

The Believer's Hidden Treasure

A Study in the 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.

Journey #1 Paul's Radical Turn

Part 14, page 240

- 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” (1 Samuel 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.

- Founding New Congregations (Acts 13) p262-264
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts
- Confirming New Disciples (Acts 14) p265-266
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts
- Jerusalem council Decision (Acts 15) p267-268
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts

Journey #3 *Second Apostolic Tour*

page 269-275, 288

- Establishing Churches Among Gentiles p270-272
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts
- Continuing With The Gentile Disciples p273-275
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts
- Mission's Success & Support p288
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Key Verse:
 - Thoughts

Location #1 *Thessalonica*

page 276

- Letter #1 - First Thessalonians p276-282
 - Chapter 1
 - OT/Gospels Verses Used:
 - Theme:
 - Key Verse:
 - Chapter 2
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 - Chapter 3
 -
 - Chapter 4
 -

- Chapter 5

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*Overall Purpose of the Letter

- Key Teachings:

- Letter #2 - Second Thessalonians

p283-287

- Chapter 1

- OT/Gospels Verses Used:

- Theme:

- Key Verse:

- Chapter 2

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- Chapter 3

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- *Overall Purpose of the Letter

- Key Teachings:

Journey #4 *Third Apostolic Tour*

Part 20&25, page 289-292, 380-384

- Spreading the Gospel from Ephesus (Acts 18-19)

p290-292

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- Progress Behind & Peril Ahead (Acts 20-21)

p381-384

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Location #2 *Corinth*

Part 21, page 293

- Letter #3 – First Corinthians

p293-321

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- Letter #4 – Second Corinthians

p322-340

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Location #3 *Galatia*

Part 23, page 341

- Letter #5 - Galatians

p341-350

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Location #4 *Rome*

Part 24, page 351

- Letter #6 – Romans

p351-379

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Journey #5 *Paul Arrest & Trial*

Part 26, page 385

- Arrest & Declaration

p386-388

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• Hearing & Confinement		p389-392
○		
• Defense & Decision		p393-396
○		
Journey #6 <i>Paul's Voyage to Rome</i>	<i>Parts 27&28 page 397</i>	
• Rome Voyage		p398-401
○		
• Confinement in Rome		p402-404
○		
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• <u>Letter #7 – Ephesians</u>		p405-414
○		
Location #6 <i>Philippi</i>	<i>Part 30, page 415</i>	
• Letter #8 – Philippians		p415-422
○		
Location #7 <i>Colosse</i>	<i>Part 31, page 423</i>	
• <u>Letter #9 – Colossians</u>		p423-429
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Location #8 <i>Philemon's House</i>	<i>Part 32, page 430</i>	
• <u>Letter #10 – Philemon</u>		p431-432
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Journey Final <i>Acts of Apostles Completion</i>	<i>Part 33, page 433</i>	
• Completion of Historicdwal Record		p434
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Location #9 - <i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Part 34, page 435</i>	
• <u>Letter #11 – First Timothy</u>		p435-443
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Location #10 <i>Crete</i>	<i>Part 35, page 444</i>	
• <u>Letter #12 – Titus</u>		p445-447
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Location #12 *Ephesus*

Part 36, page 448

- Letter #13 – Second Timothy
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p449-454

Location #14 *Believers At Large*

Part 37, page 455

- Letter #14 – Hebrews
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p456-475