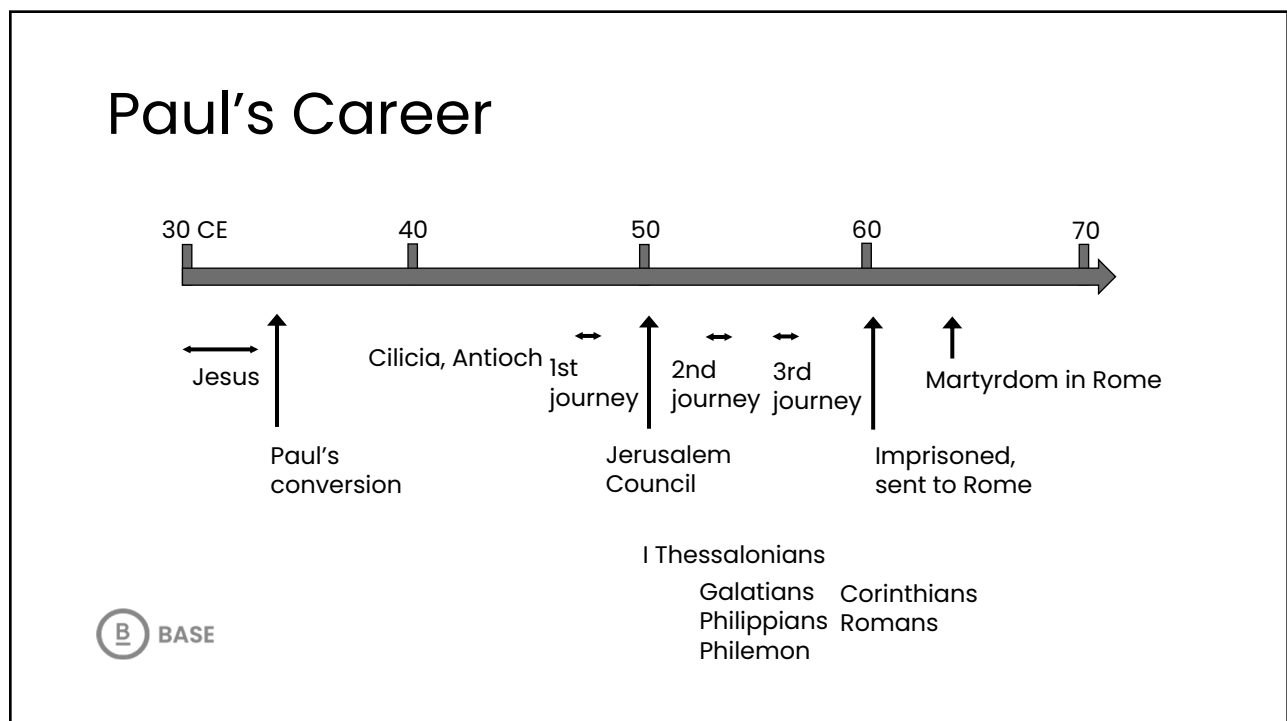




1



2

The New Testament – Letters

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Matthew | II Thessalonians |
| Mark | I Timothy |
| Luke | II Timothy |
| John | Titus |
| Acts of the Apostles | Philemon |
| Romans | Hebrews |
| I Corinthians | James |
| II Corinthians | I Peter |
| Galatians | II Peter |
| Ephesians | I John |
| Philippians | II John |
| Colossians | III John |
| I Thessalonians | Jude |
| | Revelation |

Definitely Paul

Pseudepigraphical

Non-Pauline



3

Reading Paul's Letters

Letters in Ancient Rome

Structure:

- Salutation
- Thanksgiving
- Body
- Greetings

Often dictated to a scribe

Carried by hand, often through dangerous territory

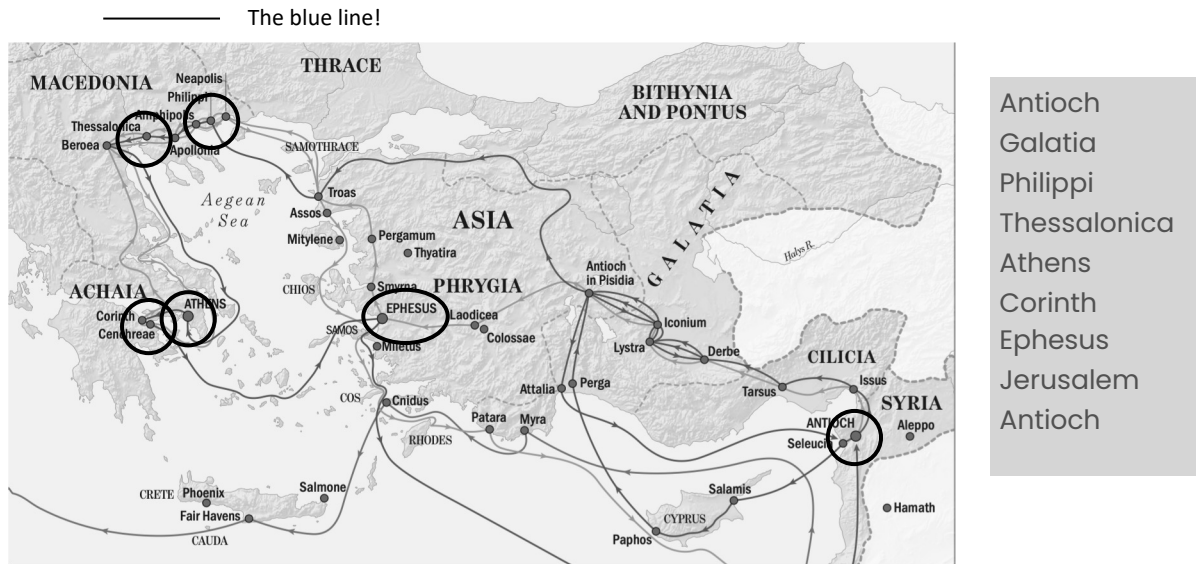
- Paul wrote to churches about particular problems or questions
- We only have Paul's side of the conversation
- Some letters were lost
- Paul does not tell us everything he thinks; he answers the church's questions
- Paul uses rhetoric frequently; he may take up an opposing position to attack it



4

Paul's Second Journey

50-52 AD


<https://open.bible/maps/>

5

I Thessalonians

~51 AD

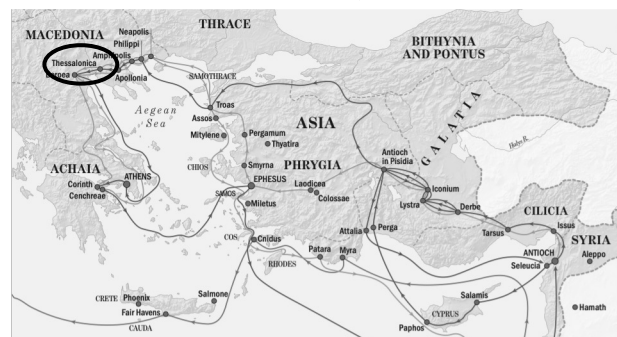
The earliest Christian writing

Written to the church founded by Paul at Thessalonica, the capital of Macedonia

Paul reminds the young church of what he had taught them

Paul gives the church encouragement during a time of persecution

Paul advises the church not to be too focused on the timing of the resurrection and the second coming of Christ

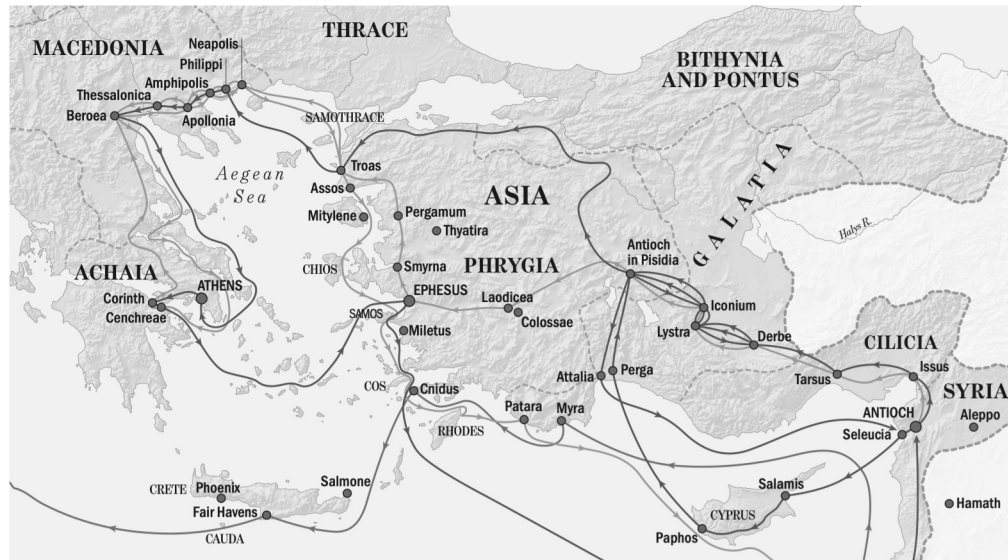

<https://open.bible/maps/>

6

Paul's Third Journey – Many Revisits

———— The orange line!

54–58 AD



<https://open.bible/maps/>

7

Galatians: Justification by Grace through Faith

~55 AD

The "Magna Charta" of Christian freedom

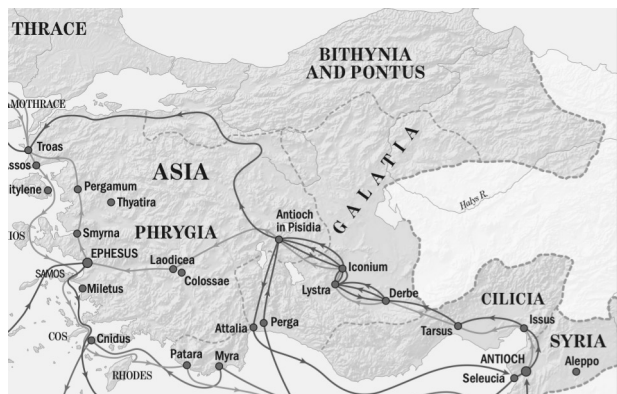
An angry, passionate letter written to the churches in Galatia

Paul refutes those who believe that the Gentiles must be circumcised:

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in/of Jesus Christ.



--Galatians 2:15-16a



<https://open.bible/maps/>

8

I Corinthians

57 AD

Corinth was a teeming commercial center and port, filled with people from throughout the Empire

Paul wrote to this gifted but troubled church more than any other over perhaps 10 years

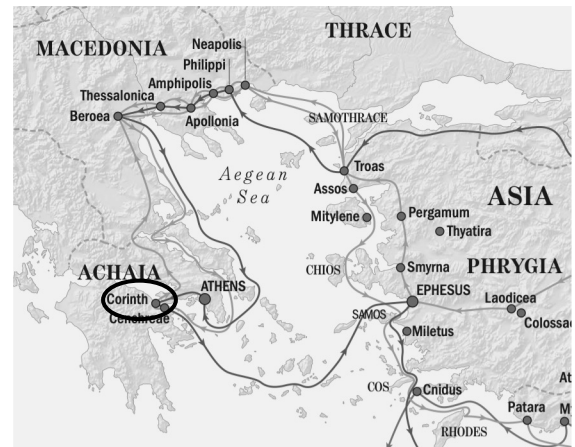
I Corinthians 1-6:

Paul addresses divisions in the church

I Corinthians 7-16:

Paul answers a series of questions:

- Marriage
- Food offered to idols
- Proper dress during worship
- Abuses of the Lord's Supper



<https://open.bible/maps/>

9

Spiritual Gifts: I Corinthians 12-14

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

--I Corinthians 12:4-7

Spiritual Gifts:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| • Wisdom | • Prophecy |
| • Knowledge | • Discernment |
| • Faith | • Tongues |
| • Healing | • Interpretation |
| • Miracles | |

The Greatest Gift:

LOVE

And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

--I Corinthians 13:13



10

II Corinthians: A Troubled Community

57 AD

Written after I Corinthians, II Corinthians reflects the troubled relationship Paul had with the church at Corinth, and may be several letters combined together.

II Corinthians 1-9

Paul's ministry with the Corinthian church

II Corinthians 10-13

A "severe letter" defending Paul's apostolic authority



11

Romans

58 AD

- One of the most important documents in Christianity
- The premier theological description of the ministry of Jesus
- Paul's most complete statement of his theology
- Written to a church (Rome) Paul did not found and had never visited
- A continual source of renewal within the Church
 - Origen, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas
 - Martin Luther, John Wesley, Karl Barth

Romans 1-8: God's saving act through Jesus Christ

Romans 9-11: The role of Israel and the problem of Jewish unbelief

Romans 12-16: Ethical instructions



12

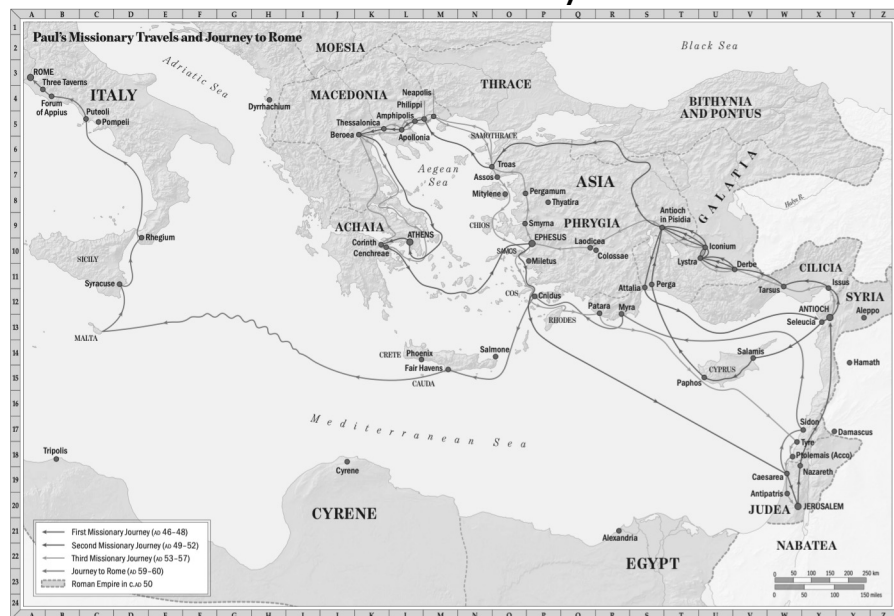
In Summary...

- Grace is a free gift; we cannot earn it
- Grace is a gift through faith; we access it through faith in/of Jesus
- The cost of this Grace (paid by God) = sacrifice of God's son
- Through faith, by God's Grace the Spirit dwells within us and transforms us into full disciples of Christ
- Our lives as faithful disciples are lives of loving service; without love, our service is worth nothing, and in any case, it cannot save us



13

Paul's Final Journey to Rome



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14

Pseudepigraphical Writing

- Writing in the name and under the authority of another
- Common in the ancient world, particularly among disciples of a great teacher
- The disciple(s) wrote to apply their master's thought to new situations
- Many scholars consider the following letters to be possibly pseudepigraphical:

II Thessalonians
Colossians
Ephesians
I-II Timothy
Titus



15

The Legacy of Paul

Predominantly Christian by

325 CE

600 CE



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16