

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: 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 for the 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 referring to the rebelliousness of King Saul etc. 1Sam 8:19-22) v9
 - 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 & Gnetile 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 wil 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 agter the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things.”
 - Thoughts:
 - 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 rehears 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
 - P&B contend & separate over Marks 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*

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
 -
 - 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*

- 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 <i>Paul Arrest & Trial</i>	<i>Part 26, page 385</i>	
• Arrest & Declaration		p386-388
○		
• 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
○		
Location #5 <i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Part 29, page 405</i>	
• <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
○		
Location #8 <i>Philemon's House</i>	<i>Part 32, page 430</i>	
• <u>Letter #10 – Philemon</u>		p431-432
○		
Journey Final <i>Acts of Apostles Completion</i>	<i>Part 33, page 433</i>	
• Completion of Historicdwal Record		p434
○		
Location #9 - <i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Part 34, page 435</i>	
• <u>Letter #11 – First Timothy</u>		p435-443
○		
Location #10 <i>Crete</i>	<i>Part 35, page 444</i>	

- 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
 -