

Paul's missionary team traveled from city to city spreading the Gospel. In each city, a young church was established. Paul and his companions would spend a few months or even a year with most congregations, teaching the basic truths of the Gospel. The missionaries would then move on to another city and repeat the process. Even though Paul and his team revisited the newly established churches whenever possible, the young believers often had unanswered questions. When Paul heard about questions or problems in one of the churches he founded, he often sat down to write to them.

The believers in Thessalonica (in Macedonia) faced ridicule and persecution from their pagan neighbors, yet remained faithful. As we face our own unknown futures, we can gain assurance from Paul's word to the Thessalonians. Christ will return one day. But, until he does, there is work to do and a way to live that is pleasing to God. We must do what God gives us to do for as long as God gives us time on earth, with hearts that long for Christ's coming and lives that reflect diligence, responsibility and faith. Paul's instructions are as applicable today as when he wrote them almost two thousand years ago.

Corinth was an influential trading port that was filled with vile practices and loose living. In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul reminds believers that the wisdom that comes from God is in direct contradiction to the ways of the world. He provides a pastoral guide that helps us even today maintain a Christian lifestyle in a sinful society. He teaches us to depend on God in every situation.

### Weekly Reading Plan (Pgs. 1300-1343)

Day 1: AC 15:36-18:11  
Day 2: 1 TH 1:1-5:28  
Day 3: 2 TH 1:1 - 3:18; AC 18:12 - 19:22;  
1 CO 1:1 - 4:21  
Day 4: 1 CO 5:1 - 6:20  
Day 5: 1 CO 7:1 - 15:58  
Day 6: 1 CO 16:1-24; AC 19:23 - 20:1;  
2 CO 1:1-7:16  
Day 7: 2 CO 8:1-13:14; AC 20:2- 3a

### Outline

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Day 1)  
First Letter to the Thessalonians (Day 2)  
Good News from Thessalonica (Day 2)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Thessalonians (Day 3)  
Paul before Gallio (Day 3)  
Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey (Day 3)  
1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians (Day 3)  
Paul's Authority and Letter (Day 4)  
Questions from the Corinthians (Day 5)  
Paul's Future Plans (Day 6)  
Commotion in Ephesus (Day 6)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Corinthians (Day 6)  
The Offering for Jerusalem's Christians (Day 7)  
Paul's Third Visit to Corinth (Day 7)  
Paul's Trip through Macedonia (Day 7)

# Paul the Missionary

SEPT 24-30 2024

AC 15-20; 1 TH 1-5; 2 TH 1-3; 1 CO 1-8; 2 CO 1-13

Week 46

Key Characters		Key Locations		Key Terms	
Paul	Barnabas	Pamphylia	Cyprus	Word of the Lord	Churches
John Mark	Silas	Syria	Cilici	Faith	Holy Spirit
Timothy	Lydia	Lystra	Iconium	Most High God	Baptism
Magistrates	Jailors	Jerusalem	Galatia	Salvation	Messiah
Jason	Greeks	Mysia	Macedonia	Good News	Apostle
Dionysius	Damaris	Philippi	Thyatira	Wisdom	Immortality
Aquila	Priscilla	Thessalonica	Berea	Believers	Freedom
Titius Justus	Crispus	Athens	Corinth	Self-Discipline	Unity
Gallio	Apollos	Achaia	Cenchreae	Spiritual gifts	Diversity
Erastus	Sosthenes	Ephesus	Caesarea	Lord's Supper	Love
Chloe	Cephas	Antioch	Phrygia	Resurrection	Order
Demetrius	Ephesians			Forgiveness	Comfort
Titus	Corinthians			New Covenant	New Body
				Reconciliation	Generosity

## Key Verses

For in him [God] we live and move and have our being. [AC 17:28]

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. [TH 1:2]

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. [1 TH 4:11-12]

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [1 TH 5: 16-18]

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy, they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. [2 TH 3:11-13]

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. [1 CO 3:19]

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love [1 CO 13:13]

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [2 CO 4:16-18]

Finally brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. [2 CO 13:11]

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Acts15: Some men taught circumcision for the Gentiles. Peter said, "God gave the Spirit with no distinction." Paul and Barnabas separated.

Acts16: Paul took Timothy with him. We baptized Lydia in Philippi. Paul was imprisoned and there was an earthquake. The jailer was baptized.

Acts17: They taught in Thessalonica and Berea. In Athens Paul said, "I proclaim the God who gives life to all. He will judge the world."

Acts18: Paul taught in Corinth for a year and a half. He went to Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos.

1Th1: Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Thessalonians. We give thanks for you. Our gospel came in power. Your faith is an example to all.

1Th2: We shared the gospel with you and also our lives. You suffered like the churches in Judea. We tried to see you. Are you not our crown?

1Th3: We sent Timothy to strengthen you. We warned you that persecution would come. We are encouraged by your faith. May you grow in love.

1Th4: Live to please God. Avoid immorality. Love one another more and more. We do not grieve without hope, for the dead in Christ will rise.

1Th5: The day of the Lord will come like a thief. Let us keep awake. Honour those who lead you. Do not quench the Spirit. Grace be with you.

2Th1: Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Thessalonians. We boast of your faith through persecution. The Lord Jesus will appear in vengeance.

2Th2: Do not be alarmed about the day of the Lord. First the lawless one will appear, whom Jesus will destroy. Hold fast to our traditions.

2Th3: Finally, pray for us. The Lord will guard you against the evil one. Keep away from anyone who walks in idleness. The Lord be with you.

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Acts19: Paul laid his hands on the disciples at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit. Demetrius, a silversmith, started a riot in the city.

1Cor1: Paul, to the church in Corinth. Let there be no divisions. The cross is folly to those perishing, but to us it is the power of God.

1Cor2: I knew nothing among you except Christ crucified. We speak the wisdom of God. Through the Spirit we know what God has freely given.

1Cor3: You are still infants. One follows Paul, another Apollos. We are co-workers with God. Christ is the foundation. You are God's temple.

1Cor4: Think of us as stewards of the mysteries of God. You are kings already? We are fools for Christ. I admonish you as my dear children.

1Cor5: You boast about the sexual immorality among you. You should deliver that man to Satan. But I am not judging those outside the church.

1Cor6: Do you take one another to court? Why not rather be wronged? Your body is not for sexual immorality, it is a temple of the Spirit.

1Cor7: It is good to stay unmarried, but better to marry than to burn with lust. Each should live as God has called. I want you to be free.

1Cor8: About food offered to idols: An idol is nothing. There is only one God. But if food makes my brother stumble I will never eat meat.

1Cor9: You are the seal of my apostleship. Do we not have the right to material support? But I made myself a servant to all for the gospel.

1Cor10: Do not desire evil as our fathers did. God will make you able to endure temptation. Flee from idolatry. Do all to the glory of God.

1Cor11: The head of a woman is her husband. I hear that some go hungry when you meet! With the bread and cup you proclaim the Lord's death.

1Cor12: Now there are various spiritual gifts, but one Spirit. If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? You are the body of Christ.

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Cor13: Without love I am nothing. Love is patient, does not boast, endures all things. Tongues will cease, but faith, hope and love remain.

1Cor14: Tongues edifies the speaker, prophecy edifies the church. Each of you brings a hymn, a lesson or a tongue. Let all be done in order.

1Cor15: Christ was raised from the dead. If not then your faith is futile. But he is the firstfruits. At the trumpet we will all be changed.

1Cor16: Put aside an offering for the saints. I will come to you. The churches of Asia greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Acts19: Paul laid his hands on the disciples at Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit. Demetrius, a silversmith, started a riot in the city.

Acts20: We sailed to Troas. Paul raised Eutychus after he fell from the window. Paul encouraged the Ephesian elders to care for the flock.

2Cor1: Paul, to the church in Corinth. We share in Christ's sufferings and comfort. My yes is not no, but to spare you I did not visit you.

2Cor2: I wrote to you as I did in much anguish. You should forgive the one who caused you pain. Through us God spreads the aroma of Christ.

2Cor3: God has made us ministers of a new covenant. When anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is lifted. We are being transformed into glory.

2Cor4: God has given us the light of the glory of Christ. We have this treasure in clay jars. Through affliction we look to what is eternal.

2Cor5: What is mortal will be clothed with life. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. We implore you, be reconciled to God!

2Cor6: Now is the day of salvation. We commend ourselves as servants. Do not be yoked with unbelievers. We are the temple of the living God.

2Cor7: I take great pride in you. I do not regret my letter, for godly grief produces repentance. Our boasts about you to Titus proved true.

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## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Cor8: The churches of Macedonia have given generously for the saints. See that you excel in this grace too. Titus was eager to go to you.

2Cor9: I boast to the Macedonians about the gift you promised. God loves a cheerful giver. Your generosity will overflow in thanksgivings.

2Cor10: Our weapons destroy arguments against God. What we say by letter we do in person. We only boast within the sphere God has given us.

2Cor11: I am jealous for you against these false apostles. I speak as a fool. Do they boast? I have greater labours, beatings and dangers.

2Cor12: I will boast of a man who saw paradise. I was given a thorn to keep me from pride. This is foolish! I will gladly be spent for you.

2Cor13: This will be my third visit. Christ is powerful among you. Test that you are in the faith. Be mature. The grace of God be with you.

Acts20: We sailed to Troas. Paul raised Eutychus after he fell from the window. Paul encouraged the Ephesian elders to care for the flock.

## What did I learn about God?

- How did the Lord open your heart to respond to the Gospel? Who did he use as part of the process? What first opened your heart to God?
- If asked, “What must I do to be saved?” how would you answer?
- What is the role of miracles in God’s purposes today? What miracles are you aware of?
- In 1 TH 5:12-22 we are given commands for living a godly life. Which do you feel you are already practicing? Which one do you most want to work on? What encouragement, sanctification and grace do you receive from God to fulfill these commands?
- Read 1 CO 15:58. What motivates you to obey God: fear of judgment? God’s anger? Love from God? Love for God? Hope of being with God? How does v. 58 encourage and motivate you?

## What did I learn about human nature?

- In Acts 15, the early Church leaders deal with what Gentiles must do to become Christians. From the debate, the resulting letter and the way in which the decision was delivered, what do you learn about the ways to solve disagreements among Christians? What conflicts are there in the Christian church today and are these conflicts being handled as the first churches handled them?
- In ACTS 16, Paul and Silas are imprisoned. What do you think caused their jailer to want to be saved.
- What began in Ephesus as Artemis worship became Artemis business. How can Christians fall into the same trap and make Jesus worship into Jesus business?
- 1 TH 4 talks about living to please God. What do you say to someone who believes you can do anything you want, as long as you mind your own business (1 TH 4:11) and no one gets hurt (1 TH 4:6)?
- The Corinthians were measuring truth and success by how powerful, influential and articulate someone was. What pictures come to mind when you think of powerful, successful people? How do these images sometimes conflict with knowing Christ? How do people today confuse the world’s power with God’s power?

## What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is there some area of your faith where you feel like Peter – going back and forth because you are not sure of what is right? How could ACTS 15:11 [No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.] relate to this concern?
- Lydia’s place of prayer was by a river. What is your favorite place to meet God?
- Whether Jesus or Caesar was Lord became a real issue for Christians. When has your faith in Christ led to conflict with other authorities claiming your loyalty?
- How will you exercise faith and love this week in a specific way or relationship?
- Paul found that intense pressures led him to depend on God all the more (2 CO 1:9). How do you respond to intense pressures? Do they deepen your walk with God or drive you away from him? Who do you know who is under intense pressure? How would Paul have you pray for them?