

Unpacking the Book

Lesson #24: Life of Paul (A)

I. Introduction

A historical perspective on the growth of the Early Church using an outline of Acts (from Talk through the Bible)

- A. The power of the church (1:1-2:47)
- B. The progress of the church (3:1-8:4)
- C. The witness in Judea and Samaria (8:5-12:25)
 - 1. Philip (8:5-40)
 - 2. Saul (9:1-31)
 - 3. Peter (9:32-11:18)
 - 4. Early church witness (11:19-12:25)
- D. The witness to the end of the earth (13:1-28:31)
 - 1. First missionary journey (13:1-14:28)
 - Jerusalem council (15:1-35)
 - 2. Second missionary journey (15:36-18:32)
 - 3. Third missionary journey (18:23-21:16)
 - 4. Trip to Rome (21:17-28:31)

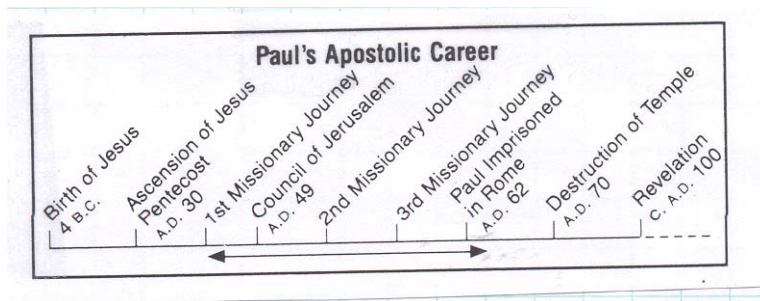
II. The apostle Paul

A. A brief biography of Paul

(Nelson's Complete Book of Maps and Charts)

Origin:	Tarsus in Cilicia (Acts 22:3) Tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5)
Training:	Learned tentmaking (Acts 18:3) Studied under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
Early Religion:	Hebrew and Pharisee (Phil 3:5) Persecuted Christians (Acts 8:1-3; Phil. 3:6)
Salvation:	Met the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-8) Received the infilling of the Holy Spirit on the street called Straight (Acts 9:17)
Called to	Church to Antioch was instructed by the Holy Spirit to send out Paul to the work (Acts 13:1-3)
Missions:	Carried the gospel to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:7-10)
Roles:	Spoke up for the church at Antioch at the council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35) Opposed Peter (Gal. 2:11-21) Disputed with Barnabas about John Mark (Acts 15:36-41)
Achievements:	Three extended missionary journeys (Acts 13-20) Founded numerous churches in Asia Minor, Greece and possibly Spain (Rom. 15:24, 28) Wrote letters to numerous churches and various individuals which now make up one-fourth of our New Testament
End of Life:	Following arrest in Jerusalem, was sent to Rome (Acts 21:27; 28:16-31) According to Christian tradition, released from prison allowing further missionary work in Macedonia; rearrested, imprisoned again in Rome, and beheaded outside of the city

B. Note his place in the flow of New Testament history

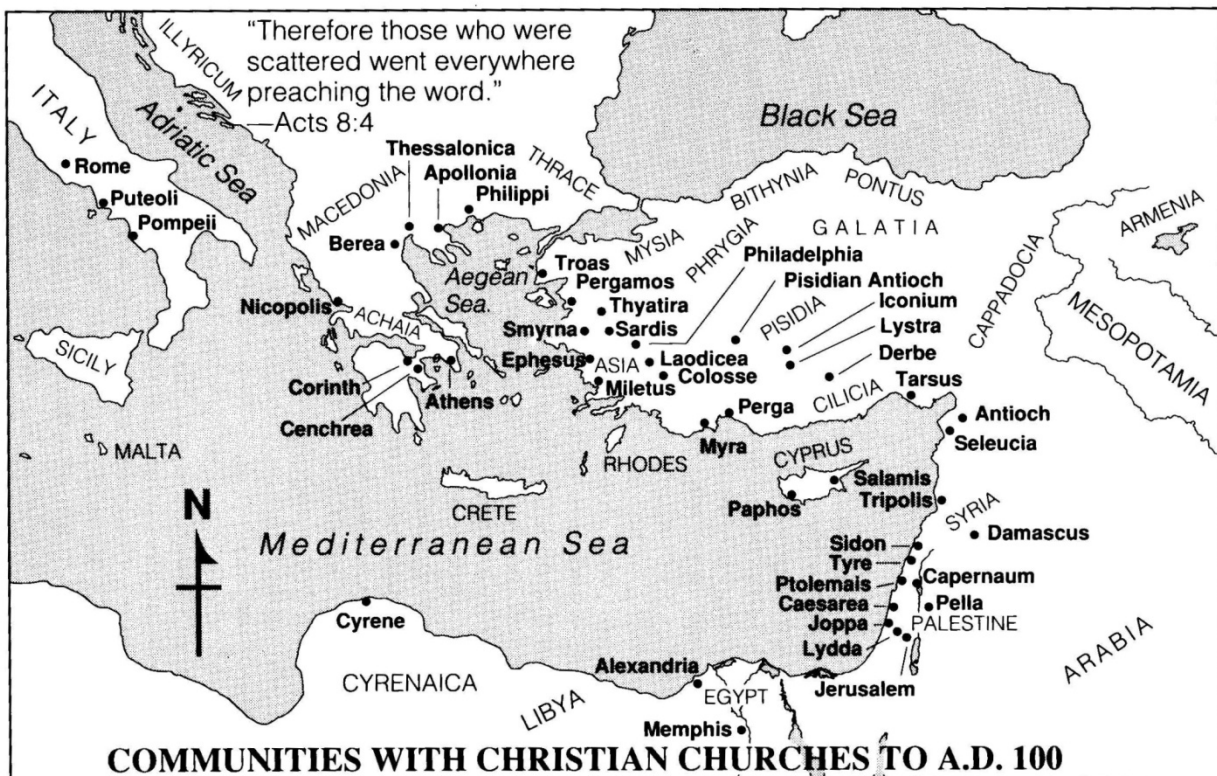


C. Note the impact of his work geographically

The Life of Paul

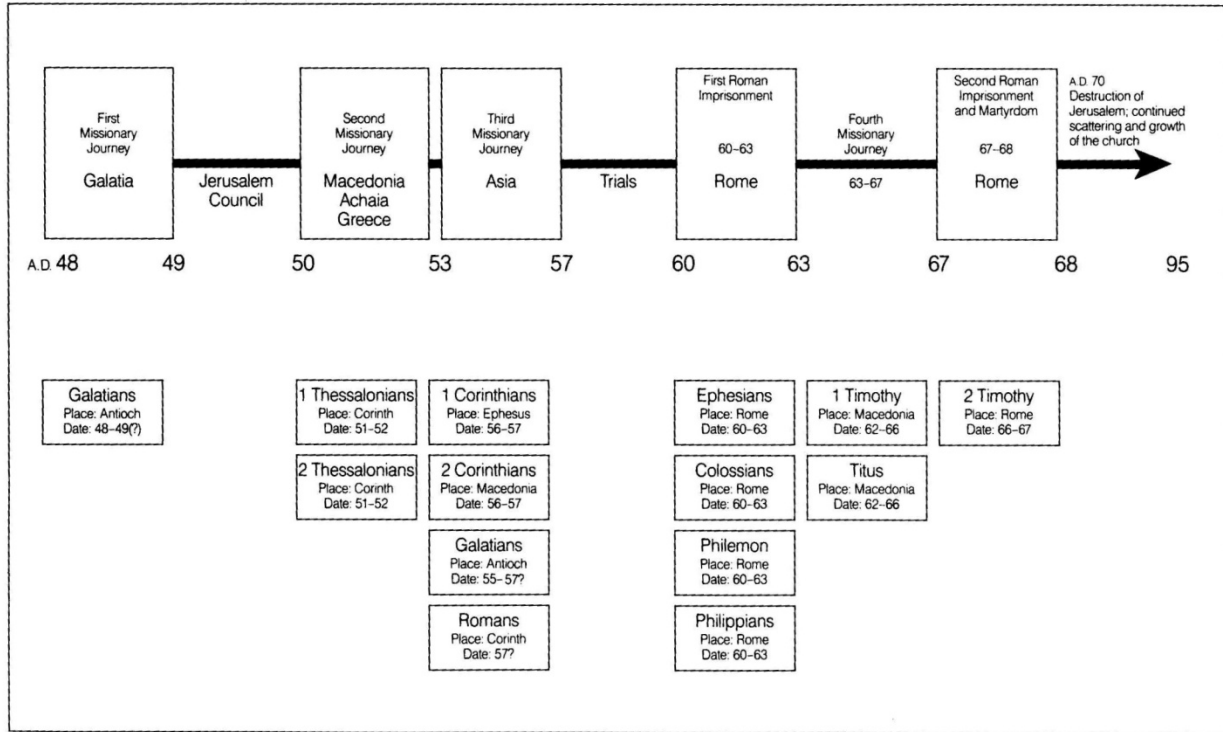


Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts © 1993 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.



D. A time line of Paul's epistles

Time Line of Paul's Epistles



Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts © 1993 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

III. So what?

What if Paul had not come to Christ on that road to Damascus? How would your life be different?