

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

September 30, 2020

Series - *The Life and Writings of the Apostle Paul*

Lesson One - *Paul's Crossings*

Text Verses

Part One – Paul's First and Second Journeys

Memory Verse

"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." - (Acts 13:47)

Introduction

In this first part of lesson two, we will examine Paul's first and second missionary journeys. This will be a survey trip, as time will not permit us to examine each event in detail. We will list the events as they take place chronologically, and pull out some of the more significant occurrences for further discussion.

I. Paul's Call to the Mission Field (Acts 13:1 – 4)

A. God Calls (Acts 9:15)

B. The Local Church Confirms the Call (Acts 13:1 – 4)

It is important for us to realize that God calls a man to serve Him full-time in the ministry, but the call should also be recognized and confirmed by the local church.

It is also important to understand that the local church at Antioch had full authority by God to ordain ("they laid their hands on them"), and to send out anybody that they believed was called by God, and qualified to serve. Notice – they did not consult the Church at Jerusalem.

II. Paul's Companions on the First Journey (Acts 13:1 – 2; 5)

A. Barnabas (Acts 13:1 – 2)

In Acts 13:1 – 2, we see Barnabas and Saul separated by the Holy Ghost for the missionary work in Asia Minor. When we get to verse 9, we see the name Paul for the first time, and it happens at a time when Paul is demonstrating Spirit-filled leadership. From here on in the Book of Acts, we see Paul's name mentioned before Barnabas most of the time.

B. John Mark (Acts 13:5)

1. John Mark travelled back with Barnabas and Saul from Jerusalem to Antioch.

"And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark." - (Acts 12:25)

2. Barnabas was John Mark's uncle.

"Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)" - (Colossians 4:10)

III. Paul's Course on the First Journey (Acts 13 – 14)

1. They travel from Antioch to Seleucia, then to Cyprus (Acts 13:4)

2. While on Cyprus they go to Salamis and Paphos (Acts 13:5-12)

Note - Here is where Paul rebukes Elymas the Sorcerer, who is struck down with blindness. This is Paul's first miracle.

3. From Paphos they go to Perga of Pamphylia where John Mark departs for home (Acts 13:13)

4. Ministry in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:14-50)

Note - This is where Paul preached his first recorded sermon. (Acts 13:14 – 41)

5. At Iconium (Acts 13:51 - 14:6)

6. Flees to Lystra and Derbe, preaching the gospel (Acts 14:6-7)

In Lystra, Paul and Barnabas are mistaken for gods (Acts 14:8-18)

Stoned at Lystra, supposed to be dead, but re-enters the city (Acts 14:19-20)

7. Departs with Barnabas to Derbe, preaching the gospel (Acts 14:20-21)

8. They return to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch to strengthen disciples and appoint elders (Acts 14:21-24)

9. From Antioch of Pisidia they returned through Perga of Pamphylia to Antioch of Syria.

IV. Paul's Communication with the Churches Back Home (Acts 14:26 - Acts 15)

A. Antioch (Acts 14:26 – 28)

B. Phenice and Samaria? (Acts 15:3)

C. Jerusalem (Acts 15:4)

Note – their purpose for going to Jerusalem was two-fold. First, they wanted to report to the Apostles regarding the work that they had done in Galatia. Secondly, they needed to straighten out a problem that they were having with a group of converted Pharisees, which were insisting that the Gentile converts be put under the Law of Moses (Acts 15:1 – 2; 5 – 31)

V. Paul's Contention with Barnabas (Acts 15:36 – 39)

A. John-Mark Departs (Acts 13:13)

B. Paul and Barnabas Divide (Acts 15:39)

Note - Paul would later re-affirm his confidence in John-Mark (17 years later according to our timeline)

"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." - (2 Timothy 4:11)

John-Mark was obviously profitable to God, because He used him to pen one of His gospels.

VI. Paul's Companions on the Second Journey (Acts 15:40 – 41)

A. Silas (Acts 15:40 – 41)

After the split with Barnabas over John-Mark, Paul chose Silas to be his traveling companion. Barnabas took John-Mark and went to the Island of Cyprus. Paul did not travel again to Cyprus on either his second or third journeys; neither did he stop there on his way to Rome.

B. Timothy (Acts 16: 1 – 5)

"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." - (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

C. Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:1 – 3)

VII. Paul's Course on the Second Journey (Acts 15:41 – 18:22)

1. Paul and Silas depart, going through Syria and Cilicia strengthening the churches (Acts 15:40-41)
2. Goes to Derbe and Lystra and picks up Timothy, strengthening the churches (Acts 16:1-5)
3. They go to Troas and Paul sees a vision of a Macedonian man (Acts 16:6-10)

Note – Notice how Paul followed the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 16:6 – 10). Many men may have tried to force open a door that God wanted closed, but Paul looked for the door of opportunity that God was placing in front of Him. Who do you suppose the man of Macedonia was?

4. They sail from Troas to Neapolis (Acts 16:11)
5. To Philippi where Paul meets Lydia (Acts 16:12-15)
6. Paul and Silas imprisoned after casting out a demon from a slave girl (Acts 16:16-25)
7. Prison doors opened miraculously and the jailer saved (Acts 16:25-34)
8. Departs from Philippi (Acts 16:35-40)
9. They passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia (Acts 17:1)

10. At Thessalonica and preached Christ, but had to flee (Acts 17:1-10)
11. At Berea where he leaves Silas and Timothy (Acts 17:10-14)
12. At Corinth and rejoined with Silas and Timothy (Acts 18:1-17) - (The last 1 1/2 years are in Corinth)
13. Paul returns to Antioch after stopping at Ephesus, Caesarea, and Jerusalem (Acts 18:18-22)

VIII. Paul's Converts and the Churches Established on the First and Second Journeys

A. Converts

1. Deputy Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:6 – 12)

Note – This is Paul's first recorded convert.

2. Lydia (Acts 16:14 – 15)
3. Philippian Jailor (Acts 16:19 – 34)
4. Crispus (Acts 18:8)

Note – this is a partial list of the people that God used Paul and his companions to reach with the gospel. Paul, no doubt, had many other converts that are not named. Also, it is not clear whether or not some of the saints mentioned in these places where Paul traveled were already converted when he got there. (i.e. Priscilla and Aquila)

B. Churches

1. The Churches of Galatia (Acts 14:20 – 23)

Galatia is a region east of Asia Minor. All of Paul's missionary work on his first journey, with the exception of the work done on the Island of Crete, was done in Galatia.

2. The Churches of Greece (Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Berea? Athens?)

3. The Church at Ephesus (though this church will not be established until the third journey – Paul visited Ephesus on his way back to Jerusalem at the conclusion of the second journey.

Note – the above list is not exhaustive. It is not possible to determine exactly which cities had organized churches established in them.

IX. Paul's Correspondence During His First and Second Journeys

A. Galatians – probably written from Antioch after he returned from the first missionary journey.

- B. 1 and 2 Thessalonians** – written from Corinth – 51 AD