

The Believer's Hidden Treasure

A Study in God's New Testament Pattern: The Writings of Paul

Text: 1Tim 1:16; Ro 16:25-26; 1Cor 2:7-10; Eph 3:1-14

Introduction: As we read through the book of Acts, it quickly becomes obvious how central Paul is to the Lord's plan to build His Church Body worldwide. This man's dramatic conversion from being a zealous persecutor of those who followed Jesus into a zealous follower of Jesus himself, is our first clue as to just how important a figure he will become (Acts 9:1-31). Hidden inside this least expected vessel was the key strategy which unlocked the power of the Gospel message, through the Hebrew culture, to the "regions beyond" ("Hebrews"=to cross over to a region beyond). This truth still largely remains a "hidden treasure" to the majority of Christianity, so our aim is to approach the 14 letters written by the Apostle Paul as our map for discovering the higher call. As we immerse ourselves in his life-teachings, we will most certainly experience the life-change which comes when the "mother-lode" he found (Gal 4:26) is rediscovered!

Approach to this Study:

- Use "**The Seamless Bible**" to move chronologically through the total "Paul Experience" listed in the New Testament. This will include his travels and the writings which were the result of the people and places God sent him to along the way.
- We will use the term, "**Journey**" to refer to the readings from the Book of Acts about Paul's mission experiences after he is sent out as an "Apostle" (Acts 13). The term, "**Location**" will refer directly to the letters he wrote.
- Use the outline below to **process** your thoughts for discussion as we work our way through this part of God's Word together.
 - Use the "Pauline Epistles" guide as a resource to teach the facts and themes of the broader overall view as you go.
 - This outline will simply be used to provide **Key Talking Points for the Participant to Consider:**

Journey #1 Paul's Radical Turn

Part 14, page 240

*Map of Paul's 4 Missionary Journey's (includes his 4th journey to Rome as a prisoner):

<http://www.azbible.com/paul-evangelist-apostle-maps.html#map3>

- Conversion of an Ethiopian - His move into Gentile territory p241-242
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: V21 quotes Psalm 78:37 & v32-33 quotes Isaiah 53:7
 - Key Verse: 8:29 Leading of the HOLY Spirit is our Key ability, regardless of whether we know or not (v5)
 - Thoughts: there are 3 sections to the chapter; #1, v1-4, #2, 5-24, #3, v 25-40

- Sec #1 is about the persecution which began because of Saul's consent to/killing of Stephen etc.
 - This great change toward bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles actually begins with Stephen's miraculous faith, Ch 6:8 & his sermon, Ch 7(esp v47-53), which signifies a further move in judgment away from the Gospel being focused on the hardened Hebrew people.
 - Sec #2 reveals a successor to Stephen – Philip, a fellow chosen, “deacon” (6:1-7), who takes up the “mantle” and runs it to the “Samaritans” (city & region). These represent the 1st step in reaching out to the Gentile world, being a mixed race of Hebrew & Gentile from the Northern 10 tribes captivity (2 Kings 17:6).
 - Philip is the first fruit of Stephen's death for God's plans while Saul continues to further the satanic persecution of the religious Jewish establishment.
 - Notice how “Simon the Sorcerer” is central to this narrative – teaching us that the Gospel message, when applied to new territory, drives out evil spirits, opening the way for the Holy Spirit to dictate the terms of supernatural phenomenon wherever Christ is preached!
 - Jesus had been here in John 4 to open the harvest.
 - This first next move toward the Gentiles required the TEAMWORK of the Apostles with their “servant/minister” (meaning of deacon in Greek) turned Evangelist. Laying hands on individuals becomes an alternative to the Spirit being simply poured out UPON all as in Pentecost & later in Cornelius' house (v16).
 - Sec #3 tells us of the 1st truly Gentile convert – the Ethiopian Enoch whom Philip is supernaturally LED BY THE SPIRIT (v29) to find in Gaza (traditional Philistine territory).
 - “Azotus” (v40) is ancient “Ashdod” referred to 1 Samuel 5 & 6 as a center of Dagon worship. Again, highlighting the Gospel's power to overcome, pagan ritual magic and its hold on territories.
 - Interestingly, the Gospel went toward Africa before Asia Minor or Europe. The Middle East was chosen by God as the pivot point to reach the entire world as the Good News travelled in every direction!
- Conversion of the Former Enemy p243-244
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: v3-6; Exodus 3, Moses encounter with the Burning Bush; Jesus' promise to manifest Himself (John 14:21; Use of Jesus' name/authority, Mark 16:15-20
 - Key Verse: v 31 Churches are “edified” & “multiplied” when they are “unified” in, 1. the “fear of the Lord” &, 2. the “comfort of the Holy Ghost”.
 - Thoughts: There are 2 Sections to the Chapter; #1, v1-31, #2, 32-43
 - Sec #1 - Saul is actually being used by God to expand the Church before he

is even saved (believers are already in Damascus but Saul creates greater moving of Spirit there as events unfold)! v1-2

- Saul's name in Hebrew means “asked” or “request” (1Samuel 8:5, 19-22; 9:2). In Acts 13:(we are told he is also called, “Paul”, which means, “little” in Latin, & comes from a root meaning, “to pause, stop, restrain, quit, desist, come to an end”. His salvation experience tells us why.
- “Kicking against the GOADS” is what we do when we resist God instead of restraining our natural tendency to resist Him – we self inflict!
V5 Must learn to yield to being told what to do in order to follow Jesus
v6 Saul was literally blind for his own “3-day” experience and had to be “led by the hand” v8-9
- “he is a chosen vessel unto Me...” to “bear my name” (same word used to “carry our cross” (Luke 14:27) v15 ...v16 “SUFFERING” is the cost of serving the Lord.
- “Scales” fell from his eyes (Greek: flakes). Notice Acts 13:9 how Paul exercises this same ability toward “Elymas the Sorcerer”, by the Spirit.
- Boldness of Saul to preach is immediate, v20-22, 29 ...
- Sec #2 – Peter heals the paralyzed, Aeneas (v33-35) & raises Tabitha from the dead (v36-43)
- Interesting how this chapter ties the mission of Peter and Paul together through verse 31 - as they are both called to minister to both the Hebrews & Gentiles but each has a specific people group to target – Paul, Uncircumcision & Peter, Circumcision.
- Conversion of Willing Gentiles p245-248
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: v14, Leviticus 11; v34, Deut 10:17 (15-20 & Ro 2:11); v43 All the Prophets spoke of Jesus
 - Key Verses: Verse 4, “Memorial”, a reminder or memorandum, record – example: a Statue; Verse 38, heart of the Gospel – Jesus “anointed with Holy Ghost and with Power...went about doing good and healing all...for God was with Him” * see verse 31, “remembrance”
 - Thoughts: There are 3 sections to this chapter; #1 Cornelius' Vision (1-8, #2 Peter's Trance (v9-23 & #3 Outpouring of the Spirit on Gentiles (v24-48)
 - Sec #1 – Italian family first to receive Holy Spirit in the non-Hebrew Roman Empire!
 - Angels are “messengers” - bring messages in service to the “heirs of salvation” Hebrews 1:14
 - Cornelius' prayers were answered in a manner consistent with God's plan & timing v 4
 - Note this man's: Devotion, Fear of God, Giving, Prayer & Fasting (v30)
 - 3pm Luke 23:44-47 see note below – the times in this chapter are

reversed from Jesus' death.

- Sec #2 – Other supernatural things happen when believers enter the gate of PRAYER
 - 12pm (noon) Luke 23:44-47 * 12 to 3 pm was the timeframe for Jesus death & the liberation of mankind/tearing fo the Veil!
 - “Trance” = suspension of faculties - a displacement of the mind, bewilderment, ecstasy. Peter was awake but seeing other things – “heaven opened” (similar to the open vision of Cornelius but in an altered state of consciousness). V10-16
 - This “vision” (v19) was repeated 3 times v16
 - Common or Unclean here is specifically referring to Gentile “beasts” & not necessarily to the Dietary Laws of Leviticus 11 ... See Peter's interpretation in verse 28, “keep company”... “any man”)
- Sec #3 – 2 Godly Men, the Gospel message & the Power of the Holy Ghost
 - Cornelius called together his entire family & friends to hear God's Word!
 - House Church is valid NT concept (Philemon 1:2; Ro 16:3-5; Col 4:15)
 - God is not a “respector of persons”. v34, Deut 10:17 (15-20 & Ro 2:11)
 - The Gospel Message = v34-43
 - Holy Ghost interrupted Peter's sermon v44 to repeat Pentecost v46
- Report of Gentiles Conversion p249-250
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: v3-Deut 10:16
 - Key Verse: Verse 21
 - Thoughts: There are 2 sections in this chapter; #1, v1-18 & Sec #2, v19-30
 - Sec #1 – Peter rehearses his experience & concludes that believers/preachers can only go with God's will or fall to religious traditions.
 - Sec #2 – A Harvest of seeds that God had been planting is recounted in verses 19-21 (the persecution Saul had started had gone to another level just as these events we are discussing were unfolding!)
 - Antioch becomes the next Hub/Beachfront for “Apostlization” (see Ch 13:1 - we now diminish to “evangelization”) to the Roman Empire at large. Paul is elevated to the forefront! V22-26
 - Paul's timeline – Gal 1:18 & 2:1 ... 3 Years after his conversion (Acts 9:26/22:17) & then 14 years after his conversion (Acts 15)

*What did You Learn from this Experience?: I recognize the detail God reveals about His bigger plan to UNVEIL the Gospel to the Gentiles in the events of these 4 chapters and before (Ch 6-7). There is always “bigger picture” in scripture which

reveals itself as we search in our studies to know HIM.

Journey #2 *First Apostolic Tour* 46-48 AD *Part 16, page 261-268*

*Map of Paul's 4 Missionary Journey's (includes his 4th journey to Rome as a prisoner):
<http://www.azbible.com/paul-evangelist-apostle-maps.html#map3>

- Founding New Congregations (Acts 13) p262-264
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: Exod 6:1-6; 1Sam 8-13; John 1:20-29; Death & Resurrection scriptures in the Gospels/Ps 2:7/Is 55:3/Ps 16:10
 - Key Verse: v2 “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul fo rthe work whereunto I have called them.”
 - Thoughts
 - Saul & Barnabas separated to the “new” apostolic ministry to the Gentiles
 - Paul's 1st Missionary (Apostolic) Journey – w/ Barnabas v4-14:26
 - Antioch (Syria) to Cyprus to Perga to Antioch (Pisidia) to Iconium to Lystra to Derbe...back through the same & straight to Antioch (Syria)
 - Saul is recorded as also being called, 'Paul’ (Latin origin name meaning “little” but also, “to stop, quit, desist, come to an end...indicative of “the Rest” of God Heb 3-4...some commentators say he was referring to himself as a “worker” in contrast to “Saul” which meant, “asked” in Hebrew or one given privilege referring to the rebelliousness of King Saul etc. 1Sam 8:19-22) v9
 - Preaching first at Salamis, Cyprus v5 - John[Mark] is their helper
 - The Sorcerer at Paphos, Cyprus v6-13
 - 2 Interestingly named characters in the narrative:
 - “Barjesus” is discovered to be a Jewish false prophet into sorcery v6 connected to the political structure of Cyprus. A false “Jesus”/ “Joshua” (Jehovah-saved ... Jesus' real name in Hebrew) v6
 - ”Elymas” is simply a title for “a Wizard” in Greek ... He was na “sorcerer” or magos or “Rab-Mag” in Hebrew like the Magi of Daniel's era in Babylon & the “Wise Men” [who followed the star (predicted by another false prophet/wizard, Baalam) to Jesus' as a child]. v8
 - “Sergius Paulus” is the Deputy (Roman Proconsul) or highest official of the region v7 ...”Sergius” is likely his title as it means, “Protector” & “Paulus” is the same in Greek as “Paul” which is then introduced as Saul's name in v9 – meaning shown above
 - The point is that this was an obvious set-up by God to welcome them into the region – and reverse influence over ruling powers etc.
 - Paul executes heavenly authority over this wizard just as Jesus did over him on the road to Damascus v9-12

- “filled with the Holy Ghost”, indicates a manifestation/gift of the Spirit in operation (1Cor 12) ... as does “set his eyes on him,” (Acts 3:4/14:9 [Lu 4:20; 22:56; Acts 1:10; 3:12; 6:15; 7:55; 10:4; 11:6; 23:1; 2Cor 3:7, 13) v9
- v10 Paul labels him as “deceitful”, “satanic”, & “corrupt” - a direct enemy of all righteousness!
- v11-12 Paul is able to blind this man temporarily as he himself was (Acts 9:8, 18), which leads the Deputy to believing the Gospel
- 1st recorded sermon of Paul in Antioch (of Pisidia) in Synagogue - v14-43
 - See the OT /Gospel scriptures he used above
 - Results:
 - v42 Gentiles asked them to preach to them,
 - v43 Many of the Jew followed,
 - v 44 nearly the whole city returned the next Sabbath to hear God's Word
 - v45-48 many Jews became envious & spoke against them
 - Paul & Barnabas spoke out “boldly” in the face of the Jews & many Gentiles were saved
 - Word of the Lord was published throughout the whole region
 - Jews raised persecution by stirring up devout women & chief men of the city to expel them from the district – P&B shook off the dust
 - Disciples were “filled with Joy & with the Holy Ghost”

- Confirming New Disciples (Acts 14) p265-266
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: Is 53/Matthew 8:17/Mark 16:20
 - Key Verse: v26 “And from there they sailed to Antioch from where they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work (“apostolic” Ch 13:2) which they fulfilled.”
 - Thoughts
 - Iconium v1-6 – went 1st in Synagogue (Paul's custom was same as Jesus)
 - Results:
 - Jews stirred up the Gentiles to bitterly oppose believers v2
 - Remained a “long time speaking boldly” v3
 - Testified of God's Word of Grace
 - Signs & Wonders done by their hands v3
 - City Divided – joint Jewish & Gentile assault to stone them v4-5
 - P&B heard of the plot & fled to Lycaeonian cities to preach v6
 - Lystra v6-20 - Crippled man healed v8-10 (Gift of Spirit is similar to Acts 3:1)
 - Results:

- People tried to worship them as Greek/roman gods (Jupiter/Zeus & Mercury/Hermes) v11-13
- P&B tore their clothes & commanded them to turn from vain pagan ways – Appealing to Exod 20:11 v14-17
- People didn't listen to them but still tried to worship! V18
- Jews came from Antioch (Pisidia) & Iconium to persuade the people to turn on and stone Paul – drug him out of the city supposing he was dead v19
- Disciples stood around & raised him up (healed or resurrected?) v20
- P&B head to Derbe v20
- Derbe v20-21 – simply “preach the Gospel to that city, and taught many”
- Back to Lystra, Iconium & Antioch (Pisida) – to “encourage” believers v22
 - #1 Confirming – making sure they were saved
 - #2 Exhorting them to go “through much Tribulation” so will finish up in the Kingdom v22
 - Result: #3 Ordaining ELDERS in every church – set them apart with prayer & fasting as they had originally been “recommended to the grace of God in Antioch (Syria)
 - Note: these churches functioned & grew without “pastor” as we know it for over a year until Paul & Silas came back (Ch 16)!
- Perga v25 – simply “Preached the word” there.
- Reported back to Antioch (Syria) – Home Church v26-28
- Jerusalem Council Decision (Acts 15) p267-268
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: Amos 9:11
 - Key Verse: v15-17 “And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things.”
 - Thoughts:
 - **Leadership of Early Church on Display**
 - Paul & Barnabas' Best (v2-5, 12, 35-37) & Worst (v39) ... ***Risked*** their Lives (v26) - would not back down to smooth sounding, “***Subversion***” (v24)
 - Peter (v7-11) ... ***Boldness in defending*** 1st Gentile Experience
 - James (v 13-21) ... ***Wisdom*** of God's Word applied to Circumstances
 - **Unity** (v22-33) ... “Apostles and Elders came together to consider the matter” (v 6). Church made up of churches working together to extend God's purpose across the earth was the basis of their 1st century success. “Seemed Good to the Holy Ghost and to us” ... to not unnecessarily

burden & trouble

- The "Council at Jerusalem" is in direct response to the #1 enemy Paul encountered on the 1st Missionary Journey popping up (from Jerusalem) back in Antioch (Syria) as soon as they got settled back in! – the Jews would rise up within the Church now to demand conformity to the "manner of Moses", specifically circumcision. v1
- P&B are prepared to respond v2
 - Dissension = standing up against – rise up & not take it sitting down!
 - Disputation = argue with mutual questioning or joint investigation – to get to the bottom of a matter instead of dividing emotionally
 - It was decided to send P&B to Jerusalem to go to the highest authorities in an effort to resolve this question completely (at its source) v2
 - We have this same controversy today – so many factions of Christians looking to "Go Back" to something more reasonably effective (Hebrew Roots of many kinds, Catholicism, separating from anything that relaxes its determination to preach the Gospel of GRACE/JESUS!
- P&B pass through Phoenicia & Samaria encouraging Believers with what God has done among the Gentile v3
- P&B rehearse this to the Church at Jerusalem – ferreted out the source of the controversy – a "sect of Pharisees which believed..." v4-5
 - #1 that Circumcision was necessary to keep as a Christian
 - #2 that Moses Law was necessary to obey (One "Hebrew Roots question today is whether this meant the whole Law or referred to the "Book of the Law" which was kept with the Ark of the Covenant? – tablets of stone were inside)
- Apostles & Elders came together (with whole church v12 & 22) to consider v6
- Peter's Case v7-10 – refers to experience with Cornelius (Ch 10-11)
 - "No Difference" v9
 - "No Yoke" v10 – tempting God to require what Israelites could not bear
 - We are ALL "saved by grace"! v11
- P&B's Case - rehearsal of the Missionary Journey v12 (Ch 13-14)
 - Hard to argue with what God IS openly doing!
- James' Case - Calls Amos 9:11-12 a fulfillment of these things
 - Tabernacle of David referred to repeatedly in Prophets as God's ongoing plan – James has a revelation that this "God's Presence" centered Tent was what pleased God on a spiritual level – is what the Church is, a more direct reflection of the Kingdom of Heaven than the "pattern" only of Moses' Tab v13-18
 - His Sentence (seems to be chief administrator) is not to create more

Trouble (or “burden more than necessary” v28) than is necessary for Gentiles to come to Christ – to streamline the religious aspect of the Faith & to only Require: v19-20

- #1 No Idolatry
 - #2 No Immorality
 - #3 BECAUSE Mose has his preachers out among the Gentile world – Gentiles will naturally make the right connections between OT & NT as the New is becoming increasingly clear! *We don't cancel the Word of God concerning Moses & the Laws of “carnal commandments” (Heb 7:16), we simply welcome them into the David experience!!*
- Pleases whole Church – Apostles, Elders, People v22
 - Silas & Judas are sent back to Antioch (Syria) with P&B to confirm this decision & ensure that the sect responsible for spreading this fake good news was “subverting your souls” - there is NO SUCH COMMANDMENT. v23-35 (1st Journey ends HERE) ...
 - 2nd Journey Begins HERE: P&B contend & separate over Mark's fitness to join them on the 2nd missionary journey v36-41 – split into 2 Teams and head back to strengthen the churches they had first visited. v36-41

Journey #3 *Second Apostolic Tour* 49-52AD page 269-275, 288

*Map of Paul's 4 Missionary Journey's (includes his 4th journey to Rome as a prisoner):
<http://www.azbible.com/paul-evangelist-apostle-maps.html#map3>

- Establishing Churches Among Gentiles (Acts 16) p270-272
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: v 31-34 - Joel 2:32 (Acts 2:21); John 3:16
 - Key Verse: v25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”
 - Thoughts
 - Timothy was from the Derbe/Lystra area v1 (see: Acts 14:6-22)
 - Timothy is Half Hebrew & Greek – mother a “Jewess” who, “believed” - the couple are said to have a good reputation among the believers there formed at least a year before v2
 - Paul circumcises Timothy v3 “because of the Jews...for...his father was a Greek” – which seems strangely contradictory in light of the decision rendered by the Jerusalem Council & the fervor with which Paul had defended the message of grace/faith over law leading up to it in Acts 15?
 - Perhaps this is because of a personal desire to keep as much peace as possible until the foundation of the faith were more stabilized as the church grew? In which case, we can deduce that keeping Old Testament customs is fine to the degree they are done with spiritual motivation.

- Maybe it is the direct leading of the Holy Spirit to effect the same ends as they delivered the “decrees to keep” to the young churches and see how God did greatly blessed the process? -”Daily” growth was similar to the original church in Jerusalem after Pentecost v4-5
- Overt Leading of the H. Spirit from Asia (Minor) to Greece-Europe v6-13
 - **GREEN LIGHT Principle:** Notice how the Lord first told them “where *NOT* to go” v6-7 (see Samuel at Jesse's house, 1 Sam. 16:6-13)
 - Then He told them “where to go” v8-13 ... notice how they fully followed His instructions.
 - They continued to follow the “normal procedure” of simply ***being led by the Holy Spirit*** after the vision (God moves inwardly as a rule & manifests spectacularly as He wills from time to time, Ro 8:14; 1Cor 12:1-11)
 - Notice it was **NOT**, “Neapolis” but as they proceeded they found the “***chief city***” from which to influence the region. A Roman military post/colony. v13
 - Next, they found the “***key person***” to the city of Philippi –
 - Lydia was a businesswoman of means (v14 “Seller of purple” - famous ancient die)
 - Lydia was an “intercessor” - “***places of prayer***” is where people have their hand on God's pulse – ***faithfulness*** is the key quality v14-15
 - This 1st Key Woman had the special quality of a seeker...she listened attentively to Paul being already a worshipper (attentive seeker) of God! *“prayer” & “attended unto” similar in Greek
 - The Lord “opened her heart” v14
- They found the ***Key Problem to Solve*** v16 – the Holy Spirit often brings us into confrontation with the evil spirits behind outward situations as He did with Jesus. Luke 4:1-14
 - 2nd Key Woman: Spirit of “***Divination***” = Greek: Python, the name of the region around Delphi. “***Soothsaying***”=false prophecy (even if true in prediction as in v17) is what the “***Oracle***” was famous for in history. [Use fo God's Word, from root, “LOGOS – Acts7:38; Ro 3:2; Hebrews 5:12; 1Pet 4:11]
 - v18 Paul was “***grieved***” or literally, “***working through the pain of***” the situation until he was able to use his authority to win the battle. We often do not wait on God in such circumstances & do not prevail.
 - V18-24 Spiritual victory often has financial consequences which lead to physical persecution
- The “**Midnight Hour**” of Bible: Mt 25:6; Mk 13:35; Lu 11:5 [Acts 20:7]

- v25 **Prayed** & sang **Psalms**/praises – were heard by others (not the importance of the word: “boldness” throughout Acts - circumlocution)
 - v26-33 Suddenly...Earthquake...Loosed. Signs follow the Word of the Lord's messengers...Similar to Matt 27:50 & Acts 4:31
 - Paul's simple salvation message: v30-34
 - Ask, Believe the Word/Promise, Baptism, Bring your family
 - v 35-38 Paul's Courage as a Roman Citizen
 - v 39-40 Paul & Silas depart from Philippi

- Continuing With The Gentile Disciples (Acts 17:1-18:1-11) p273-275
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: Isaiah 42:5 (v25)
 - Key Verse: 17:16 “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.”
 - Thoughts
 - Paul found a city with a **Synagogue** (Philippi had not had a “church” but only a place of prayer, see: 16:13) which provided some support from Roman authorities but also incurred often worse opposition from Jewish/religious authorities (v5). V1-2
 - **Thessalonica** will be the first 2 letters Paul writes of the 13 to 14 ascribed to his authorship (7 of the 13 are historically undisputed but 6 are disputed, Hebrews seems to be written by a protege [Heb 2:3-4])
 - Thessalonica = conquest or the means of success ... a place of battle!
 - “Sabbath” - obviously the faith still had stronger 'Jewish'/Hebrew roots (see Bereans below). Both Saturday or Sunday are scriptural form of gathering but it is only because any other day is also (Sunday was likely substituted after Constantine in 325 A.D., against what the original language of the Bible says!
 - Note: the phrase, “first day of the week” as used in the N.T.:
Mt 28:1; Mk 16:2,9; Lu 24:1; Jo 20:1,19; Acts 20:7; 1Cor 16:2.
 - In every case the word used for “week” is “sabbath” in Greek (but taken from Hebrew) SO Saturday is truly the “sabbath” & we see Paul keeping the feast of Pentecost in Acts 20 BUT he also refutes the necessity of literally keeping the sabbath & other holydays in places like Colossians 2:16
 - This is a classic case of mistranslation for questionable motives. Many Christians fail to recognize such things because they do not study the Bible deeply in its original languages. We must be honest instead of holding to traditional teachings such as “inerrancy & infallibility of scripture” without looking into such matters for ourselves to “rightly divide” what is being said AS WELL AS what

might be being prevented from being said.

- Even the Assemblies of God official statement of Faith on this subject admits that inerrancy & infallibility can only be taken so far before the reasoning behind them begins to break down
- See Chicago Statement of Faith here:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Statement_on_Biblical_Inerrancy
- The following link explains the subject fully but errs in not completely trusting Paul's actions/writings (which Hebrew Roots followers have to do in order to “keep the commandments” in the general way many practice):
<https://jesuswordsonly.com/topicindex/540-first-day-of-week-versus-one-of-the-sabbaths.html>
- ***Introducing & Presenting*** the Gospel v3
 - Paul always works with the “believers and joiners” v4
 - Persecution accuses & runs them out of town v5-9
- **Berea** is a “nobler” synagogue – willing to exercise an OPEN MIND in the study of the scriptures to test & prove their faith v10-11
 - Notice “Berea” means “to pierce beyond”
 - Noble = well born or high in rank (how God sees “seekers” see: Mk 4:21-25...the secret of opening all mysteries)
 - “Searched the scriptures DAILY” - this is the important “day” marker we should extract from our Hebrew heritage
 - Notice in v12 how that many “honorable” (noble) women believed.
 - ***Moses, Joseph & Daniel*** teach us that once a person is fully schooled in God's light they can examine darkness on even the deepest levels without falling to its deceptions.
 - v13-15 Paul leaves Berea amidst persecution from the Thessalonian Jews ... he is taken to Athens by the believers of Berea but leaves Silas & Timothy there
- **Athens** – v16-34, while waiting for Silas & Timothy, Paul is moved in spirit by the wholesale pagan condition of this spiritual capitol – ancient landmarks are often most given to the extreme human condition which incurs dark forces.
- Paul finds the synagogue first, AGAIN & “argues” both with the “devout” there & the people in the market place v17
- 2 Kinds of Athenian PHILOSOPHERS (lovers of wisdom) v18
 - Epicurians – lovers of PLEASURE , sensual (see JFB commentary)
 - atheistic materialists
 - Stoicks – ironclad PRIDE...systematic

- Sever and lofty pantheists
 - Aeropagus v 19, same as Mars Hill (v22)-named after the Greek god of war
 - where the strangers did not like Paul's strange new doctrine!
 - Paul's sermon on the UNKNOWN God v22-31(Isaiah 42:5)

- Mission's Success & Support Acts 18:1-11 p288
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: v5 – infers that **Paul focused on the Word**, being pressed by the Spirit (generally confirming that he built a solid foundation of O.T. Understanding in even new believers)
 - Key Verse: **v9** “And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid [any longer], but go on speaking and do not be silent;”
 - Thoughts
 - v1 Paul comes from Athens to Corinth
 - v2-3 Paul finds an important Jewish disciple [Aquila] who joins them because they were tent-makers (evidently both Paul, [his associates?] & Aquila)
 - v4 Paul's customary approach to reasoning in the synagogue
 - v5 Silas & Timothy came down from Berea or Thessalonica (17:14 & 1Thess 3:1-3) to join Paul
 - Paul seemingly refocuses at this point on devoting himself to the Word & Spirit [away from tent-making?] in order to make the best case for Messiah to the Jews
 - v6 When the Jews (as was their customary response as a whole) “resisted and blasphemed” or literally “set themselves in battle against” Paul! Paul washes his hands & switches to reaching out to the Gentiles
 - v7-8 Paul moves his ministering into an adjoining house to the Synagogue, leading to the leader of the Synagogue getting saved!
 - In a “night vision”, Jesus reinforces His call for Paul to remain in Corinth without fear of reprisal by any man. Paul stays for a year and a half – writes both 1st & 2nd Thessalonians ...

Location #1 *Thessalonica*

page 276

- Letter #1 - First Thessalonians p276-282
 - Chapter 1
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used: O.T. verses are **noticeably absent** from all of 1Thess [Paul seems to focus on “Jesus Christ” - His name is appealed to 15 times in this letter!] **Paul interprets & translates Jesus' message** to the Gentiles quite naturally as he writes – this entire chapter sounds like Jesus talking to and leading his disciples.
 - Theme: **Followers are Leaders**

- Key Verse(s): **v6-7** “*You also became IMITATORS of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an EXAMPLE to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*”
- Overview:
 - 5 Sentences total: v1; v2-5; v 6-7; v8; v9-10
 - v1 The WHOLE church is the recipient of this letter - UNDER the Lord's oversight
 - v2 Prayer = “thanking” & “always” “reminding” God of them. This infers an INTERCESSORY approach to overseeing the apostolic work where the effect is a cumulative building up [of a memorial] in the memory of God as in Cornelius' case [Acts 10:4]
 - v3-5 BIG Ministry SECRET. Paul takes note to:
 - Remember *the “work”* of this church & ...
 - correlates their willingness to engage in spiritual things with the fact that **God** has obviously “*chosen*” them AND ...
 - that it was the result of the [“our”] Gospel coming to them not in speech only BUT IN *power & conviction!*
 - 1Cor 2:1-6 & Acts 18:5 help show us that this [*knowing nothing except Christ* etc) also was a customary approach of Paul, which he says is the reason it was duplicated in them! ...
 - v6-8 Because they *imitated* Paul, he was *duplicated* in them
 - This specifically entails “receiving the word in much *tribulation & joy of the Holy Spirit*” - like Paul did - SO THAT they became an example of boldness to those in the region just like he had! ...
 - v8-10 Paul notes that this church actually **REPLACED** him in declaring the Gospel message!
 - The message of Christ is designed to become our own – this is the power it carries to keep changing lives
 - We *wait* patiently, serving in this process of faithfulness, because He was *raised* to *rescue* us!
- Chapter 2
 - OT/Gospel verses used: again, this chapter & this entire first letter of Paul *sounds like Jesus because Paul is imitating Him*, and in turn, having the same impact on his first Gentile follower to receive written follow-up & oversight.
 - Theme: ***Seeing is Believing: God has to first be pleased by the faith of a messenger before people can respond to Him through their message. Believers need to be shown the Way first by someone who knows the Lord***

THEN they can become accountable to use their own Faith. Example: Jesus rebuked Thomas (as a disciple) for still needing to “see” after being with Him for so long.

- Key Verse(s): v13 *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the work of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe.”*
- Overview:
 - 13 Sentences: v1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7; 8; 9; 10-12; 13; 14-16; 17; 18; 19; 20
 - v1-2 Overcoming ***opposition creates opportunity*** for the Gospel to stay powerful in our lives & ministries. It provides a ***seedbed for Boldness*** to continue to be exercised by believers.
 - V3-6 Deception & Error grows out of trying to please men with the God's message! It can easily be turned in the minds of men to seem the exact opposite.
 - V7-12 We are called to ***“assert our authority”*** over the spiritual forces behind the culture and to ***“prove” ourselves*** to people by our example of how God affectionately cares for us WHILE we are working for Him powerfully among people. The ***secret to training*** disciples is exactly as training children – we imitate our FATHER before them.
 - V13-16 ***Churches BECOME what they IMITATE***, just like individual believers. These first Gentile churches were instructed to follow the Judean Church's example of following the Lord NOT their culture! The secret in any society is pleasing God & loving people on His behalf.
 - V17-18 Paul attributes his troubles in Greece (Acts 16-18) to the workings of satan to “hinder” (to cut into, impede, detain, put roadblocks in our way) Example: 2Thess 2:13 Satan has “workings” - Greek “energies” he uses against God's greater “workings” Eph 1:19)
 - v19-20 Paul equates the corporate Body to his (team's), “hope, joy, victor's crown and glory!” Example: “All in all” is a true assessment of God's Kingdom – we all become one in the service of Christ! 1Cor 15:28 (12:6)

○ Chapter 3

■

○ Chapter 4

■

○ Chapter 5

■

*Overall Purpose of the Letter

- Key Teachings:

- Letter #2 - Second Thessalonians p283-287
 - Chapter 1
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Theme:
 - Key Verse:
 - Chapter 2
 -
 - Chapter 3
 -
- *Overall Purpose of the Letter
- Key Teachings:

Journey #4 *Third Apostolic Tour* *Part 20&25, page 289-292, 380-384*
 *Map of Paul's 4 Missionary Journey's (includes his 4th journey to Rome as a prisoner):
<http://www.azbible.com/paul-evangelist-apostle-maps.html#map3>

- Spreading the Gospel from Ephesus (Acts 18-19) p290-292
 -
- Progress Behind & Peril Ahead (Acts 20-21) p381-384
 -

Location #2 *Corinth* *Part 21, page 293*

- Letter #3 – First Corinthians p293-321
 -
- Letter #4 – Second Corinthians p322-340
 -

Location #3 *Galatia* *Part 23, page 341*

- Letter #5 - Galatians p341-350
 -

Location #4 *Rome* *Part 24, page 351*

- Letter #6 – Romans p351-379
 -

Journey #5 *Paul Arrest & Trial* *Part 26, page 385*

- Arrest & Declaration p386-388
 -
- Hearing & Confinement p389-392

-
- Defense & Decision p393-396
-

Journey #6 Paul's Voyage to Rome

Parts 27&28 page 397

*Map of Paul's 4 Missionary Journey's (includes his 4th journey to Rome as a prisoner):
<http://www.azbible.com/paul-evangelist-apostle-maps.html#map3>

- Rome Voyage p398-401
-
- Confinement in Rome p402-404
-

Location #5 Ephesus

Part 29, page 405

- Letter #7 – Ephesians p405-414
-

Location #6 Philippi

Part 30, page 415

- Letter #8 – Philippians p415-422
-

Location #7 Colosse

Part 31, page 423

- Letter #9 – Colossians p423-429
-

Location #8 Philemon's House

Part 32, page 430

- Letter #10 – Philemon p431-432
-

Journey Final Acts of Apostles Completion

Part 33, page 433

- Completion of Historicdwal Record p434
-

Location #9 - Ephesus

Part 34, page 435

- Letter #11 – First Timothy p435-443
-

Location #10 Crete

Part 35, page 444

- Letter #12 – Titus p445-447
-

Location #12 *Ephesus*

Part 36, page 448

- Letter #13 – Second Timothy
 -

p449-454

Location #14 *Believers At Large*

Part 37, page 455

- Letter #14 – Hebrews
 -

p456-475