

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Introduction to our Study

John Wesley reportedly said that studying the Bible was like harvesting apples. First you shake the tree, then you shake a limb, then you look on each bough and under each leaf. Study by survey is shaking the tree.

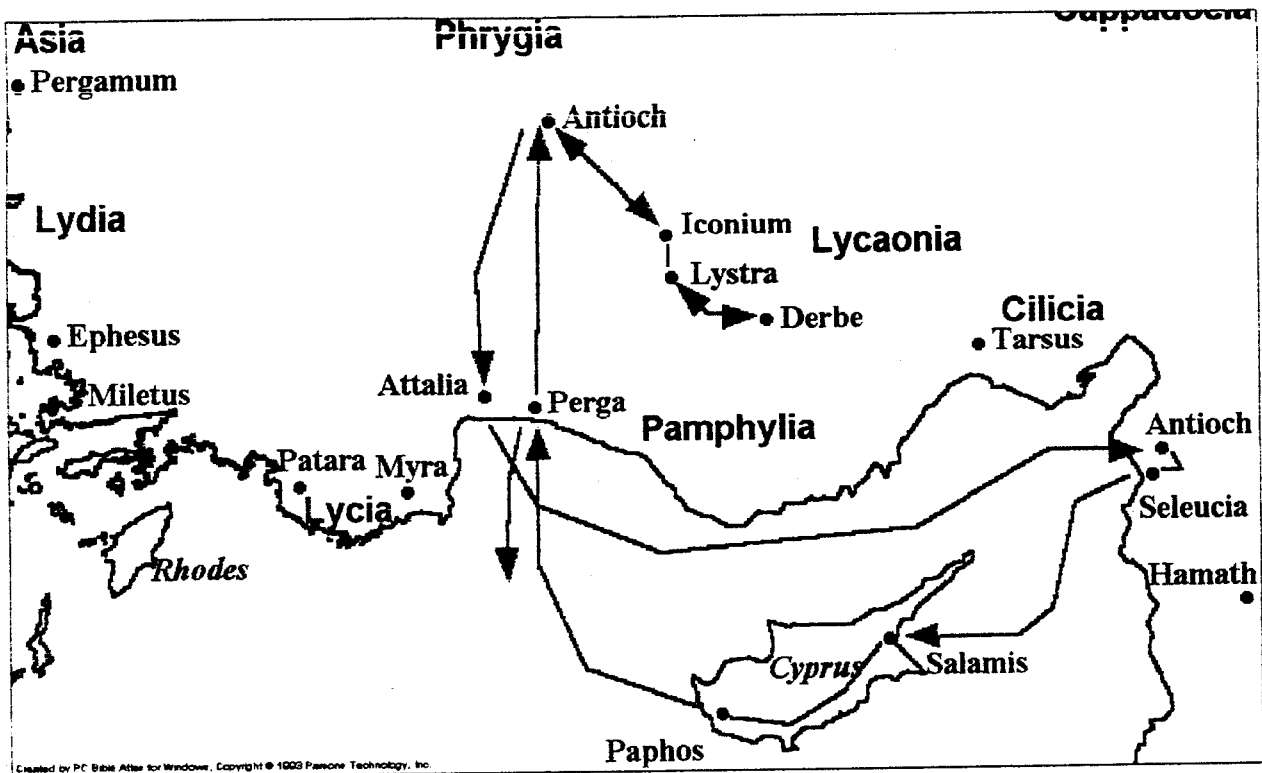
Survey is a very important method of study. It enables the student to see the connection between books as well as the immediate context of any given verse or paragraph. Next to a genuine desire to know God's will, knowing the immediate and greater context is perhaps the most important factor in correct Bible interpretation. Surveys are essential for those just beginning a study of the Bible, but they are also important for mature students who benefit from seeing once again "the big picture."

The study you are beginning is a survey of Paul's life and epistles. Three or four chapters will be covered in each lesson. We would suggest that these chapters be incorporated into a daily Bible reading program. Read over the questions first, then look for the answers as you read. This will keep the time of preparation from seeming so long.

Some mature students may be frustrated by having to limit discussion of truly important points in some of the lessons. However, each book being surveyed is studied in much greater detail in classes offered at Embry Hills. Please understand the value of the survey for some in the class and if you wish to be involved in more discussion, sign up for the class studying the particular epistle in which you are interested.

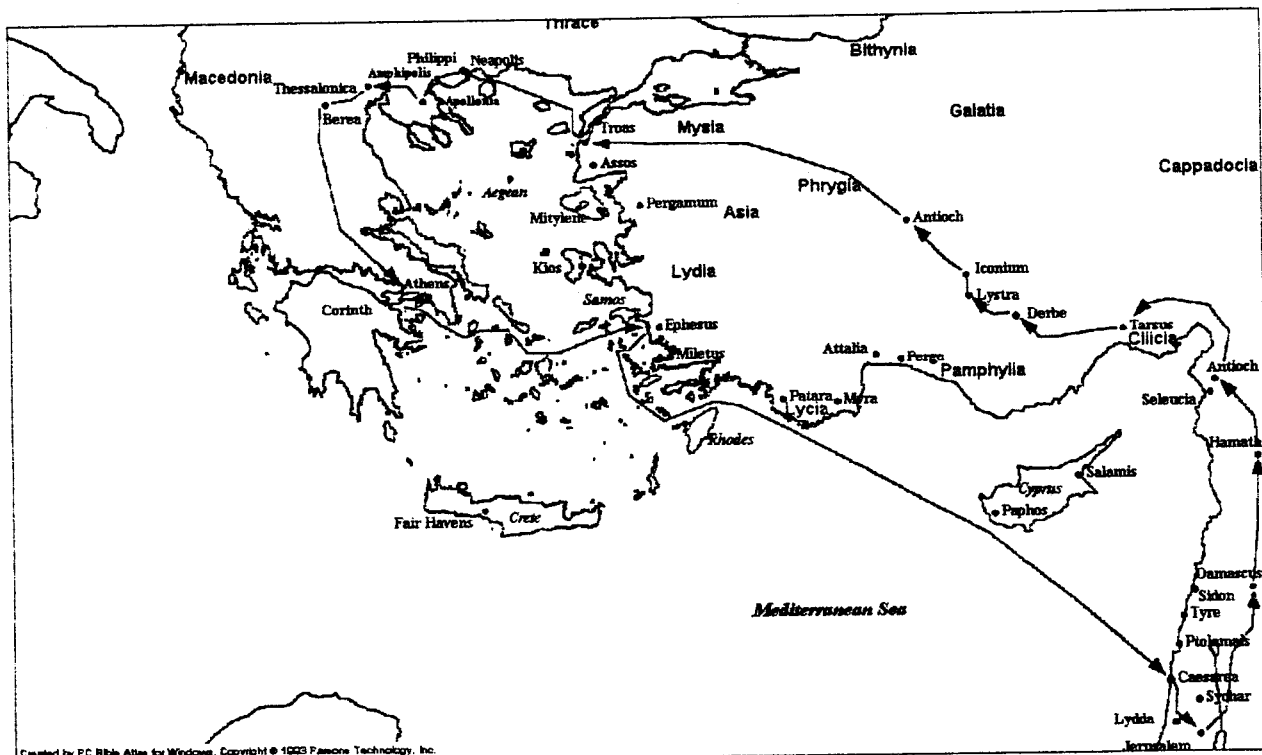
LIFE OF PAUL

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BOOKS</u>	<u>CONTEMPORARY EVENTS</u>
34 (May)			Church established Church scattered
36	Paul converted in Damascus Goes to Arabia		Philip in Samaria
39	Returns to Jerusalem Thence to Tarsus		
40	(?) During these years he probably preaches in Syria & Cilicia		Baptism of Cornelius
41	(?) with Tarsus as headquarters. Probably underwent most of the (?) sufferings of II Cor. 11:24-26 including 2 Roman and 5 Jewish scourgings.		Church established in Antioch
43	Brought to Antioch by Barnabas		
44	Visits Jerusalem with Barnabas to bring famine relief from Antioch		Death of James Death of Herod Agrippa I
45	Antioch		
46	<u>First Journey:</u> Seleucia, Salamis		
48	Paphos, Antioch in Pisidia		
48	Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, return,		
49	preaching in Perga to Antioch		Agrippa II made king of Chalcis
50	Conference in Jerusalem		
51	<u>Second Journey:</u> From Antioch with Silas through Cilicia, Lycaonia and Galatia to Troas.		
52	Vision of Macedonian in Troas. Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, CORINTH	I Thessalonians	Claudius expels Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2)
53	CORINTH	II Thessalonians	Felix made Procurator of Judea
54	(Spring) Leaves Corinth for (Summer) Jerusalem, Antioch <u>Third Journey:</u> (Fall) to Ephesus.		Death of Claudius and accession of Nero (Oct)
55	Ephesus		
56	Ephesus		
57	(Spring) EPHESUS	I Corinthians	
	(Summer) Leaves for (Autumn) MACEDONIA	II Corinthians	



ABOVE: PAUL'S FIRST EVANGELISTIC TOUR

BELOW: PAUL'S SECOND EVANGELISTIC TOUR



Life of Paul continued:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BOOKS</u>	<u>CONTEMPORARY EVENTS</u>
57	(Winter) CORINTH	Galatians (?) Romans	
58	(Spring) Leaves for Jerusalem with relief. Thru Philippi & Miletus. (Summer) Arrested in Jerusalem Sent to Caesarea		
59	Caesarea in prison		Nero murders his mother.
60	(Autumn) Leaves for Rome (Winter) Shipwrecked on Malta		
61	(Spring) Arrives in Rome		
62	In ROME	Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon	
63	(Spring) Acquitted in Rome, goes to Macedonia and Asia.		
64	(?) Goes to Spain		Fire in Rome (July 19th) followed by persecution of Christians.
65	(?) Spain		
66	(?) Returns to Ephesus, leaves Timothy and goes to		Jewish War Begins
67	(Spring) MACEDONIA (Summer) In Crete, leaves Titus (Autumn) EPHEBUS (Winter) Nicopolis. Arrested (?)	I Timothy Titus	Book of Hebrews written (?) I & II Peter, Jude and possibly James were written about this time, not long before destruction of Jerusalem.
68	(Spring) In prison in ROME (May or June) Executed	II Timothy	Death of Nero

Note: The above material is taken mainly from *Life and Epistles of St. Paul* by Conybeare and Howson, slightly amended in spots from J. W. McGarvey's commentary on *Acts of Apostles*.

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 1

Paul's Early Life

This information must be pieced together from Acts and references in the epistles.

I. Paul's Nationality (Three Great Cultures: Roman, Greek, Hebrew)

A. A Roman

1. Did not live in Rome, but possessed citizenship (Acts 22:25).
2. Born a Roman (Acts 22:27-28). A most favored status.
3. Probably indicates father or grandfather honored for service.

B. A Citizen of Tarsus (Acts 22:39)

1. Indicates more than residence — roots in Tarsus.
2. Double citizenship provided significant honor.
3. Means he was reared in atmosphere of Greek culture.

C. A "Hebrew of Hebrews" (Philippians 3:5)

1. "Tribe of Benjamin" Named for Israel's king from Benjamin.
2. Obviously the most meaningful relationship to him.
 - a. He spoke the language of Palestine, Aramaic.
 - b. He went to Jerusalem for education.

II. City of Tarsus

A. Its universities comparable to those of Athens and Alexandria.

B. Its beauty: surrounded by fertile plains, mountains, the Cydnus River.

C. Its commerce

1. River Port: Exporting timber, importing for the whole region.
2. Center of weaving: Ropes, tents, etc. from Cilician goat hair.
3. He learned tent-making (Acts 18:3). Gamaliel said, "Learning of any kind, unaccompanied by a trade, ends in nothing and leads to sin."

D. Its religion

1. Pagan idolatry characterized by "luxurious effeminacy, unbounded gluttony, and brutal license" practiced daily and in festivals.
2. Saul was "as touching the...law, blameless" (Philippians 3:6)

III. Paul's Family

A. Almost certainly wealthy and prominent.

B. A Pharisaic family devoted to law keeping.

1. Sent Saul to the greatest living Rabbi for education.
2. Likely remained unbelievers (Acts 23:16, Philippians 3:8).

IV. Paul's Age

A. A "young man" at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58). Under 40.

B. "Paul, the aged" by AD 60-64 (Philemon 9).

C. Probably born around AD 1.

V. Paul's Education

A. Early

1. Age 5: Bible study with parents, memorizing scripture, etc.
2. Age 6: Attend Rabbi's school.
3. Age 10: Begin study of oral law (traditions).
4. Age 13: Bar Mitzvah, and enrollment with Gamaliel in Jerusalem.

B. Gamaliel most outstanding Rabbi of that era.

1. New Testament picture (Acts 5:33-39) agrees with other sources.
2. Paul would learn from him:
 - a. Candor and honesty of judgment.
 - b. Willingness to study Greek writings.
 - c. Enthusiasm and zeal for the law of God.
3. Here Paul would study Hebrew as original language of the Law, though he most often quoted from the Septuagint Greek version.

C. Saul was a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5, Acts 26:4-5)

VI. Two Interesting Questions

A. Did Saul see Jesus?

1. Almost certainly he did not during the lifetime of Jesus.
2. He had probably finished his education and gone on mission to Gentiles (see Matthew 23:15, Galatians 5:11).

B. Was he ever married?

1. Considered the duty of every Jewish male by age 18.
2. If a member of Sanhedrin, it was required.
3. If so, his wife died before his major preaching work began.

VII. Paul's Personality

A. Luke was impressed with:

1. His gestures (Acts 20:34, 26:1, 16:28).
2. His eyes (Acts 13:9, 14:9, 23:1, and so on).

B. Unobservant of nature. Compare with Jesus.

C. Some indication of physical infirmity, mostly after persecution.

VIII. Paul's Persecuting Days (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-11)

IX. Paul's Early Life as a Christian

A. Converted in Damascus, preached Christ (Acts 9:22)

1. Went to Arabia (Galatians 1:17).
2. Returned to Damascus.
3. Escaped with great difficulty (II Corinthians 11:32-33).

B. In Jerusalem.

1. Accepted by church only with Barnabas' encouragement (Acts 9).
2. Preached Christ, but was object of plot to kill him (Acts 9:29-30).
3. Left only because of instructions (Acts 22:17-21).

C. Went home to Tarsus.

D. To Antioch, fetched by Barnabas.

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Lesson 2: Acts 13-14

First Preaching Tour

INTRODUCTION

1. Acts 1-12 describes the "Acts of the Apostles" in preaching the gospel "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria." The remainder of the book tells of its spread "to the end of the earth." See Acts 1:8.
 2. Paul dominates the Acts account of this expansion of gospel influence.
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I. DEPARTURE

1. Name the prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch.
2. Who selected Barnabas and Saul for a special work?
3. How were they sent away?
4. From what seaport did they sail?
5. What other person left Antioch with them?

II. THE JOURNEY

1. To what island did they sail? Could Acts 4:36 provide a reason for this?
2. On Cyprus, tell one event that took place in
 - a. **Salamis**
 - b. **Paphos**What important man became a believer here?
3. What happened at **Perga** in Pamphylia?
Is there any evidence that they preached there on that occasion?
4. Read Paul's sermon in the synagogue in **Antioch of Pisidia**. What speeches studied earlier in Acts are similar?
How was Paul's speech received?
What changed the attitude of the Jews?
5. What was the initial response in **Iconium**?
What caused problems?
Why did Barnabas and Paul leave?
6. What strange thing happened after Paul healed a cripple in **Lystra**?
How did the tide change? Who stood around him?
Note: A young man we will meet later may well have been among them.
7. What was accomplished in **Derbe**?
8. After leaving Derbe, what did they do in each church they had established?
9. In what town previously visited did they now do their first preaching?

III. THE RETURN

1. To whom did they make their report when they returned?
2. How long did he remain?

Extra: Find the verse where *Saul* becomes *Paul*.

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Lesson 3: Acts 15-16

Jerusalem and Second Tour

I. THE CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM (Acts 15:1-35)

1. What problem troubled the church in Antioch?
2. Suggest two or three good reasons for sending men to Jerusalem to settle the matter.
3. What did Paul and Barnabas report to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem?
4. What points did Peter make?
5. What special evidence did Barnabas and Paul offer in support?
6. What was the judgment of James?
7. In harmony with his advice, what four things did the decree urge Gentiles to abstain from?
8. How many churches were involved in this conference?
Was any vote taken?
Who made the decree (15:23, 28)?
Did brethren from Antioch participate in the decision at all?

II. BEGINNING PAUL'S SECOND PREACHING TOUR (Acts 15:36-16:40)

1. What was the original purpose of the journey?
2. What prevented Paul and Barnabas from going together?
3. Who started with Paul?
4. Who joined them at **Lystra**?
5. Why did they not preach in Bithynia and Asia?
6. Why did they go into Europe (Macedonia)?
Had all of Asia been evangelized when they went on into Europe?
7. Who joined Paul, Silas and Timothy in **Troas** (read 16:10 carefully)?
8. Who were the first converts in **Philippi**?
How did the church have "fellowship in the gospel from the first day" (Philippians 1:5)?
9. When Paul healed the fortuneteller, what charges did her masters make against him and Silas?
10. What did Paul tell the Jailer to do to be saved?
What actions resulted when he did this?
11. Why were Paul and Silas released from prison?
12. Where in Philippi did they go after their release?
13. When they departed from Philippi, who was/were left with the church?

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Lesson 4

Thessalonian Epistles, Part I

Note: A • by a question from Acts means that it will figure in the study of the epistle.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE THESSALONIAN LETTERS (Acts 17:1-10, 15; 18:1-5)

- 1. Who preached first in Thessalonica?
- 2. How many Sabbaths did they preach in the synagogue?
- 3. What classes of people believed?
- 4. Why did Paul's enemies assault Jason's house?
- 5. What was required of Jason?
- 6. Was anyone left with the young church in Thessalonica?

Try to imagine this young church, persecuted and left without any mature teacher.

- 7. Whom did Paul wish to have come to him from Berea to Athens (17:15)?

According to I Thessalonians 3:1-2, Timothy did come to Paul in Athens, but was sent back to Thessalonica to learn of the condition of the church and report back to Paul.

- 8. Where did Paul go from Athens (18:1)?
- 9. Who joined him there from Macedonia (province where Thessalonica was located)?

Evidently, Timothy's report prompted Paul to write I Thessalonians from Corinth.

II. FIRST THESSALONIANS (Chapters 1-3)

- 1. Who were with Paul when he wrote? Does this fit Acts 18:5?
- 2. How had the Thessalonians received the word (1:6)?
- 3. What responsibility had they accepted after Paul left (1:8)?
- 4. From what were they converted (1:9)?
- 5. How had Paul been treated just before coming to Thessalonica (2:2)?
- 6. In Paul's preaching, what were some things Paul did not use?
- 7. Who was he like in gentleness?
- 8. How did Paul conduct himself among them (2:8)?
- 9. How was he like a father?
- 10. How had they received Paul's message?
- 11. How were the Thessalonians like their brethren in Judea?
- 12. Why did Paul not return to the Thessalonians?
- 13. Why did Paul send Timothy to them?
- 14. What kind of report did Timothy bring concerning them?
- 15. What prayer did Paul offer?

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Lesson 5

Thessalonian Epistles, Part II

I. FIRST THESSALONIANS CONCLUDED (Chapters 4-5)

1. What sin did Paul particularly warn the Thessalonians against (4:1-8)?
2. On what subject did they need no instruction?
3. About what were they apparently ignorant?

How do events in Athens help to explain this (Acts 17:32)?

4. What comforting words did Paul offer concerning those who sleep in Jesus?
5. Did Paul tell them when to expect the return of Jesus?

What did he say about the time?

6. What effect should all of this have had on their conduct?
7. Did the church have elders by this time (5:12-13)?
8. What three parts of man did Paul pray would be preserved blameless?

II. SECOND THESSALONIANS

This book was apparently written very shortly after the first epistle. The person who took the first letter may have returned to Paul and reported two situations needing attention:

- a. A misunderstanding of Paul's warning to be ready for Christ's return.*
- b. The idleness which may have resulted in part from this misunderstanding.*

1. Who were with Paul when he wrote this letter?
2. What was the condition of the Thessalonians' faith at this time?
3. Were they still facing persecutions?
4. With what would God repay those who troubled them?

What would those who were troubled receive?

5. On what two classes will vengeance be taken "when the Lord Jesus is revealed"?

- a.
- b.

6. What things could have caused them to expect the immediate coming of the Lord (2:2)?
7. What things did Paul say would have to come first?
8. Describe the "man of sin."
9. What class of people would he deceive?
10. What was to be their defense (2:15)?
11. For what did Paul wish them to pray (2:2)?

Paul was writing from Corinth. Read Acts 18:12-17 to see if this prayer was answered.

12. What report from Thessalonica greatly concerned Paul (3:6-11)?
13. What steps did Paul say should be taken to correct this condition?
14. What "token" or "sign" did Paul provide to prove the genuineness of his epistles?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 6: Acts 18:1-19:22

Corinth and Ephesus

INTRODUCTION: Learn what you can about Corinth:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Its location | c. Its educational emphasis |
| b. Its commercial advantages | d. Its religion |
-

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH IN CORINTH (Acts 18:1-18)

*We have studied a letter written **from** Corinth. Now we go back to look at the church there.*

1. With whom did Paul live in Corinth?
- 2. How did he support himself there?
3. How did the coming of Silas and Timothy affect him?
4. When expelled from the synagogue, where did he begin preaching?
- 5. Name a notable convert and state his former position.
- 6. What were other results of his preaching?
7. What two assurances was Paul given in a vision?
8. How long was he in Corinth?
9. How successful were Paul's enemies before Gallio?
- 10. Who was beaten?

II. END OF SECOND JOURNEY AND BEGINNING OF THIRD (Acts 18:18 - 19:22)

1. Where did Paul go from Corinth? • Who left with him?
2. What promise did he make the Ephesians (note Acts 16:6)?
3. Where did Paul end the second journey?
4. What regions did Paul visit returning to Ephesus?

Note especially Galatia. Later, we will study a letter written back to these churches.

Meanwhile, in Ephesus:

- 5. Who came preaching while Paul was away?
What was the error in his preaching?
- 6. When he was corrected where did he go? What success did he have there?
7. What problem did Paul encounter when he returned to Ephesus?
How was it corrected?
8. How long did he preach in the synagogue? In the school of Tyrannus?
9. What was the result of his work in Ephesus (19:10)?
10. What happened to the Jewish exorcists who tried to use the name of Jesus?
11. How was the sincerity of the converts demonstrated?
- 12. What was the result of all of this (19:20)?
- 13. What travel plans did Paul now make?

During his stay in Ephesus, Paul heard reports of serious problems in Corinth. He also received a letter from the church there containing several questions. This prompted him to write his first letter to the Corinthians, which we shall begin considering in the next lesson.

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 7: I Corinthians 1-4 The Corinthian Letters Part I

1. Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter?
What happened to a man by this name in Corinth? (Acts 18:17)
2. What problem plagued the Corinthians?
3. Who were named as persons around whom these factions formed?
4. I Corinthians 1:14 is often used as an argument against baptism. Can you prove that "many" Corinthians were baptized?
5. Why was Paul glad that he had not done most of the baptizing?
6. What were Jews of Corinth seeking?
The Greeks?
7. What was the preaching of the cross to Jews?
To Greeks?
8. Did Paul accommodate himself or the gospel to their appetites?
9. Why did he avoid "persuasive words of human wisdom"?
10. Did Paul speak wisdom? Whose?
How did he obtain this wisdom?
Who taught him the words which with which he spoke?
11. What kind of man does not receive the "things of the Spirit of God"?
12. Whose mind did Paul claim to have? (2:16)
13. What was the real problem in Corinth? (3:1-4)
14. Under what three figures did Paul illustrate the insignificance of preachers?
15. How were the works of Paul and those of Apollos related?
16. What foundation did Paul lay in Corinth?
17. What warning did he address to succeeding preachers?
18. What was the church in Corinth (3:16)?
What application was to be made of this?
19. What preachers were theirs? (3:21-23)
20. Name some judges of Paul about whom he was little concerned.
Whose judgment *did* concern him?
21. What was the position of the apostles at this time?
22. How did this contrast with the Corinthians' view of themselves?
23. Who had "begotten" the Corinthians "through the gospel"?
24. Why was Paul sending Timothy to them?
What does this prove about the importance of apostolic examples?
25. What plan did Paul reveal? (4:18-21)
Does this agree with the plan devised in Ephesus recorded in Acts 19:21?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 8: I Corinthians 5-7 The Corinthian Letters Part II

I. PROBLEMS REPORTED TO PAUL BY MESSENGERS FROM CORINTH (Chapters 1-6)

A. Division (Chapters 1-4) Studied in last lesson.

B. Immorality (Chapter 5)

1. What shameful condition existed in the church?
2. What was the attitude of the church?
3. What did Paul say must be done?
4. Give two purposes for such action.
 - a.
 - b.
5. Must Christians avoid association with *all* immoral people?
6. What sins are not to be tolerated among Christians (11)?

C. Brethren Going to Law with Brethren (6:1-11)

1. Before whom were they taking their lawsuits?
2. Who should have been chosen to judge? (Check other translations)
3. Suppose this arrangement resulted in an unfair decision?
4. What had some of the Corinthian Christians been in the past?
5. What three things had happened to change them?

D. Fornication (6:12-20)

1. What two considerations may forbid even lawful things?
2. For what is the body *not* made?
3. When a Christian commits fornication what is done to a member of the body of Christ?
4. What special relation does fornication have to the body?
5. To whom does the body belong? Why?

II. QUESTIONS ASKED OF PAUL IN A LETTER FROM CORINTH (Chapters 7-16)

Question One: *Should Christians leave their non-Christian companions? (Chapter 7)*

1. What was Paul's opinion about the expedience of marriage at that time?
2. Are sexual relations in marriage encouraged or discouraged? Why?
3. Under what conditions did Paul advise marriage?
4. What were his instructions for those who were married? (10)
5. If there is a separation, what is counseled?
6. If an unbeliever is not willing to remain with one who is a Christian, what is the Christian to do?

Does he say the Christian may remarry?

6. What was Paul's reason for advising against marriage? (26)
7. What advice is given to widows?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 10: I Corinthians 12-14 The Corinthian Letters Part IV

Question Four: *What was the purpose and proper exercise of spiritual gifts?*

A. Description and Purpose of the Gifts (Chapter 12)

1. By what power had Christians been brought to confess Jesus as Lord?
2. For whose profit were spiritual gifts given? (12:7)
3. Name the nine spiritual gifts.
4. What illustration suggests the importance of each man's using his gift for the common good rather than for personal advantage?
5. What roles were assigned to various members? (12:28)

B. Something Better than Gifts (Chapter 13)

1. **The essentiality of love.**

What would invalidate tongues? Prophecy? Knowledge?
Faith? Liberal giving?

2. **The superior qualities of love.** List below the qualities of love as listed in verses 4-8.

Had the gifts they possessed produced this kind of attitude among Christians in Corinth?

3. **The permanence of love.**

- a. What three gifts does Paul specify as passing away?
What did these particular gifts accomplish?
How completely at that point had they accomplished their purpose? (13:9)
When was that which was partial (in part) to be done away?
- b. When would love fail?
How does it compare in permanence to faith and hope?

C. Proper Exercise of Gifts (Chapter 14)

1. While the Corinthians highly valued tongues, which gift did Paul favor?
Why might the Corinthians value tongues?
2. What disadvantage was there in tongues?

Note: There were "men from every nation under heaven" to understand the different tongues spoken on Pentecost. There would not be such a representation in the Corinthian church.

3. What was the most important thing to be accomplished by gifts in the church?
4. For whom were tongues a sign?
5. State three rules for speaking in tongues in the church. (14:27)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. What was the rule for women in the church?
7. Whose commandment was Paul writing?
8. What general rule must govern all activity?

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Lesson 11: I Corinthians 15-16 The Corinthian Letters Part V

Introduction: In chapter 15, Paul seems to continue answering questions addressed to him by the church in Corinth.

Question Five: Questions about the Resurrection

1. What facts did Paul deliver in the gospel? (15:1-4)
2. List the resurrection appearances Paul reports.
3. In view of their acceptance of the gospel, what strange belief existed among them?
4. Name six consequences that follow rejection of the doctrine of resurrection.
5. What relation does the risen Christ have to all who sleep?
6. What will happen after Christ's disciples are made alive?
7. Compare Adam and Christ in relation to death.
8. What practical effect could be expected from rejecting resurrection? (15:32)
What was a likely effect of association with those who rejected the resurrection? (15:33)
9. What argument against resurrection is introduced in verse 35?
10. What illustrations show the possibility of another type of body springing from the physical one?
11. Compare the body sown and the body raised.
12. What about the bodies of those who are alive when Christ returns?
13. What practical effect should belief in resurrection have on us?

Conclusion: Chapter 16

1. How was money to be collected for the poor saints in Judea?
2. Were these directions given only to the Corinthians?
3. Through what place would Paul pass between Ephesus and Corinth?
4. How long might he stay in Corinth?
5. How long did he hope to stay on in Ephesus? Why?
What opposition was he aware of?
6. Who had come to see Paul from Corinth? (*Note: they may have brought the questions which Paul had answered.*)
7. Who in Ephesus especially greeted the Corinthians?
What special ties would bind them to Corinth?

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Lesson 12: Acts 19:21-20:1; II Cor 1-2

The Corinthian Letters Part VI

INTRODUCTION

1. Where was Paul when he wrote I Corinthians?
 2. How did Paul deal with the Corinthian church in that letter?
 3. What purpose did he state in 16:5-6?
 4. Why did he wish to remain in Asia? (I Corinthians 16:9)
- What problems loomed as possible obstacles to that plan?
-

I. EVENTS RECORDED IN ACTS 19

1. What success was Paul having in Ephesus? (19:20)
2. What adversary stirred up the people against him?
3. What was this adversary concerned about?

4. Where did the mob assemble?
5. Why did Paul not address them?
6. Who finally quieted them?
7. What did Paul then do?

Note: This location is still identifiable.

Paul was very concerned about the reception his letter to Corinth would receive. He had hoped to hear before leaving Ephesus, but the violence forced him to leave early and go on to Macedonia. Travel from Ephesus to Macedonia would take him through Troas.

II. SECOND CORINTHIANS

A. Introduction to the book.

1. What opportunity did Paul have in Troas? (II Corinthians 2:12)
Why did he not remain there?
Where did he go?
2. How did he feel when he got there? (7:5)
3. By what was he comforted? (7:6)
4. What had Paul's letter brought about in the Corinthians? (7:8-13)

Titus apparently reported, however, that while the most of the Corinthians had repented and were favorable to Paul, there were some who were questioning his apostleship and even his veracity. They said he was afraid to come to Corinth to face them. This accounts for the large amount of personal defense offered by Paul. He had to defend himself in order that his message might be respected.

B. Chapter One

1. What did Paul report to the Corinthians? (1:8)
2. Why did Paul write a letter instead of coming to them?

C. Chapter Two

1. With what emotions did Paul write the first letter?
2. What had the sinner of I Corinthians 5 apparently done as result of the discipline Paul advised? (2:6-7)
3. What was now to be done for him? Why?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 13: II Corinthians 3-7:1 The Corinthian Letters Part VII

Paul's ministry (apostleship) was under attack in Corinth. He was not concerned for himself (See I Corinthians 4:3-4), but if his apostleship were rejected, his message would be rejected. This he could not permit.

I. PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP (MINISTRY)

A. The Glory of Paul's Ministry (Chapter 3)

1. What letters of recommendation did Paul have?
2. Who was the source of Paul's sufficiency?
3. From verses that follow, what is "the letter that kills" in 3:6?
What was its destiny? (3:11)
4. What is "the Spirit that gives life"?
How is its greater glory illustrated?
5. What takes away "the veil" of those who read the Old Testament?
6. What happens to us as we behold "as in a mirror the glory of the Lord"?

B. The Motivation of Paul's Ministry (Chapter 4)

1. What things had Paul renounced in his efforts to reach the lost?
2. If the gospel he preached was veiled, who was responsible?
3. Why was the treasure of the gospel placed in "earthen vessels"?
4. What were some things Paul was suffering?
5. What three reasons does he give for preaching? (4:13-15)
6. Why did he not "lose heart"? (4:16-18)

C. The Goals of Paul's Ministry (Chapter 5 - 6:2)

1. What will take the place of the earthly tabernacle (tent) which we now inhabit?
2. Where must we all appear?
3. Describe the changes in one who is in Christ. (5:17)
4. How were the apostles ambassadors?
5. What was his message on behalf of Christ?

D. The Credentials of Paul's Ministry (6:3-10)

1. What was Paul eager to avoid in his ministry? (6:3)
2. What credentials did he offer to prove his claim to be a minister of God?

II. PAUL'S APPEAL TO THE CORINTHIANS (6:11 - 7:1)

1. What fellowship were they to avoid?
2. What of those already involved? (6:17)
3. What promises does he cite to encourage separation from the world?
4. What should these promises encourage them to do? (7:1)

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 27: Philippians 1-2:18

Philippians, Part I

INTRODUCTION

1. It is generally agreed that Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon were written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome described in Acts 28. The order is uncertain.
 2. On what journey did Paul establish the Philippian church?
 3. How many visits to Philippi (Macedonia) are recorded?
 4. What commendation did Paul make of them? (II Corinthians 8:1-5)
 5. Philippians was not written to deal with any special issue or problem. There is little rebuke in it and it is the most personal of all Paul's letters to churches.
What was the probable reason for the writing? (Philippians 4:10, 18)
 6. Under what conditions was Paul imprisoned? (Acts 28:16, 30-31)
-

I. A PERSONAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH (1:1-26)

1. To whom is the book addressed?
2. Over what period had the church had fellowship with Paul in the gospel?
3. In what were they partakers of his grace?
4. How had Paul's sufferings turned out?
5. What effect had the report of his bonds had on many brethren?
6. What effect had it had on others?
7. How did Paul feel about it all?
8. What blessing did he expect from it all?
9. What purpose did he wish his body to serve? (20)
10. What advantage did Paul see in living? In dying?
11. What did he expect to be the outcome of his trial? (25-26)

II. A PLEA FOR UNITY (1:27-2:18)

1. What did Paul hope to hear of them?
2. What two things were granted the Philippians in regard to Christ?
3. How could they fulfill Paul's joy?
4. What quality does Paul illustrate by using Jesus as an example?
5. List the steps downward which Jesus took from "equality with God."
6. What kind of world did they live in?
7. How were they to shine as lights in that world?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 27: Philippians 1-2:18

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THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 28: Philippians 2:19-4:23

Philippians, Part II

I. PAUL'S COMMENDATION OF HIS FELLOW-WORKERS (2:19-30)

1. Who was the only companion Paul had to send who was like himself?
2. What was the problem with the others?
3. What services had Epaphroditus rendered?
4. Why did Paul send him to Philippi?
(Epaphroditus most likely carried this epistle as he went.)
5. Name three persons in verse 30 whom Epaphroditus considered ahead of himself.
6. What hope does Paul express in 2:24?

II. WARNING AND EXAMPLE (Chapter 3)

1. Of whom are the Philippians warned?
2. Who are the true circumcision?
3. Of what things could Paul boast in the flesh?
4. Rather than boasting of these, what did he do?
5. In what did he put his confidence?
6. What was Paul's assessment of his own attainments?
7. What three things did Paul want to know? (3:10)
8. Name 4 characteristics of the enemies of the cross.
9. Where is our citizenship (conversation-KJ)?
10. What will the Lord do when He returns?

III. ADVICE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND GRATITUDE (Chapter 4)

1. Who were Paul's joy and crown?
2. What problems did Euodia and Syntyche have?
Whom did Paul ask to help them?
3. Where were the names of Paul's fellow-workers written?
4. What is the alternative to worry?
5. List the kind of things on which Christians should meditate.
6. Why had the Philippians failed to help Paul?
What circumstances in Paul's recent life might explain this?
7. How had Paul learned to be content?
8. What previous help had the Philippians given to Paul?
9. Why did Paul desire their help?
10. What surprising group of persons joined in the salutations?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 29: Ephesians 1, 2

Ephesians, Part I

INTRODUCTION

1. What were Paul's circumstances as he wrote Ephesians? (3:1; 4:1; 6:20)
 2. Who probably carried the letter to the Ephesians? (6:21)
 3. How do these facts compare with Colossians? (Colossians 4:3, 7, 18)
 4. Many believe that Ephesians was written as an open circular letter to be carried to many churches by Tychicus. This would explain:
 - a. The absence of personal greetings in the letter to a familiar church.
 - b. Some peculiar statements if intended exclusively for Ephesus (1:15; 3:2).
 - c. The absence of the word EPHESUS in many of the older manuscripts.
 5. The following comparisons have been suggested:

COLOSSIANS: Theme: The Fulness of Godhead in Christ (2:9)	Subject: The Groom
EPHESIANS: Theme: The Fulness of Christ in Church (1:22-23)	Subject: The Bride
-

I. THE SPIRITUAL BLESSING WE HAVE IN CHRIST (Chapter 1)

1. What is the source of all spiritual blessings?
2. Where are these blessings to be enjoyed?
3. Name at least seven blessings listed here.
4. List at least five things Paul requested for the Ephesians in his prayer. (17-19)
5. Where is Christ now sitting?
6. What is the church? (1:22-23)

II. GOD'S GRACE (Chapter 2)

Note: In this chapter "YOU" refers to Gentiles and "WE" to Jews or both Jews and Gentiles.

1. What was the former condition of the Gentiles?

Of the Jews?
2. What three qualities of God rescued man? (2:4-5)
3. Where are those who are in Christ now sitting? (2:6)
4. On what ground was this provided, grace or merit?

Does this give room for boasting?
5. What, specifically, was the position of the Gentiles? (2:12)
6. Why is Christ called "our peace"?
7. What was the middle wall of partition which He broke down?
8. What is the present position of Gentiles in Christ? (2:19)
9. What do Jew and Gentile now form together in Christ? (2:20-22)

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 30: Ephesians 3, 4

Ephesians, Part II

INTRODUCTION

The word mystery suggests an idea which cannot be discovered by reasoning, but one that must be revealed. Once a mystery is explained or uncovered, it is no longer a mystery.

I. REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY (Chapter 3)

1. How did Paul obtain his knowledge?

What did he do with it?

What did this make possible for the readers?

2. What concise statement reveals the content of the mystery? (3:6)

3. How long had the mystery been hidden?

4. For what purpose were all things created? (3:9-10)

5. To whom does the church make known the manifold wisdom of God?

6. Where is the family of God located?

7. List at least four things Paul requested in his prayer for the Ephesians.

a.

c.

b.

d.

8. How much is God able to do for us?

According to what does God work? (3:20)

9. In what is God glorified?

II. WALKING WORTHY OF OUR CALLING (Chapter 4)

1. What attitudes are necessary for unity?

2. What common ground must all accept who would keep "the unity of the Spirit"?

3. What gifts did Christ give the church? (4:11)

4. For what purpose? (4:12)

5. To what end? (4:13-15)

6. Why must our "walk" be different from other Gentiles?

7. Complete the following two lists from 4:25-31:

Things to be put away:

Things to be practiced:

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 31: Ephesians 5, 6

Ephesians, Part III

I. THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK (Chapter 5:1-20)

This chapter continues the contrasts of the preceding chapter. Show the contrasts:

Children (Sons) of _____ (vs. 6) Children of God (vs. 1)

These practice: (3-4)

You were once _____ (vs. 8) Now you are _____. Walk accordingly.

We must not be fools (vs. 15) But walk _____ as _____.

Do not be _____ (vs. 17) But _____.

Do not be drunk with wine (vs. 18) But be _____.

II. SUBMISSION IN RELATIONSHIPS (5:21 - 6:9)

This section begins by saying that we are to submit to one another (5:21). Show how:

a. Wives submit to the husband's authority by

b. Husbands submit to the wife's best interests by

c. Children submit to parents by

d. Parents submit to children's best interests by not _____ them, but by

e. Servants submit to masters by

f. Masters submit to the servant's best interests by:

III. OUR WARFARE (6:1-20)

1. Who are our true foes?

2. List the pieces of the Christian's armor.

3. What did Paul want the Ephesians to ask God for him in prayer?

Conclusion (6:21-24)

1. Who would apparently carry this letter?

2. Do verses 21-22 give some reason for the omission of many personal matters?

THE LIFE AND EPISTLES OF PAUL

Lesson 32: Colossians 1, 2

Colossians, Part I

INTRODUCTION

1. What were Paul's circumstances when he wrote Colossians? (1:24; 4:10, 18)
 2. Ephesians and Colossians are twin books.
 - a. Who carried both letters? (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7-9)
 - b. Match the following passages:

___ Colossians 1:18	A. Ephesians 3:18
___ Colossians 1:20-22	B. Ephesians 4:1-4
___ Colossians 1:25-27	C. Ephesians 1:22-23
___ Colossians 3:9-10	D. Ephesians 6:1-4
___ Colossians 3:12-15	E. Ephesians 2:12-18
___ Colossians 3:20-21	F. Ephesians 4:22-24
 - c. There does, however, seem to be a difference in emphasis, as noted in Lesson 29:
COLOSSIANS: Theme: The Fulness of Godhead in Christ (2:9) Subject: The Groom
EPHESIANS: Theme: The Fulness of Christ in Church (1:22-23) Subject: The Bride
 - d. There is also evidence of error in Colossae which needed attention: Paul seems to have been correcting some of the errors which were later identified as Gnosticism. Among other tenets, it maintained that all material was inherently evil. This meant that Jesus was either evil (therefore, not God) or that he did not actually come in the flesh. This philosophy encouraged neglect or severity to the body as well as worship of angels because they are not in fleshly bodies. (See especially Colossians 2:8-9, 23, etc.)
-

I. THE DEITY OF CHRIST (Chapter 1)

1. What characteristics of the Colossians caused Paul to give thanks?
2. How far had the gospel been preached? (see also 1:23)
3. Who was the Colossians' faithful minister?
4. Did Paul pray for the spiritual, physical or material welfare of the Colossians?
5. Into what had they been translated?
6. What relation does Christ bear to God? (1:15)
7. What is His relation to all creation? (1:15-17)
8. What is His relation to the church?
9. In what words does Paul reveal the mystery in Colossians? (1:27)
10. How did Paul describe this mystery in Ephesians 3:6?

II. CHRIST IS ALL-SUFFICIENT (Chapter 2)

1. What things are hidden in Christ?
2. Of what does Paul warn in 2:8?
3. How did all the fullness of the Godhead dwell in Christ?
4. Where do we have access to the Godhead, where are we complete?
5. When are we made alive with Christ?
6. Why are we not to be judged in meat, drink, observance of Sabbaths, etc.?
7. How may we lose our reward?
8. What value do ascetic doctrines and commandments of men have?

Summary: Being complete in Christ, we have no need for human philosophy or the law of Moses.

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