



THE LIFE OF
PAUL



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PREPARED FOR USE IN
BIBLE WAY CORRESPONDENCE
SCHOOL

From material originally written by Verna Savage.

Bible Way Correspondence School
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GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The BIBLE WAY Correspondence School is for anyone who wants to know more about the Bible.

The Purpose of these studies is to present God's plan of salvation, to train in Bible knowledge, and to help the believer to grow in his Christian life.

A Bible should always be beside you as you study these lessons. You should read carefully each Bible verse in the lesson. If there are words in the Bible or lesson which you do not understand, then you should look them up in a good dictionary.

Change of address. If you change your mailing address, please inform the Bible Way Correspondence School Director.

Student Number. Each student enrolled in the Bible Way Correspondence School is given a number. This number is very important because your records are filed under your number. When you write to the Director you should give your Name, Student Number, and Address.

**THIS IS YOUR
STUDENT NUMBER** _____
(Always use it)

INTRODUCTION

In this book we will be studying about Paul. We will study about where he was born, how he lived, and places where he preached. We have put a map on page 5 so that you can follow Paul's journeys.

The life of Paul is recorded in the New Testament book of Acts. This book was written by Luke. You should read the entire book of Acts before and as you study this book.

The study of the life of Paul is important to us because we can use it as a guide for our churches and our lives today.

But these words make a good ending to the life story of Paul--Jesus' greatest follower, greatest missionary and greatest preacher.

something like this: (author's paraphrase)

"My beloved son,

"Be a good soldier of Jesus Christ even when the way is hard. Remember always what you believe. Remember the people who kept the faith and handed it down to you. Keep on fighting your good fight. Hold fast to the things you believe.

"Keep working to meet God's approval, studying God's word, and you will be a workman who will never be ashamed.

"Timothy, I am thanking God in my prayers for you night and day. How I wish I could see you! Remember always your gift for teaching in God's Spirit of power and love.

"Don't ever be ashamed of me because I am in jail. I am not ashamed. For I know that he will keep me and all I have trusted to him forever.

"Timothy, try to come to see me soon, before winter, and bring the coat I left at Troas. And the books, bring the books. Do come soon. Luke is the only one here with me now. Demas left me. And I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. Come and bring Mark with you. Do your best to come soon.

"I am not afraid. I know that I shall not live long, and I am ready to go. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my work. I have kept his reward ready for me, and for all of us who love him.... But, Timothy, hurry."

We do not know if Timothy got to Paul before Paul's death. These are the last words we have from Paul.



committed every crime possible to commit. He had murdered his own mother. He had murdered his wives and friends. History tells us that Nero burned the city of Rome. Nero felt that he was a great musician. He thought that if he could watch a great fire perhaps he could play the violin better. He started the fire and sat on a high porch and watched the city burn as he played his violin. The city burned for six days. The people of Rome began to rage and were very angry about the fire. So Nero said that the Christians had started the fire. Then began the harsh and cruel persecution of the Christians. Thousands of Christians were burned at the stake.

At the time Paul was known as the leader of the Christians, so his life must have been in constant danger.

Paul's Arrest

When Paul was arrested the second time he was probably placed in a dungeon, a cold, dark, terrible prison. This time Paul was not visited by his friends as he had been before. Some were afraid to visit Paul for fear they would be killed.

Paul had written one letter to Timothy while he was visiting his churches for the last time.

Timothy became a Christian when Paul visited the city of Lystra the first time. Timothy's father was a Gentile and his mother a devoted Jewess. He was such a fine young man that Paul took him with him on his second campaign. From this time on he was a strong leader in the church. Paul called him his "true child in the faith." Timothy later became pastor of the church at Ephesus.

Letters To Timothy

While Paul was in the Roman prison the second time, he wrote Timothy another letter. The letters to Timothy read

LESSON 12

PAUL'S LAST DAYS

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-15

Memory Verse:

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

When Paul was released from prison he went back to the churches he had started before. Paul must have been concerned for these churches and very anxious to return as soon as possible.

To Crete

There were thousands of people on the island of Crete. It is said that there were one hundred cities on the island. The people were very evil and wicked. Both men and women drank much wine. They stole from passing ships. Also on the island were some Jews who were important businessmen. Titus had been sent to Crete as a missionary. Paul probably spent some time there with Titus. The work in Crete must have been very successful. Many were won to Christ.

Paul later wrote a letter to Titus telling him how to deal with the church in Crete. In this letter, Paul asked Titus to meet him in Nicopolis. Titus was probably with Paul when he was in prison the second time.

Burning Of Rome

Rome had several cruel and wicked rulers, but Nero was the worst. He ruled Rome for fourteen years. Nero had

LESSON 1

BIRTH OF PAUL

Scripture: Acts 21:39; 22:3, 27-28

Memory Verse:

"Remember also you Creator in the days of your youth."

Ecclesiastes 12:1

In this lesson we begin our study of the life of Paul. His name was Saul in Hebrew and Paul in Greek. He was called Saul until his conversion. Paul was a Jew and was proud of it. Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin. He was also a Roman citizen.

A Native Of Tarsus

Paul was born about the time Christ was born. He was born in Tarsus, a very prominent city of its time. Tarsus was only 1.2 kilometers from the Mediterranean sea, therefore it was a centre of commerce. It was, also, a city of learning. Students from the famous schools there went out into all parts of the Roman Empire. In this city lived Greeks and Orientals, as well as other nationalities.

In this city Paul could learn the Gentile way of life. Therefore, when the time came, he could present the gospel of Christ to them in a better way.

His Education

According to Jewish custom every Jewish boy was given a good education. As the son of a devoted Jew, Paul received careful training in the home. He received an

elementary education. Then, at the age of 13 to 15, he was sent to Jerusalem for further study in the rabbinical college (a school for training in the Jewish religion).

Paul had the opportunity of studying under Gamaliel, one of the greatest teachers of his time. Paul must have been an excellent student, and apparently Gamaliel had the utmost respect for him.

Return To Tarsus

When Paul had completed his studies in Jerusalem, he returned to his native city of Tarsus. He was now ready for his work. His parents and teachers were very proud of him. Paul probably spent the next few years in Tarsus as a rabbi, a teacher of the Jewish religion. We do not have any record of him during these years until he returned to Jerusalem later, just before the death of Stephen.

Paul must have heard about the Christian movement which was challenging the Jewish faith. He wanted to go and help defend the faith of his fathers. During the trial of Stephen, Paul was there with his fellow Jews. Although he threw no stones to kill Stephen, he shared the feelings of his people and consented to Stephen's death. Paul watched Stephen die. Although he did not know it at the time, this event played an important part in his decision to follow Christ.

Persecuting The Christians

Paul became a leader among the Jews. Older leaders stepped aside and let Paul take command of the forces to destroy Christianity. Paul described his own actions against Christianity. "I not only shut up many of the saints in prison, by authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I

your angry, noisy ways. Be kind with one another, gentle, forgiving one another, just as God forgave you for Jesus' sake."

As Paul was writing he could watch his guard. Shield and sword, helmet, breastplate, armour for the legs, shoes and belt--these made up the uniform of a Roman soldier. He continued his letter to the Ephesians:

"You will be fighting enemies you cannot see, not human soldiers but evil in every form. Put on God's armour to protect yourselves from evil. Stand up and fight his enemies.

"Stand up! Your belt is truth. Your breastplate is goodness. On your feet wear the good news of the peace of God. Pick up your shield of faith to protect you from the burning arrows of the wicked one. Your helmet is God's salvation. Your sword is the word of God.

"Stand up and fight. When you have done everything you can do, keep on fighting.

"Pray and keep on praying. Pray for all who love Christ, especially for me, that I may go on speaking without fear, though I am a prisoner in chains.

"Peace to you and love.

"Paul a missionary for Christ, commissioned by God."

After two years Paul was released from prison. We have no record of this in the Bible, but tradition tells us that Paul continued his mission work by revisiting the churches in Greece, Macedonia, and the provinces of Asia Minor.

loving, forgiving. Whatever you do in your words or actions, do everything for the Lord with all your hearts.

“Don’t let anyone teach you to trust in other gods. Christ alone will give you all you will need, for God has given him power and glory.”

Ephesians

The letter to the Ephesians was probably written as a circular letter, that is, a letter which would be sent from one church to another until it had been read by all the churches in that area. The letter reads something like this: (author’s paraphrase)

“You Gentiles used to hear that you could not belong to the family of God. Now you know that is not true. For Christ has broken down the wall that kept us apart, and because we love him we can both (Jews and Gentiles) believe in the Father. So now you are not strangers or foreigners. We are all members of the family of God. All of us together are building a temple for him. The apostles and the prophets are the foundations, Jesus Christ the cornerstone, and we are the building.

“Do not worry because I am held a prisoner. For though I am least important of those who love God, he gave me the gift of preaching to you the wonder of the love of God for us. I am praying for you that he will live in your hearts through your faith and that you will know for yourselves the love of Christ. How wide and long and deep is the love of Christ which is beyond what we can even imagine.

“Here I am, a prisoner, begging you to act like Christians. Be gentle and patient. You are not like the same now as you were before you became Christians. Put away

punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme; and in raging fury against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities” (Acts 26:10-11).

Paul was a devoted Jew and felt he was doing the right thing in destroying the Christians. This was before he had experienced the love and grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PAUL IN DAMASCUS

Scripture: Acts 9:3-20

Memory Verse:

"He proclaimed Jesus, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'"
Acts 9:20

The conversion of Paul was one of the greatest events in the history of the world. Paul was already responsible for the death and imprisonment of thousands of Christians. Now he was on his way to Damascus, the leading city of Syria, to drive out all the Christians there.

Paul Starts Towards Damascus

There are three accounts of Paul's conversion experience recorded in the New Testament. Luke gives it as historical fact, and Paul tells it twice in his own words. (All are found in the book of Acts.)

Paul had made his name feared among all Christians in Jerusalem. He had succeeded in scattering or silencing most of the Christians in the holy city. Then he had reports of a large group of Christians in Damascus. Damascus was about 240 kilometers from Jerusalem. He decided to go there to carry on his persecution against these believers. He received the proper authority and papers to go into the city and arrest all Christians there and return them in bonds to Jerusalem. He and his company started the long journey to Damascus. It was a six or seven day journey and during this long trip the brilliant and zealous young man would have time to think. Probably he was beginning to doubt his actions. He could not get out of his mind the quiet way in

PAUL IN PRISON

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8

In the last lesson we learned that during the time of Paul's imprisonment he was still able to win many to Christ. He also wrote letters to his churches which we read and use even today as a guide for our own lives and churches. In this lesson we will study Paul's last two letters which were written in prison.

Letter To The Colossians

The church at Colossae was begun during the three years Paul was in the city of Ephesus. We do not know if Paul ever visited this church, but he knew the leaders and was very interested in it. While Paul was in prison he heard of the false teachings which were going on in that part of Asia. It seemed that the churches at Ephesus and Colossae were being troubled with these false teachings, so Paul was worried about them. Paul wrote: (author's paraphrase)

"Although I am far away from you, I am close to you in my love, and I am grateful to God that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who came to show us what God is like.

"Now that you know Jesus, live like him. You have put away your angry ways and your lying speech. Be patient,

for me, and the way is by trusting in Jesus Christ.

"The brothers here with me send you their greetings."

Philemon

The letter to Philemon is different from Paul's other letters. It is the story of Paul reuniting two of his converts. While Paul was in Ephesus he met men from Asia. One of these was a wealthy and important man from Colossae. This man, whose name was Philemon, became a Christian through the preaching of Paul. Philemon became a leader of the Christians in his community. They met in his home for their services.

Philemon had at least one slave, perhaps more. One was Onesimus, who yearned for freedom and planned to escape. Onesimus ran away and probably took some money with him which belonged to his master. He made his way to Rome. Then he met Paul and heard him preach. Paul won Onesimus to Christ and told Onesimus he must return to his master at Colossae. At first Onesimus hesitated. He did not want to give up his new-found freedom. Paul insisted he must return because this was his Christian duty. Paul promised to send a letter to Philemon explaining what had happened. Finally Onesimus consented to go back, and Paul sent this letter. Paul pleaded for the freedom of Onesimus, but he said it must be the choice of Philemon.

We can admire Paul because he must have been very anxious to return to his young churches, but he did not let his imprisonment defeat him. He ministered to the churches in the only way possible, through his letters.

which Stephen died. He could not forget Stephen's prayer as Stephen peacefully "fell asleep." Paul felt he must do what was right, but he was troubled by questions he could not answer. So he made his way towards Damascus.

Paul's Conversion

The news of Paul's coming had reached Damascus before his arrival. Paul's conversion took place as he neared the city. At mid-day suddenly a blinding light shone around Paul and his company. He fell to the earth in complete blindness. Then he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" (Acts 9:4-6).

Jesus replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but now stand up and go into the city and there you will be told what you must do." Paul arose from the ground and discovered that he was blind. Some of his men led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was without sight and did not eat or drink. This experience completely changed Paul. Now the proud Pharisee was a stricken man, trembling, groping, clinging to the hand of his guide as he arrived. He went to the house of Judas and went directly to his room. There he stayed for three days without food and water. During these days Paul prayed and fasted. His whole life had changed in this meeting with Christ. Now he must rebuild his life around Christ.

Ananias

Ananias was a disciple among the Christians of Damascus. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Ananias had a vision and was commanded to go to the house of Judas and ask for Saul of Tarsus. Ananias was

frightened because he had heard of all the cruelty Paul had committed against the Christians. He probably knew this was the reason for Paul's coming to Damascus. But the Lord assured Ananias that he should go, and so he went to see Paul. He laid his hands upon the head of the young Pharisee, called him, "Brother Saul," and told him that Jesus was the one Paul had seen in his vision. Then Paul's eyes were opened and he received the gift of the Holy Spirit. After this he was baptized, probably by Ananias.

Paul Begins To Preach

We are not surprised that this new apostle should begin at once his new work. He began preaching Christ and declaring that Christ was the Son of God. The disciples were amazed at the wonderful change in Paul. The Jews who heard him could not believe that this was the same man. Paul grew steadily in strength and power as he preached.

Paul went to Arabia where he stayed for three years. This must have been a time of study and meditation in preparing him for the important ministry which lay ahead of him.

After his stay in Arabia, he returned to Damascus, where the people listened eagerly to his message. But soon the Jews sought to kill Paul. So the disciples planned his escape. He was placed in a basket and let down outside the wall at night.

Now Paul would understand the treatment he had given the Christians. From that time on the Jews sought to destroy him. Paul was one who could so well proclaim the gospel to the Jews, as well as Gentiles. A Gentile is any person who is not a Jew. He had grown up in the Gentile city of Tarsus and lived and studied as a Jew.

Epaphroditus became sick, so sick he nearly died. Paul sent him home with a letter. This was the letter to the Philippians.

The letter to the Philippians goes something like this: (author's paraphrase)

"Welcome our friend back and honour him. For the work of Christ he came near to dying, not thinking about himself, just of me and your wish to help me.

"I am so thankful for you. After I left you, you were the only ones who thought about sending gifts to me. I am not really worried about getting things I need, for I have learned to be satisfied whatever happens. I can be happy when I have plenty, but I can be just as happy when I must do without. I can do anything through Christ who gives me strength.

"Now I have so much, with gifts you sent me by Epaphroditus. My God will give you all you need from the riches of his glory through his Son Jesus Christ. So be glad you belong to Him. Learn not to worry, but ask him in your prayers for whatever you need thanking him as you pray. And you will have God's comfort beyond our understanding.

"Remember, whatever is true, whatever is honest and just and pure and lovely, put your minds on these things. Keep on as I have taught you, and do the things you have seen me do.

"Not that I take the credit for anything I am. Whatever I do that is good I do with the help of Christ whom I trust and love. I am not perfect by any means, but I keep on following him. My mistakes I have left behind, forgotten. This one thing I do: I press on to reach my goal, God's goal

PAUL BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Scripture: Acts 9:19-22; 11:19-26; 13:1-52

Memory Verse:

"And in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians."

Acts 11:26

In this lesson we begin our study of the first real foreign missionary efforts in the Christian church. This was not man's plan, but God's plan for the spreading of the gospel throughout the world for all races and for all mankind. Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (John 12:32). He taught his disciples concerning this worldwide mission. Read Christ's command to his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20. We call this the "Great Commission". The "Great Commission" was to "all nations". It was difficult for his followers, even after his resurrection and ascension, to begin this work. Perhaps these early disciples would have remained in Jerusalem, but the persecution became so difficult that they were scattered into many other countries. Therefore, they became missionaries of their own faith without having planned to do so. But these Christians needed a leader who could organise them, plan their programme, and lead them in their mission to the Gentile people. This leader was Paul. Some ten years after his conversion he had prepared himself and was ready to lead this real mission of the church.

The Church At Antioch

Antioch, with a population of over half a million people, was at the time one of the greatest cities of the Roman world.

refused. Paul told them he would spend his time in Rome teaching the Gentiles.

Paul had hoped to have a quick trial and be released. Two years passed and Paul still waited for a hearing. Paul preached and taught and welcomed everyone who came to see him. He was never afraid. During these two years, many people came to know Christ as their Saviour.

Prison Epistles

The two years in prison in Rome were busy for Paul. Not only did he win many people to Christ, but he also found time to write four letters, which are books in the New Testament. These were:

- (1) Philippians
- (2) Ephesians
- (3) Colossians
- (4) Philemon.

Philippians

This letter was written for the church at Philippi. This was one of Paul's favourite churches. The church had heard of Paul's trouble and had sent him a generous offering. The letter to the Philippians was one of love and thanksgiving. Even though this letter was written from prison it is filled with joy, confidence, faith and hope.

Through this experience of Paul we should learn that if we are completely dedicated to God he will help us to overcome all our troubles and problems.

Christian friends from far-away places came to help Paul. Luke was with him. Timothy visited him often. Epaphroditus came from Philippi to bring loving greetings from the church and to stay with Paul and help him.

LESSON 10

PAUL IN ROME

Scripture: Acts 28:11-31

Memory Verse:

*"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21*

The first preachers arriving in Antioch from Jerusalem had intended to minister to the Jews of the city. But others from Cyprus and Cyrene began to work among the Greeks. This was the first real effort among the Gentiles. From the beginning the church was very strong.

"The hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number that believed turned to the Lord" (Acts 11:21). This young church where all races worshipped together became one of the strongest churches of its time. This is a lesson for us today. If we can forget our prejudices and bad thoughts towards other races and tribes and truly worship our Lord in spirit and in truth, our churches can also have the same power this young church had.

Under the leadership of Barnabas the growth of the church was so great that he needed help. When Paul was brought from Tarsus to assist in the work the church became even stronger. Then the church became concerned for other Gentile people in other countries. The church realised its obligation to take the gospel to other nations. This strong church was to have the honour of serving as a centre for the preaching of the gospel to the Gentile people. It was here in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

The Work Of The Holy Spirit

Read Acts 13:1-4. We are told that while these leaders were praying and fasting the Holy Spirit spoke to them saying, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." The scripture goes on to tell us that they laid their hands upon them and set them free to do this work. The loss of the two strong leaders in the church at Antioch would be great, but they must have felt this also gave them (the church) an opportunity to share in

Paul's ship landed' in the Bay of Naples, one hundred forty miles from Rome. Paul was filled with joy when two groups of Christian friends met him forty miles from Rome. They went on by foot to Rome.

At last Paul came to the capital of the Roman Empire. Rome was the most important city in the world at that time.

Paul's Imprisonment

When they arrived in Rome all the prisoners except Paul were put into a prison. For some reason Paul was given special privileges. Paul was chained to a guard at all times but was permitted to live in a house away from the prison. He was allowed to have friends visit him at all times.

There were many Jews living in Rome. Three days after Paul had arrived he called the chiefs of the Jews together. He told them of all that had happened to him. They told him they had not had a letter from the Jews in Jerusalem. They seemed to want to know more about Christianity. So they all decided on a day when they could come to hear Paul teach. On that day many people came to hear Paul preach the gospel of Christ. From morning to evening Paul explained the truths of Christ. Some believed and some

hand. Someone said, "Look, he must be a murderer. He may have escaped from the sea, but he will be punished now."

Paul quietly shook the snake off in the fire. The people stared. His hand should have been swelling. He should have been dying.

"He is a god!" they whispered.

Now Publius, an important man of the island, invited the travellers to his home. Paul found out that the man's father was very sick with a high fever. As Paul prayed for the man God healed him. Soon others were bringing their sick to Paul to be healed. Read about this time on Malta in Acts 28:1-10.

Three months later Paul and all the others left again for Rome. The people of the island gave them many gifts and supplies. News soon arrived in Rome that Paul was coming.

this great work of sharing the gospel with the rest of the world.

They Began Their First Campaign

Read Acts 13:4-13. Barnabas, Paul and John Mark, a young man from Jerusalem, started out on their journey. Barnabas, being the oldest, was regarded as leader. Paul and Barnabas were close friends with deep appreciation for one another. John Mark went along as an assistant. He was the son of Mary, a devoted and active Christian in Jerusalem. He was a cousin of Barnabas.

They sailed for Seleucia and travelled the short distance of seventy miles to Salamis, on the east coast of Cyprus. Cyprus was the old home of Barnabas.

The missionaries visited all the main points of the island of Cyprus until they reached Paphos. In Paphos they met two prominent men, a magician named Elymas Bar-Jesus and Sergius Paulus, who was proconsul (governor) of the island. Sergius Paulus sent for Barnabas and Paul because he wanted to hear God's message. As the missionaries tried to win Paulus to Christ, Elymas tried to stop them. Finally Paul challenged this "son of the devil" and caused him to be blind for a time. Paulus was deeply impressed and believed in the teachings of the Lord.

From this time Luke refers to these missionaries as "Paul and his company" or "Paul and Barnabas".

To The Mainland

The company now left Paphos and sailed to Perga of Pamphylia. Here, John Mark left the group and returned to his home in Jerusalem.

Paul and Barnabas went on along to Antioch (in Pisidia). Paul went to the synagogue and there he preached the message of Christ. His message made a deep impression and caused the people to ask for more. Read Paul's message in Acts 13:14-42.

The next sabbath Paul preached again and almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. This upset the Jews. They became jealous and began to contradict the things that were spoken of by Paul. Paul told them they had given the Jews the first opportunity to accept the message. Since they had refused it, he and Barnabas would turn to the Gentiles. "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord spread throughout all the region" (Acts 13:48-49). The gospel had made a start in the heart of the great Gentile community.

The Jews turned against Paul and Barnabas and chased them out of the city.

About eighty miles southeast of Antioch was the city of Iconium. Paul and Barnabas went directly to the synagogue where Paul preached. Many believed and accepted Christ. But there were also enemies there. The apostles performed many signs and wonders and stayed there for a long time preaching the word of God. Finally the enemies formed a mob and threatened to kill the missionaries. So Paul and Barnabas had to leave.

They began throwing baggage and other cargo overboard to make the ship lighter. For days the clouds hid the sun and stars so that the sailors did not even know where they were. Finally they lost all hope of being rescued.

It was then that Paul spoke: "Gentlemen, if you had listened to me and stayed in Crete all this would not have happened. But everything will be all right. We will be safe. This very night I saw an angel of God, and he told me I am to appear before Caesar and that God has granted me the lives of every one of you" (Acts 27:21-24).

For fourteen days the ship wandered on and on. Then one night the sailors heard the sound of water hitting the land. They dropped four anchors hoping to keep the ship from crashing against the rocks along the shore. Then they waited for daylight to come.

Some sailors would not wait for morning. They tried to leave the ship in smaller boats. When Paul saw them he said, "Unless we all stay on the ship, we do not have a chance." So the sailors were not permitted to leave.

Paul promised them that none of them would be harmed. He took a piece of bread and gave thanks to God for it. They all ate and were grateful.

When morning came they threw out more cargo and tried to take the ship ashore, but it was stuck in the sand.

The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, in case any should escape. The captain would not allow it. He said, "All who can swim go on to shore. If you cannot swim find a plank and float ashore."

So they all landed on the island of Malta. It was cold, so the men made a fire. When Paul picked up a bundle of sticks to throw on the fire a small snake crawled up on his

his experiences from the time Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus until that very time. Then he began to preach Jesus Christ hoping to win the governor to Christ. (Read Acts 26.) Festus, Agrippa and the others must have been very impressed. Agrippa was so impressed he said, "Paul, you think to make me a Christian in this short time." The leaders all agreed that Paul had done nothing worthy of death. But Paul was not released.

Sailing For Rome

(Acts 27:1-13) A few days after the trial before Agrippa, Festus started Paul on his trip to Rome. Paul and some other prisoners were guarded by a man named Julius, a centurion. Luke and Aristarchus went with Paul. They started toward the coast of Roman Asia. After a day they reached Sidon, and Paul was allowed to go ashore and visit friends in the city. Then they sailed to the north of Cyprus and on to Myra, a city in Lycia. Here they boarded a ship which was going directly to Italy. After several days they finally reached Fair Havens on the island of Crete. The stormy season had arrived. Therefore, Paul advised them to remain there until it was over. But the majority, including the captain and the owner, decided to go on to Phoenix before stopping for winter.

Wreck At Malta

(Acts 27:14-44) When they sailed from Fair Havens they planned to stay near the coast and expected to reach Phoenix in a few hours. But a strong wind came up and drove them to the island of Cauda. They stopped just long enough to make the ship stronger.

They could not stay where they were because the wind would drive them straight into the quicksands of Africa.

LESSON 4

PAUL RETURNS HOME

Scripture: Acts 14:8-28; 15:1-35

Memory Verse:

"But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 15:11

Paul and Barnabas had been driven out of Iconium. Paul's next stop was Lystra. In this town there must have been some Jewish families. At least one Jewish family lived there. The mother was a widow whose name was Eunice. She had a son, Timothy. The husband had been a Gentile and Timothy had never been circumcised. (Circumcision was necessary for a man to enter the Jewish religion.) Lois, the mother of Eunice, lived in the home. Paul and Barnabas won this family to Christ.

Paul In Lystra

Read Acts 14:8-20. When Paul preached in Lystra, one of the men who heard him had never walked. He had been lame since birth. He sat on the streets of Lystra. He was probably a well-known beggar. Paul saw that the man had the faith to be healed. So he shouted, "Stand upright on your feet." Immediately the man stood up and walked. When the Gentiles saw this they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods who had come down in the likeness of men. They called them Zeus and Hermes (names of two Greek gods). The people began preparing a great celebration to honour them. Immediately Paul and Barnabas told them they were not gods but explained that they were only men. They

explained that they had come to preach the Word of God. (Read Acts 14:15-17). Then a company of Jews led a mob which stoned Paul and left him because they thought he was dead. Later Paul's friends found him alive and helped him escape. Then the missionaries went to Derbe.

It was now time to finish their first campaign and start their journey toward home. On their way back they visited Lystra, Iconium, Antioch and Perga. They wanted to help them with their work and to organise them into churches. They also wanted to help them choose responsible teachers for these churches. They established a church in each city and had a leader installed as pastor and teacher. Gentile churches had now been set up in the heart of Asia.

Return To Antioch

When they finally reached home, the missionaries gathered the church together and told them all the things that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. What a wonderful story they had to tell of their two long years of labour among the Gentiles. Evidently the church heard with great satisfaction the report of these apostles. The work among the Greeks had been started in a great way, and God had set the seal of his blessing upon it. The missionary work with Paul was now not just an idea; it was a glorious fact. The Gentiles knew the love of Christ and they would not forget him. One of the greatest changes in human history had come about. Jews and Greeks were now members of the body of Christ. Read how Paul describes this in Galatians 3:26-28.

Paul As A Missionary

We have now followed the experiences of Paul on his first missionary campaign. We have had the opportunity to

brought up their case against Paul again. Festus went to Jerusalem to have a conference with the Jews there. They demanded that Paul be returned to Jerusalem for trial. They were still planning to kill him. Festus refused their request and gave them permission to continue their case in Caesarea. Therefore Paul was tried the second time. This time he was brought before Festus.

The Jews accused Paul of causing trouble among the Jews, worshipping God falsely, and trying to overthrow their government. Festus was not familiar with these matters so he suggested that the case be taken before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. Paul knew that he would have no chance at all before the Jews in Jerusalem. Paul was a Roman citizen; therefore, he had the right to refuse this and ask that his case be brought before the emperor. So Paul told the court, "I appeal to Caesar." This surprised Festus, but he had no other choice. He had to accept this appeal. He said, "You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you will go." (Read Acts 25:1-21.)

Before Agrippa

(Acts 25:22-27) This change in the case put Festus in an embarrassing position. He had no charge against Paul. To send a case before Caesar without a proper charge would make Festus look foolish. He might even lose his position as ruler. Herod Agrippa II and his sister were visiting Festus at this time. It was proper to give guests some sort of entertainment. Festus thought that hearing this prisoner might be entertaining to them. Also Agrippa was familiar with the Jewish laws and customs. Festus thought Agrippa might be able to help him to prepare a case to be sent with Paul when he went to Rome. The great occasion was prepared. Paul was brought before the assembly. Agrippa was leading the meeting. Paul began to speak. He told of

LESSON 9

PAUL BEFORE FESTUS

Scripture: Acts 24:1-28:10

Memory Verse:

"Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

2 Corinthians 6:2

Paul's first trial was before Felix. Felix was a cruel and unjust ruler. Paul's accusers were not the Asian Jews, but Jews from Jerusalem. They had hired a Roman lawyer whose name was Tertullus. Tertullus began his speech before the court with praise for the cruel leader Felix. He then presented two charges against Paul:

- (1) Paul was a member of the sect of Nazarenes.
- (2) He had defiled the Temple.

Paul had no lawyer, but with real skill he presented his own case. He proved that he had not defiled the Temple. He told them that he was a Christian and told them that this was the "true Jewish religion." Paul won his case and should have been released. But Felix was afraid of the Jewish leaders, so he put off giving his decision and kept him in prison. (Read Acts 24.)

Before Festus

Felix was such a bad ruler that the emperor, Nero, removed him from his place of leadership. Porcius Festus then became ruler. Festus must have been a much better man than Felix. Because Festus was a new ruler the Jews

see Paul at work on his great mission. The work of Paul and Barnabas took at least four definite forms:

- (1) They were preachers of the gospel. They preached the Word of God to the crowds of people. These messages were effective in winning many people to Christ.
- (2) They served as teachers. Many questions could not be answered in public meetings. Paul and Barnabas must have spent many hours—day and night—instructing individuals and groups.
- (3) They were counsellors. Their work naturally called for much counselling with individuals and groups of Christians. They served as pastors to the people who needed this ministry.
- (4) They must also act as statesmen or advisors on all matters of church organisation. Paul was new at this, but his methods were so successful that we still use them today as a guide for our churches. God had greatly blessed Paul in this first campaign. Even greater triumphs would come in his next campaigns.

A Problem In The Church

Read Acts 15:1-35. While the missionaries were resting and having fellowship in Antioch, they received word of a serious problem which was a threat to the life of the church itself. The question was: Can a Gentile become a Christian? We know Philip and Peter worked among the people of Samaria and accepted converts there. Peter had openly defended his work in winning Cornelius and other Greeks at Caesarea. Read this account in Acts 10 and Peter's report in Acts 11:1-18. The church had even approved the Greek Christians in the church at Antioch of Syria. But while Paul and Barnabas were away, the people had begun

to question whether it was right for the Gentiles to be Christians. Some men from the church at Jerusalem had gone to Antioch to face them with the problem. These men had been Pharisees and insisted that a Gentile man could not become a Christian without being circumcised. In other words, he must become a Jew first. There was much trouble in Antioch concerning this problem.

When Paul heard of this, he saw at once the real danger in it. This problem could split the churches, as well as stop the growth of Christianity itself. Paul immediately took his stand on this question. Paul told them that circumcision was not necessary for salvation.

It was decided to take the problem to Jerusalem—not to receive authority, because this church had no authority over any other—but because the people from Jerusalem had raised the question in Antioch. Paul was eager also to have the leaders at Jerusalem take a positive stand on the issue so that all churches would be free.

In Jerusalem the leaders of the church were called together for a private conference. In this meeting Peter told of his witness to the Gentile, Cornelius. Paul and Barnabas shared the blessings they had received while witnessing to the Gentiles when they were away. The final decision was an overwhelming victory for Paul. It was decided that a letter should be sent to all the churches stating that circumcision and ceremonial acceptance of Judaism were not necessary in order for the Gentiles to become Christians. What was necessary for the Gentile to be saved? Peter said it very well in Acts 15:11.

Rome, but he did not know how long it would take or how it would happen.

Saved From Jerusalem

(Acts 23:12-35) The Jews, having been outwitted by Paul, were now determined to kill him. They took an oath that they would neither eat nor drink until they killed Paul. Paul's nephew heard of this plot to kill Paul. The boy went to the commander and told him of the plot to kill Paul. The commander ordered two hundred spearmen and seventy horsemen to take Paul to Caesarea. At Caesarea, Paul was taken to Felix and was put into Herod's palace. Again Paul was rescued from death. Paul had to remain a prisoner in Caesarea for two years, then it was three more years before he was free again.

Why should five long years of prison life face Paul at this important time of his ministry? We cannot answer this question fully. It must have been difficult for Paul to understand, but we can now see some reasons for it. Paul needed a rest. After twenty years of hard work and travel Paul must have been very near exhaustion. Not only was this a time of rest, but he had the time to meditate upon the truths of Jesus Christ. Later Paul wrote to the Philippians concerning his imprisonment: "I want you to know, brethren, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ" (Philippians 1:12-13).

crowd went wild and demanded his death, immediately. They were preparing to kill him when the commander stopped them. He took Paul inside and ordered the soldiers to beat him until Paul confessed his crime. The commander wanted to find out why the crowd was so angry.

As they tied Paul, he said, "Is it legal to beat a Roman citizen." When the commander found out that Paul was a Roman citizen he was frightened and took him before the Jewish council. (Read Acts 22:20-30.)

Before The Sanhedrin

(Acts 23:1-11) Many times Paul had brought Christians before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish high court) for trial. He was now to face this court himself. He must have looked out across the council to see if there might be even one friend among them. Paul told the council that he had always lived before God with a good conscience. The high priest, Ananias, ordered those who stood by to slap Paul on the mouth. This insult angered Paul and he spoke angrily to Ananias. Then he apologised, since he had not known that Ananias was the high priest.

It was then that Paul realised that some of the council were Pharisees and some were Sadducees. He knew that they were enemies. Paul cried out, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees." This caused a quarrel between the two groups. So the commander took Paul away for fear that they would tear him to pieces. Again, Paul escaped death.

That night the Lord visited Paul who was still in prison. The Lord said, "Do not worry, Paul; just as you have told the people about me here in Jerusalem, so you must tell of me in Rome." Now Paul knew he would be able to go to

LESSON 5

PAUL STARTS HIS SECOND CAMPAIGN

Scripture: Acts 16:1-40; 17:1-14

Memory Verse:

*"I can do all things in him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13*

Now that Paul had rested and taught in the Church at Antioch, his thoughts turned toward their work among the Gentiles. So he suggested to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit our brothers in every city where we have proclaimed the Word of the Lord to see how they are" (Acts 15:36).

Barnabas wanted to take John Mark along with them again. But Paul did not agree with taking a young man who had deserted them before. So Paul and Barnabas decided to go their separate ways. We are told that Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and set out on his journey.

Visiting The Churches

Paul and Silas arrived first at Derbe. Then they went on to Lystra where they found Timothy. Timothy, a new Christian, had made great progress in the Christian faith and showed real promise as a leader. Timothy was half Gentile and had not been circumcised. Paul arranged for Timothy to go with them in this campaign. To keep anyone from criticising any of their work Paul had Timothy circumcised. We know little about the work in Lystra except this: "The churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in numbers daily" Acts 16:5.

When Paul visited Antioch of Pisidia, he had planned to go into other parts of Asia. But the Holy Spirit would not allow them to go. Therefore, he turned north to go into Phrygia and Galatia, where he and his companions preached and started churches. Then Paul planned to go from this region into Bithynia, but again the Holy Spirit would not allow them to go. So now they must go west. Thus Paul, Silas and Timothy found themselves at Troas on the shore of the Aegean Sea.

One night while there in Troas, Paul had a vision. A man of Macedonia stood and called him to come into that land and help them. The vision was so real that Paul felt it was the voice of God. So they arranged to cross the sea to the continent of Europe. Evidently Luke joined the party in Troas.

In Philippi

Paul and his party landed in Neapolis and walked the ten miles to Philippi. On the sabbath, Paul went down to the riverside where there was a Jewish place of prayer. There they found a group of women. They preached to them. One of these women was an important dealer in tinted goods. Her name was Lydia. She was responsive to the message of the apostles and immediately became a Christian. She showed her faith by being baptized and leading her household to believe and be baptized. She asked the missionaries to be her guests during their stay in the city. Therefore, the Philippian church was established and the first Christian convert in Europe was a woman.

A slave girl fortune-teller, who was actually demon-possessed, followed Paul and his company every day. She was owned by some people who made money from her ravings. (Read Acts 16:16-24.) Paul healed her and she

Paul did as the leaders advised, but when the Jews saw him in the Temple they began to start a rumour that Paul was taking a Greek into the Temple. It was not lawful for a Gentile to enter the Jewish part of the Temple. Paul had not done this, but it was possible to spread the report and claim that Paul had done so. "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching men everywhere against the people and the law and this place; moreover he also brought Greeks into the temple, and he has defiled this holy place" (Acts 21:28).

Paul was dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him.

As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman soldiers that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

Paul's Arrest

The commander arrested Paul and had him bound with two chairs. Then he asked the crowd who Paul was and what he had done.

Some of the people shouted one thing and some another. When the commander could not find out anything in all the confusion he ordered Paul to be taken to the barracks.

When they reached the stairs, the mob became so violent that the soldiers had to lift Paul to their shoulders to protect him. The crowd began to shout, "Away with him! Away with him!"

Just before they took Paul inside the barracks he asked the commander if he could speak to the people. The commander was surprised when he heard Paul speaking Greek. Paul began speaking to the crowd in Hebrew. (Read Acts 22:1-21.) When Paul mentioned the word "Gentile" the

LESSON 8

PAUL IN JERUSALEM

Scripture: Acts 21:15-40

Memory Verse:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."

Ephesians 6:10

Paul finally reached Jerusalem after four long years. The Christians were filled with joy to see him once again. They were eager to hear of all the work that Paul had done and of what the Holy Spirit had been able to accomplish through him during these years.

All the leaders of the Jerusalem church met and heard Paul's report. He gave every detail of the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. The leaders were very impressed and thanked God for all that had been accomplished. It was probably at this time that Paul presented the offering which he had so faithfully collected over the past four years of work among the Gentile churches.

Trouble From The Jews

There were many Jews who had become believers and followed the law. They were telling that Paul was teaching the Jews who lived in the Gentile world to forget the law of Moses and that they must not circumcise their children nor observe their old customs. This was not true, of course, but the leaders of the Jerusalem churches advised Paul to go with four men, who had taken a pledge of obedience to the law, to the Temple and purify himself along with them.

became a Christian. Therefore, her owners would no longer make money from her so they were angry. They attacked Paul and Silas and had them taken before the magistrate. Then Paul and Silas were beaten and put into prison.

The Jailer

The jailer placed Paul and Silas in the jail and "fastened their feet securely in the stocks".

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God while the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, big enough to shake the whole foundations of the prison. Immediately all the doors flew open and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the doors of the prison had been opened, he drew his sword. He was about to kill himself for he thought that all the prisoners had escaped. Paul called to him, "Don't hurt yourself, for we are all here!"

The jailer called for lights, and rushed in. Trembling, he fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. He led them outside, and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and then you will be saved, you and your household."

Then they told him and all the members of his household the message of God. There in the middle of the night the jailer took Paul and Silas aside and washed their wounds. Then he and all his family were baptized immediately. Afterwards he took Paul and Silas into his house and offered them food. He and his family were overjoyed at finding faith in God.

The magistrate had discovered that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. These officers realised they were in trouble

because they had publicly beaten two Roman citizens. The magistrates went to them personally and apologized. They took them outside the prison. They asked Paul and Silas to leave the city. But Paul and Silas went to Lydia's house to see the Christians and give them courage to carry on the work there in Philippi.

In Thessalonica

From Philippi, Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica. For three sabbath days Paul preached in the synagogue and was successful in winning many Jews and Greeks to the Christian faith. Again the Jews became jealous and began causing trouble. But in spite of this, the apostles were able to establish a strong church before they were driven out of the city.

From Thessalonica Paul and Silas went to Berea. The people heard the apostles and then studied the scriptures to see if these men had preached the truth. Many of the Jews and Greeks believed the message and became Christians. The people of Thessalonica heard of the success of the apostles. They became angry and went to Berea to drive them out. Paul had to leave, but Silas and Timothy, who had joined them there, remained in Berea.

Some friends took Paul down to the sea and on to Athens. When the friends returned to Berea, Paul sent a message to Silas and Timothy telling them to come to Athens as soon as possible.

Paul had prepared to sail, with his party, by ship to Jerusalem. But he learned that the Jews planned to murder him as soon as the ship was out into the sea. So Paul changed his plans. He and Luke took the long, difficult journey by land. Paul stopped in Troas where he met with the Christians there on the first day of the week. Already they were observing Sunday as the day for worship. It was at this service that Eutychus, who was sitting by the window, went to sleep and fell from this third story window to the ground. His friends rushed to him and found him dead. Paul then restored him to life.

The next day Paul walked from Troas to Assos where he and his companions boarded a ship to Miletus. Just before sailing from Miletus, Paul called together the elders from the Ephesian church. Read his farewell message to them in Acts 20:17-38.

Paul continued his journey toward Jerusalem. Each time he stopped in a city the Christians warned him of the danger that lay ahead of him. The Jews were determined to kill him. (Acts 21:1-14) Paul went on to Jerusalem knowing he had a mission to accomplish. He was completing his third great campaign for the Gentiles. He had won his fight for them so far and was ready to face whatever might come.

LESSON 6

PAUL IN ATHENS AND CORINTH

Scripture: Acts 17:15-34; 18:1-17.

Memory Verse:

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

The work of Paul in Ephesus was the most effective of Paul's ministry. We are told that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

So many people accepted the Christian faith that the followers of Artemis began to cause trouble, and again Paul had to flee for his life.

Visit To Macedonia

(Acts 20:1-16) Paul left Ephesus and returned to Macedonia where he again visited new churches. He preached for a time in Troas then went on to Philippi where Timothy and Titus joined him. The church at Philippi was becoming very strong. It was here in Philippi that Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians. A very short time later he wrote his second letter to the Corinthians.

Probably Paul's next stop was in Illyricum. He preached here for two or three months before going on to Corinth.

Several people of Corinth were very happy to have Paul with them. While Paul was in this city he counselled and trained leaders. Another reason Paul went to Corinth was to encourage the Christians to give an adequate offering for the church in Jerusalem. While Paul was in Corinth he wrote the letter to the Galatians and the greatest of all his letters, the letter to the Romans.

Now Paul was eager to get started back to Jerusalem and Antioch. He had been away for four years and must have been concerned about the conditions of the churches where he had started his work. He was also anxious to get to Jerusalem to take the offering which he had collected during this campaign.

Athens was a beautiful city. It was a city of history, art, culture and philosophy. As Paul walked about he saw that the city was crowded with temples, shrines, altars and images. His heart ached to see all these things. Then he saw an altar which had "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD" written on it. When he saw this he realised how these people were searching after the living and true God. Paul had not planned to preach here in Athens. Now he could no longer remain quiet. He must proclaim the truth of the true Lord and Saviour.

Paul Spoke To The People

Paul began to preach in the synagogue and market-place. As he preached his message, the people began to listen. Later he was taken to the council. He told them that his God was maker of heaven and earth and that from him came life and strength. He continued telling them it was necessary to repent and believe in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. When he began to speak of the resurrection from the dead, some of the people began to laugh and mock him. But others said, "We would like to hear you speak again concerning these things." There were some who believed.

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Corinth was a city of wealth and power. It was also a city of much sin. Many Jews were there who had been driven out of Rome by the Emperor. One of these was a man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla. They were tentmakers. There in Corinth they had started a tentmakers business. When Paul arrived in Corinth, he found it was necessary to take up his old trade of tentmaking in order to earn his living. This was how he met Aquila and Priscilla. He lived with them, and every sabbath he went to the synagogue to preach to the Jews and Greeks. Paul was constantly witnessing to the people of Corinth. He made new friends, earned his living by honest labour, and preached and taught wherever he had the opportunity.

Paul was filled with great joy when Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia. They told him the church at Thessalonica was strong in its faith in the Lord. This gave Paul a new enthusiasm for his work in Corinth.

Still In Corinth

Paul's work in Corinth became so strong that the Jews began to give him trouble again. The trouble was so severe that Paul told them, "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6).

He went to the house of Titus Justus next to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with all his family. Many believed and were baptized.

One night Paul received a vision which assured him of protection and guidance. He stayed eighteen months longer, "teaching the Word of God among them" (Acts 18:11).

But the victory is assured. (Romans 8:37) Sin shall be conquered! "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the LOVE of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

(4) Christ is the centre and the glory of this redemptive plan of God. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all mankind. There is no other way to eternal life except through Him. He came to earth to live and die so that we might receive salvation. (Romans 5:1-11) There is no other way for us to be saved except by Jesus' death on the cross.

Christ is the Head of the church. And today the Holy Spirit of this same Christ dwells with us so that we might live in the power and strength of God.

In Ephesus

(Acts 19) Paul lived in Ephesus for nearly three years. Ephesus was the capital of Asia. This was the longest time Paul spent in one place.

The temple of Artemis (a Greek goddess) was one of the most magnificent temples in the world. It had taken two hundred and twenty years to build the temple. The worship was completely evil. Thousands of people came to worship the goddess Artemis. This gave Paul the opportunity to preach the gospel to these people. After several months many of these people accepted Christ and refused to worship Artemis.

For three months Paul taught in the synagogue. Then Paul rented the school of Tyrannus for the next two years.

themselves about Christian beliefs. Paul realised he must teach and train these churches so that they might stand together, strong in the faith of Christ. These churches would be responsible for spreading the gospel throughout the world and if they were divided among themselves they could never be powerful in proclaiming the message of Christ. During this campaign Paul wrote four letters teaching the people the true beliefs of the Christian faith.

What Paul Taught

Paul was our first and greatest interpreter of the gospel of Christ. He was responsible for forming a system of proclaiming Christianity as a way of life. These are some of the things that Paul taught and we still teach in our churches today:

- (1) Man has failed to become righteous on his own; therefore, we fail to deserve the favour of God. We have all failed to be perfect; not one of us can live a perfect life. (See Romans 3:23.)
- (2) Since man cannot be perfect, he cannot save himself. Therefore, God provided a way to receive salvation. Because of God's grace and love, he has provided us a way of salvation. Man has done nothing to earn it. This salvation is a gift from God and all those who accept it can enter into the peace and favour of God. This gift is for ALL people, but it can be received only through faith. (Read about this in Romans 6:23.)
- (3) Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of man. Christ is the one who can remove man from the bondage of sin. The one who accepts this righteousness, through belief in Christ, becomes a child of God. (Romans 10:9-10) But he still has a sinful nature which must be kept under subjection. He must, by the grace of God, conquer sin.

When Gallio became governor, the Jews tried to drive Paul out of Corinth. He was taken before Gallio. There the Jews accused him of teaching against the Jewish Law. Gallio told them he was not concerned with religious matters. The court was dismissed and the Jews driven out.

Paul had been in Corinth for two years. He had been able to accomplish much in this wicked city. But it was now time for him to return home. It was now that Paul realised he needed to help the churches become stable and strong. So at this time he wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul's Letters

Paul did some of his most important work through his letters. These letters were important not only to the churches then, but they are also very important as a guide for our churches today.

Paul's letters were:

- (1) 1 and 2 Thessalonians. These were written A.D. 52-53. These letters teach of the second coming of Christ.
 - (2) 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans were written A.D. 55-58. These letters teach us that we receive salvation through faith in Christ.
 - (3) Philippians, Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians were written in A.D. 60-63. These letters teach us concerning the person of Christ.
 - (4) 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus were written A.D. 65-67. They teach the churches how to deal with the problems of churches and pastors.
- Through the study of these letters we see some of the problems which faced the early churches. These problems were:

THE THIRD CAMPAIGN

Scripture: Acts 19-20

Memory Verse:

"Do not be weary in well-doing."

2 *Thessalonians 3:13*

(1) They had no church buildings. It was not until the second century that the Christians were able to have their own buildings for worship. They had to meet in homes. Often they met in caves or in open places or perhaps in rented halls.

(2) Sunday was not a legal holiday. The members had to work on the day of worship. The time of worship was usually early in the morning or late at night after the day's work was finished.

(3) They had none of the helps for worship as we now have. They did not have Bibles for general use. They had no hymn books and no literature such as we have.

(4) They had no trained workers or leaders. They had to depend on untrained teachers and preachers, except for the times when Paul, Timothy, Silas or others were with them.

Paul had been away for three years, and he was anxious to return to Antioch. Paul left Corinth with Aquila and Priscilla. He stopped in Ephesus where he again preached the message of Christ. He went on to Jerusalem for a short visit and then to Antioch. Again he was able to report concerning the wonderful way in which the Lord had blessed their work among the Gentiles in the west.

When Paul had been in Antioch only a short while, he received news that there was trouble in the churches in Galatia. So he started out on his third long, hard campaign.

Except for his long stay in Ephesus and his visit to Illyricum, this campaign was mainly spent in places where he had previously worked.

Paul Taught The Churches

In the first two campaigns Paul had spent most of his time winning people to Christ. But in this third campaign, Paul found it necessary to give much of his time to other matters. The Christians in Jerusalem were suffering because there was very little food and many could not get jobs. So Paul asked the Gentile churches to give generously to help the Jerusalem Christians. He knew that this would be a blessing both to the ones who gave and to the ones who received. Paul had to spend much of his time teaching and explaining the doctrines of Christ. The Jewish Christians, who felt that one must first be a Jew then a Christian, had spread many false teachings among the churches. In fact many of the Gentile Christians had been so upset that they were turning away from the Christian faith. Then there were other churches who were quarrelling among