- ✓ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.
- ✓ The gospel has come to us because Paul was obedient.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

The New Testament records Paul taking several missionary journeys, each several years in length, each spreading the message of Christ to Asia Minor and Europe.

➤ 1st Missionary Journey (pages 407-411) [Acts 13-14]:

According to J Vernon McGee, the church in Antioch was the missionary church, not the church in Jerusalem. It was there the Holy Spirit told the prophets and teachers to: “*Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.*” After fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way (with John Mark as *their* assistant) to spread the news that Jesus the Messiah is raised from the dead. (page 407) [Acts 13:1-5].

- They travel to the island of Cyprus where they encountered a Jewish sorcerer who opposed them and a Roman governor who embraced the gospel. (pages 407-408) [Acts 13:6-12]
- They set sail for Perga in Pamphylia. (page 408) [Acts 13:13]
- They were invited to preach in the synagogue in Antioch. After an initial favorable reception, they faced persecution, so they turned their sights toward the Gentiles. (pages 408-409) [Acts 13:14-52]
- What did Paul and Barnabas do before they left Antioch? (page 409) [Acts 13:51]
- At Iconium, some people sided with the Jews, others with the apostles; so they go to Lystra and Derbe. (pages 410-411) [Acts 14:1-20]
- Paul and Barnabas return to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, and reported their journey to the church (NIB) [Acts 14:21-28].
- Conclusion of Paul’s 1st Missionary Journey

➤ 2nd Missionary Journey (pages 412-416) [Acts 15:36-18:22]:

- Paul and Barnabas depart ways over a disagreement about Barnabas’ cousin John Mark. (NIB) [Acts 15:36-39].
- Paul was joined by Timothy, Silas, and eventually Luke for his second missionary journey. (NIB) [Acts 15:40-16:5].
- They visited many cities in Macedonia, including Philippi where they stayed in Lydia’s home after she was baptized. (page 412) [Acts 16:6-16:15].
- The evangelists were beaten and thrown in jail where their faith convicted not only their jailer, but apparently the other prisoners as well. (pages 412-414) [Acts 16:16-40]
- Many Jews and Greeks from Thessalonica believed before Paul, Silas and Timothy were sent away for their own protection. (pages 414-415) [Acts 17:1-15]
- Paul was greatly distressed because Athens was full of idols. (NIB) [Acts 17:16-34].
- Paul then met Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth where he was again opposed by the Jews. He “shook out his clothes” and went to the Gentiles. (page 415) [Acts 18:1-6]

- The Gentiles believed, so Paul stayed and ministered there for about a year and a half. (page 416) [Acts 18:7-11]
- He also wrote letters to churches to teach and encourage them. His first letter was perhaps to the Thessalonians to encourage them to continue to be the model of Christianity that they had become in expectation of the Lord's return.
- Paul shaved his head because he had promised to be a "Nazirite" for a while. (NIB) [Acts 18:18]
- Paul returns to Antioch after stopping at Ephesus and Caesarea. (NIB) [Acts 18:19-22]
- The second missionary journey concludes with Paul in Corinth.

✓ 1 Thessalonians 1 – 5: (pages 416-419):

1. (pages 416-417) [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10]
2. (pages 417-418) [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 17-20]
3. (page 418) [1 Thessalonians 3:1-13]
4. (pages 418-419) [1 Thessalonians 4:16-18]
 - a. (NIB) [1 Thessalonians 4:13-15]
5. (page 419) [1 Thessalonians 5:16-28]

➤ 3rd Missionary Journey (pages 419-423) [Acts 18:23-20:38]:

- After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out on his third journey. (page 420) [Acts 18:23]
- As he strengthened the churches in the Galatian region, Apollos showed up in Ephesus where he met Priscilla and Aquila. (page 420) [Acts 18:24-25]
- He was a powerful speaker and strong disciple but needed further teaching. (pages 420-421) [Acts 18:26-28]
- Paul passes through the upper regions on his way to Ephesus, where he possibly wrote 1 Corinthians. (page 421) [Acts 19:1]
- Paul arrived in Ephesus, a hotbed of pagan idolatry, and as he began teaching in the synagogue, most Jews rejected his message. (page 421) [Acts 19:1-9]
- He stayed more than two years teaching both Jews and Greeks. (page 421) [Acts 19:10]
- In Ephesus, he penned letters to churches in Corinth, Galatia, and Rome, though he had not yet visited there.
- Many people from the region came to hear him as the word spread. (page 421) [Acts 19:11-12]
- Some of the Ephesians believed and left their idols and witchcraft in exchange for a new life in Christ. (pages 421-422) [Acts 19:13-20]
- Paul sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia, while he stayed in Asia a little longer. (page 422) [Acts 19:21-22]

- This did not sit well with the idol artisans who staged a riot to drive Paul out of town. (pages 422-423) [Acts 19:23-41]
- After the uproar had ended, Paul travels to Greece. He stays three months, then goes to Troas, by way of Macedonia, where he possibly wrote 2 Corinthians (page 423) [Acts 20:1-6]
- In Troas, Paul preached until midnight. Seated in a window, Eutychus fell asleep, fell three stories to the ground, and died. Paul raised him from the dead. (NIB) [Acts 20:7-12]
- Paul tells the Ephesian elders farewell. He prayed with them, and everyone wept because he told them that they would never see his face again. (NIB) [Acts 20:13-38]
- The third missionary journey concludes.

❖ Did Paul have any additional missionary journeys?
(page 436) (Romans 15:24, 28)

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 1; 3; 5 – 6; 10; 12 – 13; 15 – 16: (pages 424-429):
 - The Corinthian church had enjoyed a who's who of early church leaders.
 - This privilege should have prodded them onto Christian maturity but instead they chose sides like children on a playground.
 - Paul chastised them for their divisiveness, corrected their immorality, and answered questions that they had about spiritual gifts.
 - They needed to practice sacrificial love for one another.
 - Some were even denying the resurrection, so Paul gave them a remedial lesson on the essentials of the gospel and the hope of a future resurrection.
- 1. (page 424) [1 Corinthians 1:1-13]
- 2. (pages 424-425) [1 Corinthians 3:1-11, 21-23]
- 3. (page 425) [1 Corinthians 5:9-13a]
- 4. (page 425) [1 Corinthians 6:18-20]
- 5. (page 426) [1 Corinthians 10:14-21]
 - a. (NIB) [1 Corinthians 10:23-25]
- 6. (pages 426-427) [1 Corinthians 12:1-27]
 - a. (NIB) [1 Corinthians 12:28-31]
- 7. (page 427) [1 Corinthians 13:1-7]
 - a. (NIB) [1 Corinthians 13:8]
 - b. (NIB) [1 Corinthians 13:11]
 - c. (NIB) [13:13]
- 8. (pages 427-429) [1 Corinthians 15:1-58]
- 9. (page 429) [1 Corinthians 16:19-24]

- ✓ Galatians 1; 3; 5 – 6: (pages 429-431):
 - The Galatian churches were confused by Jewish Christians who insisted they practice the Jewish ceremonial rites.
 - Paul’s letter is a masterpiece on Christian liberty as he defended justification by faith alone.
 - Paul’s pastoral desire to minister to the believers in Rome prompted him to write a letter to convey the foundations of the Christian faith.
 - In spite of every form of opposition, the word of God could not be contained.
 - God sovereignly saw to it that obstacles became opportunities for Paul and others to take the gospel “*even to the ends of the earth.*”
 - 1. (pages 429-430) [Galatians 1:1-10]
 - 2. (pages 430-431) [Galatians 3:1-11, 23-28]
 - 3. (page 431) [Galatians 5:1, 13, 19-26]
 - 4. (page 431) [Galatians 6:18]
 - a. (NIB) [Galatians 6:2]
 - b. (NIB) [Galatians 6:7]
-
- ✓ Romans 1; 3 – 6; 8; 12; 15: (pages 432-437):
 1. (page 432) [Romans 1:1-17]
 2. (pages 432-433) [Romans 3:19-28]
 3. (page 433) [Romans 4:1-8]
 4. (pages 433-434) [Romans 5:1-11]
 5. (page 434) [Romans 6:23]
 6. (pages 434-435) [Romans 8:1-39]
 7. (page 436) [Romans 12:1-8]
 8. (pages 436-437) [Romans 15:23-33]

The purpose of all of Paul’s missionary journeys was to proclaim God’s grace in forgiving sin through Christ. God used Paul’s ministry to bring the gospel to the Gentiles and establish the church. Although Paul’s missionary journeys caused him to sacrifice everything, they were worth the cost (Philippians 3:7-11).

Next week ... we’ll look at the story of Paul’s final days and how God worked through him all the way to the end of his life. Before our next class, read chapter 30 of *The Story*: “Paul’s Final Days.”

Acts 20 – 23; 27 – 28, Ephesians 1 – 6; 2 Timothy 1 – 4