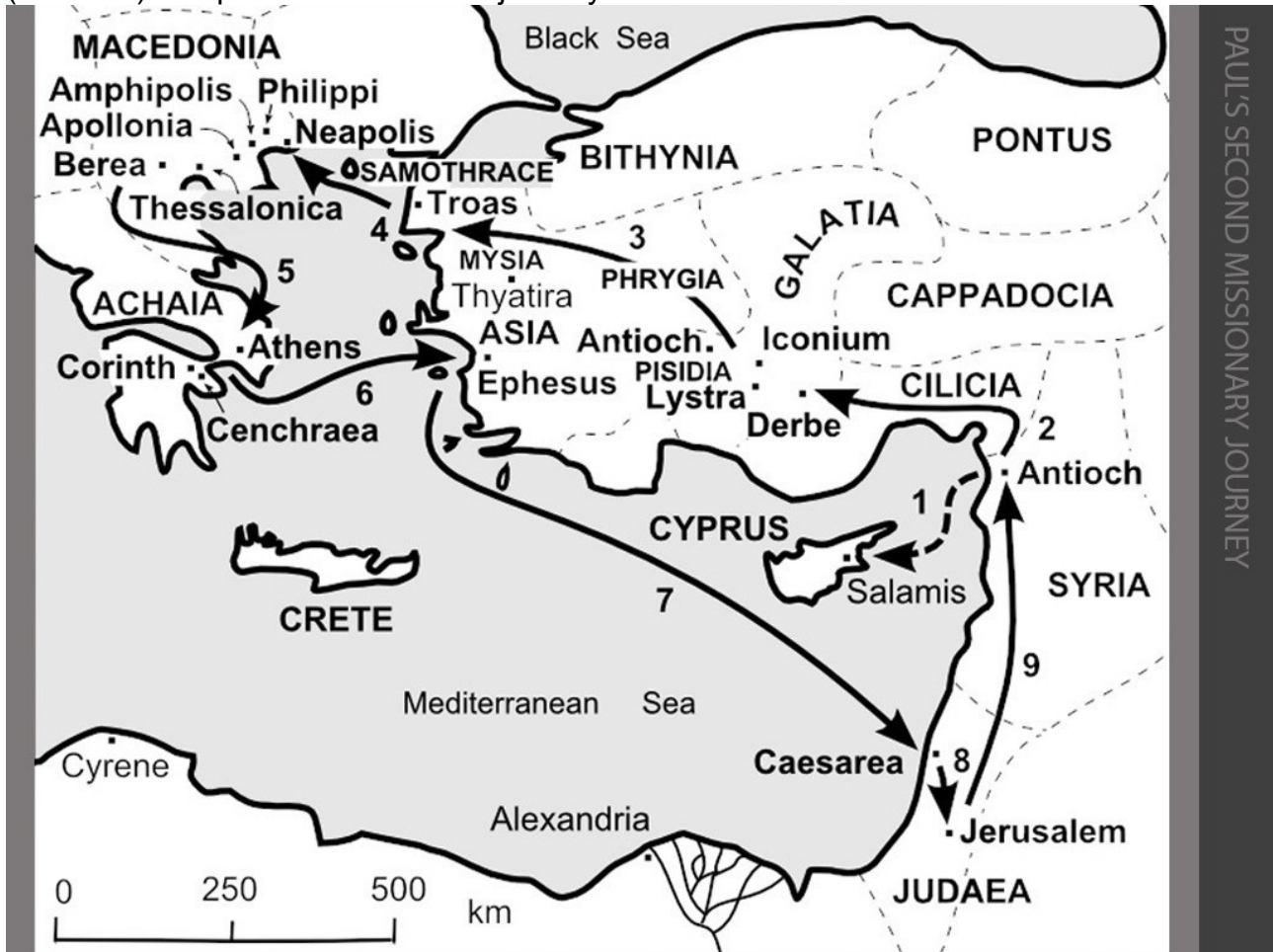


PASTORAL OVERSIGHT!
ACTS CH16:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Paul's second missionary journey starts between Acts Ch15:36 – Ch16:6 and finishes in Ch18:22! This mission itself takes place somewhere around A.D. 49-51 and lasts for around 2.5 years! On the map below 1. shows Barnabas and Mark heading off to Cyprus (Ch15:39) and points 2-9 show the journey of Paul and his team.



These maps are the copyright of Chris and Jenifer Taylor of The Bible Journey who have granted FreeBibleimages permission to distribute them using a Creative Commons Attribution. www.thebiblejourney.org. www.thebiblejourney.org or FreeBibleimages.org

PAUL EXTENDS THE TEAM! V1-3

It has been around 3-5 years since Paul was first in these areas, depending on what approximate date you work from. We are confident that Timothy along with his grandmother Lois, and mother Eunice (1st Cor Ch4:17 + 2nd Timothy Ch1:5), were saved during Paul's first missionary journey, either at Iconium (where Paul stayed a long time Ch14:3) or in Lystra, where Timothy was from.

We are told that Timothy's mother (Eunice) was a Jew and Jewish Law, a child would take the religion of his mother. However, Timothy's father was a Greek, and Timothy was not circumcised on the eighth day! This is not Paul behaving like the Christian Jews in Ch15:1, but because as v3 shows, Timothy's situation was known amongst the Jews in the area that Paul was trying to reach, it was decided that for mission, Timothy would be circumcised!

It is because Timothy was so well spoken of by both Churches v2, that Paul extended the

Team to 3, - Paul, Silas and Timothy.

We are praying about going out to Nepal in 2024, 2025, 2026 and finally in 2027! In 6 Sundays time, Team 2 (consisting of 8 people) will be in Kathmandu, Nepal, with Team 1, here in Swansea and Northern Ireland (consisting of around 35+ people)! The Team being sent out represents the Team staying. The Team going out has 1 person in their 70's, 4 persons in their 50's, 1 person in their 40's, 1 person in their 30's and 1 person soon to be a teenager! What is stopping you going out next year?

The Team needs expanding, minus circumcision if you are male!

PAUL EXPLAINS THE DECISIONS! V4

Paul and the new Team continue to visit Churches and make them aware of the decisions made by the leaders of the Jerusalem Church, namely to abstain from:

1. Abstention from food sacrificed to idols! v20+29
2. Abstention from drinking blood! v20+29
3. Abstention from eating meat from animals that had been strangled! v20+29
4. Abstention from sexual immorality! v20+29

By sending delegates, reassurances can be given if necessary, correct interpretations of the text can be made and ensuring the letter's acceptance can be secured! Although being free in Christ, it was important that certain sensitivities were shown in relation to Jewish culture. ***The main thing was keeping the main thing, the main thing, and the main thing*** was abstention from the above mentioned 4 things, and by doing so, it would show the cultural sensitivity which was so vital to reaching the lost!

The application for us, is in the principle of allowing our love for others to be paramount, rather than our freedom bought by Christ!

PAUL IS USED IN EXPANDING THE CHURCH! V5

Luke creates 6 summary statements Ch6:7, Ch9:31, Ch12:24, Ch16:5, Ch19:20 and Ch28:31. The summary statements are identifiable through the use of phrases and words like "and the word of God continued to spread" or "being built up" or "the churches were strengthened". ***Luke uses the summary in Ch16:5 to show that Paul's strategy for mission and the decisions made by the Jerusalem Church honoured God, and God therefore blessed the ministry!***

How clear are we on God's three part mission?

1. ***To minister to God!***
2. ***To minister to one another!***
3. ***To minister to a dying world!***

As a Church, we always need to strive for what pleases God, and being intentionally missional, pleases God! How are we doing it? What is our strategy? To avail our time, talents and treasure, to God's mission!

APPLICATION

Discipleship is intentional!

Discipleship pathways need to be intentional!

Discipleship leads to healthy kingdom expansion!