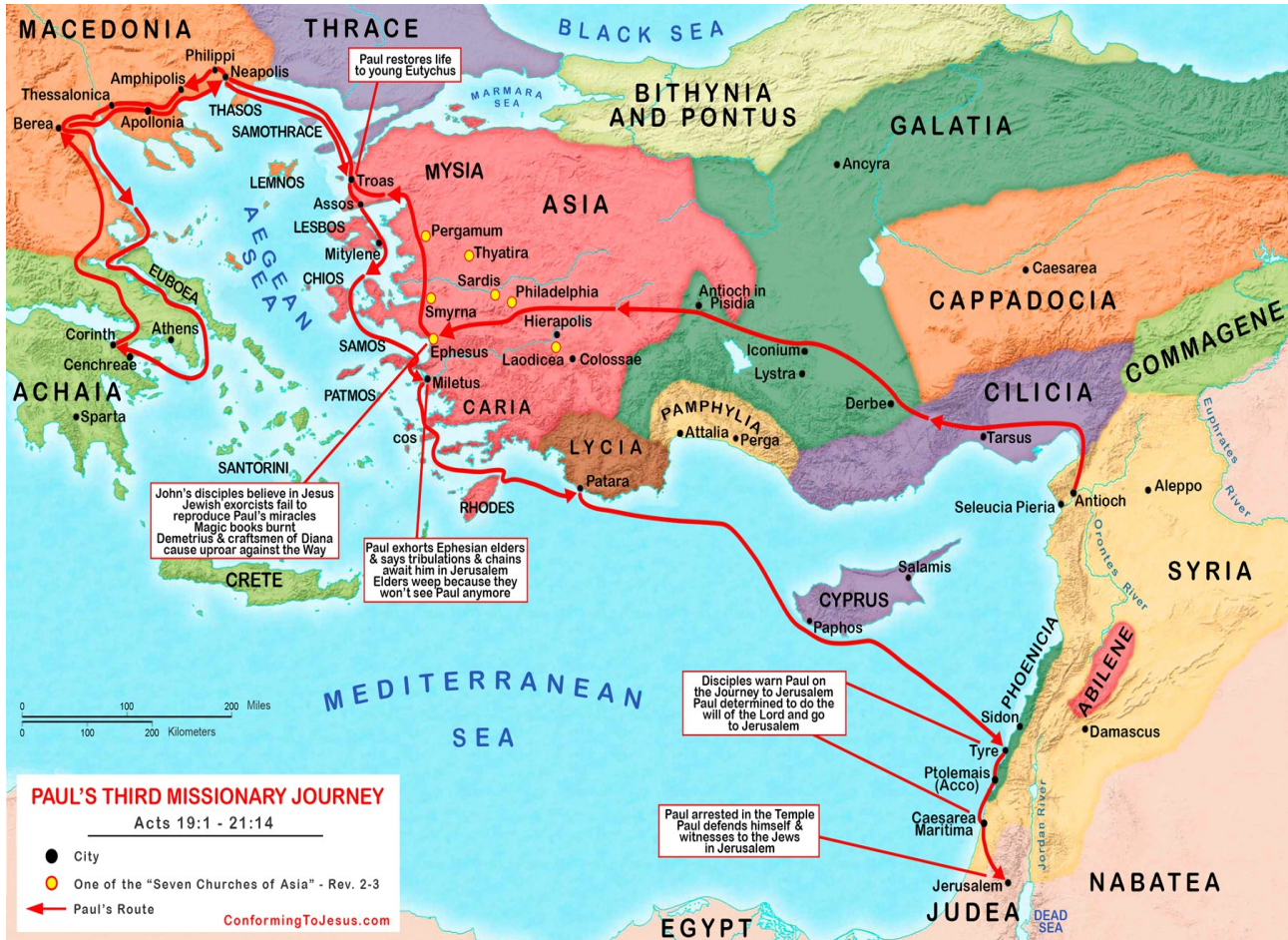


RESOLUTIONS!
ACTS CH19:21-41

Can you name the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?

The Temple of Artemis, The Great Pyramid of Giza, The Colossus at Rhodes, The Hanging Gardens Of Babylon, The Lighthouse of Alexandria, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, The Statue of Zeus at Olympia.



Cited in Google Images – ConformingToJesus.com

RE-CAP!

Why are New Year resolutions made? It is argued that the holidays around New Year, are indeed the most optimistic of all holidays! What is a resolution? A decision to do or not to do something! The 3 most common New Year resolutions are:

1. To improve fitness!
2. To improve finances!
3. To improve mental health!

Here is mine to the Church - The Reverend John Stott (died – 27.7.2011) became a Christian in February 1938 when Eric Nash (known as Bash) came to evangelise, Stott said of him ***“I thank God for the man who led me to Christ and for the extraordinary devotion with which he nurtured me in the early years of my Christian life. He wrote to me every week for, I think, seven years. He also prayed for me every day. I believe he still does. I can only begin to guess what I owe, under God, to such a faithful friend and Pastor”*** (Cited in The Message of 2 Timothy, John Stott, pg29).

RESOLUTIONS THAT LEAD TO JESUS! V21-22

On Saturday 11.11.23 we gathered as a Church and looked at Acts Ch18:12-28, we were 6 weeks and 2 days, or 44 days away from celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour! We talked about preparing for Christmas and praying for “6 mince pies” not literally 6 mince pies, but 3

types of people groups, 2 mature Christians, 2 wobbly Christians and 2 non-Christians! We then saw fruit of that praying through God's favour at our Christmas services!

We also saw in Ch18:22-23 - The new mission starting (see above map)! After spending time at both the Jerusalem Church and the Church in Antioch, Syria, the 3rd missionary journey starts – Ch18:23 – Ch21:17. We can also be part of “a new mission” as the New Year is in its infancy we can resolve, make resolutions, so that the 6 we are praying for can continue to experience Jesus! Paul resolved to:

1. V21 - Paul resolved to be in partnership with God the Holy Spirit!
2. V21 - Paul resolved to revisit Churches!
3. V21 - Paul resolved to return to Jerusalem!
4. V21 - Paul resolved to go to Rome!
5. V22 - Paul resolved to send out Timothy + Erastus!
6. V22 - Paul resolved to stay on for a while at Ephesus!

RESOLUTIONS THAT LEAD TO RIOTS! V23-34

The result of Paul telling people about the Gospel is seen in Ch19:19 - ***The people of Ephesus learnt not to misuse or treat lightly the name of Jesus, for He is powerful! When JESUS' name is held in high honour, people repent, confess and have a clear out and the Word of the LORD spreads!. About £2, 000, 000 worth of Idolatry is burnt! ! WOW! The silver statues that Demetrius makes are now irrelevant to the new Gospel Community and the Ephesian culture is changing, because of what people now love!***

Demetrius resolved to lead a riot:

1. V24 – Man named Demetrius
2. V24 – A Silversmith
3. V24 – Made silver shrines of Artemis
4. V24 – Made quite a living
5. V25 – Involved others in the trade of Artemis
6. V25 – Who also made money from the trade of Artemis
7. V26 – Who have all heard about Paul and the Gospel
8. V26 – The trade in false gods is coming to an end
9. V27 – The great goddess may collapse
10. V29 – City is filled with confusion and Gaius and Aristarchus are grabbed

RESOLUTIONS THAT LEAD TO THE STATUS QUO! V35-41

The Town-Clerk, not the Roman official, but a local representative ***realising that the riot itself could be more damaging to local tourism, than his understanding of the Gospel v40, resolves to:***

1. V35 – Implies that the goddess Artemis is from heaven!
2. V37 – Gaius and Aristarchus have done nothing wrong
3. V40 – Wants to keep the monetary income through tourism, knowing the damage that riots can have on that trade!

APPLICATION

Any resolutions?

6 Mince Pies?

Can you be like Eric Nash was to John Stott?

As a Christian, you are never alone, there will always be a Christian friend to pray, to support, to help (mince pies)!