

## The Apostle Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Acts 15:36-18:22: In 50-52 AD, Paul and Silas were sent out by the church in Antioch on a missionary journey. Visiting churches from his first journey, they meet Timothy in Lystra, and he joins the band of missionaries. In Troas, Paul has a vision and call to go to Europe (Macedonia). Luke (who would later pen his gospel) joins the group. They make fairly short stops in 3 cities of Macedonia, teaching, preaching, and reasoning with both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus, who was the Christ, and the saving power of belief in Jesus.

Paul then travels to Athens and then Corinth, where he stays for a year and a half, living with Priscilla and Aquila (now believers), as tentmakers (a trade Paul already knew) and evangelists.

On his way home, Paul makes a brief stop in Ephesus, where Paul vows, "I will return to you if God wills." Paul sails back to Caesarea and goes to the Church in Jerusalem, before returning to Antioch.

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## The book of *Colossians* (New Testament)

The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians is the twelfth book of the New Testament. Paul did *not* visit Colossae or directly start the church there. During his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (about 54 AD), while in Ephesus, Paul sent Epaphras out and Epaphras started the church in Colossae (about 100 east of Ephesus). The letter was written by Paul and Timothy while Paul was in house-arrest in Rome (about 62 AD).

The theme of the letter to the Colossians is the ***Supremacy of Christ***. He is supreme over the creation, over the church, as our teacher, and as the one who reconciles us (through his sacrificial death and resurrection) with God. Paul sees Christ as his source of power and encouragement for his ministry of suffering and proclamation. *No part of human existence remains untouched by the loving and liberating rule of Jesus.*

In Colossians 2:6-23, Paul discusses two influences believers need to resist: (1) The 'other gods' that the world offers for our worship, and (2) Legalistic rules and practices of religion -- both of which can distract us from true discipleship.



**Paul the Apostle** – a Jew and a Roman citizen, Paul (also named Saul) was raised with a formal Jewish education and became a Pharisee. He persecuted (and approved of execution of) Christians in the early church. God revealed Jesus Christ to him on the road to Damascus. He became a believer and led a life of missionary work, growing Christians and churches throughout the Roman Empire. His letters make up a large part of the New Testament of the Bible.

## Other Names

**Silas** – Also a Roman citizen, a leading member of the early Christian community. He accompanied the Apostle Paul on his second missionary journey.

**Timothy** – From Lystra in Galatia, probably saw Paul (and Barnabas), on his first missionary journey, heal a person crippled from birth. A few years later, Timothy, now a respected member of the Christian congregation, joined Paul and Silas when they came through on the second missionary journey. He became Paul's co-worker and fellow evangelist.

Maps from: <http://www.jesuswalk.com/paul/paul-maps.htm>