

The Apostle Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey (Voyage to Rome)

Acts 21:17 - 28:31: In 59-60 AD, Paul, following his 3rd missionary journey, returns to Jerusalem. Within a few days an angry crowd of Jews starts beating him, with the purpose of killing him. The Roman Commander intervenes and takes him into custody. Paul, as a Roman citizen, has the right to be tried before Caesar and he makes that appeal. After being held in Caesarea for 2 years he is taken aboard a ship for Rome, for trial.

After stopping in Fair Havens on the island of Crete, they meet with terrible weather and eventually get ship-wrecked off the coast of Malta. All 276 people off the ship make it safely to the island, where they stay for 3 months. With a new ship, they sail to Rome. In Rome, Paul is under house-arrest for 2 years, during which time he writes 4 of his prison letters. He is released for about 2 years, during which time he writes two more letters. Under the new Emperor, Nero, Paul is again arrested and imprisoned. Paul writes his final letter, the Second Letter to Timothy. Paul is beheaded in about 66 AD under Nero's reign.

The book of *Colossians* (New Testament)

The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians is the twelfth book of the NT. Paul did not visit Colossae. During his 3rd 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).

What Can We, as Christians, Learn from the Life of the Apostle Paul?

1. He cared deeply about the church and the Kingdom on earth.
2. He did willingly forego many things, for the furtherance of the interests of religion and the good of people.
3. He was a faithful lifelong learner and teacher.
4. He put his hope in God, trusting in the power of prayer and grace.
5. God empowered him to perform miracles, authenticating Paul as God's messenger and the message itself.
6. Paul used reason in his teaching and writing.
7. Empowered by grace, Paul endured as a tireless servant.
8. Paul was an excellent communicator.



Paul the Apostle – a Jew and a Roman citizen, Paul (also named Saul) was a Christian apostle who took 4 missionary journeys, building Christians and starting churches throughout the Roman Empire. Paul wrote 13 letters over a span of 18 years. In 59-60 AD, he was taken as a prisoner to Rome. He was martyred at age 61 in Rome (66 AD).

Other Names

Tychicus – Tychicus was a native of Asia He first joined Paul in Acts 20:4 and continued to serve alongside him (see also Eph 6:21; Tim 4:12; Titus 3:12). Mentioned in Colossians 4:7. He may also have been the person who delivered this letter (along with Onesimus) from Paul, in Rome, to the Colossians.

Onesimus – Onesimus was a runaway slave from Colossae. (It is believed) He found his way to the site of Paul's Roman imprisonment to seek forgiveness for stealing and running away from his master, Philemon. In his letter to Philemon, Paul asks him, now as a brother Christian (Phil 1). From Alexandria (Egypt), a Jewish Christian and eloquent speaker. Onesimus went on to become Bishop of Ephesus. He went from slave to brother to bishop.

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