## Paul's Fourth Preaching Trip

March 10, 2019

You could never know God's Son ... Jesus Christ ... or all the blessings in Him, unless God sent a preacher.

- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
- 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, <u>How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace</u>, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:13-15

We Gentiles were entirely cut out of God's blessings until He grafted us in and gave us His Son's kingdom!

- 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13

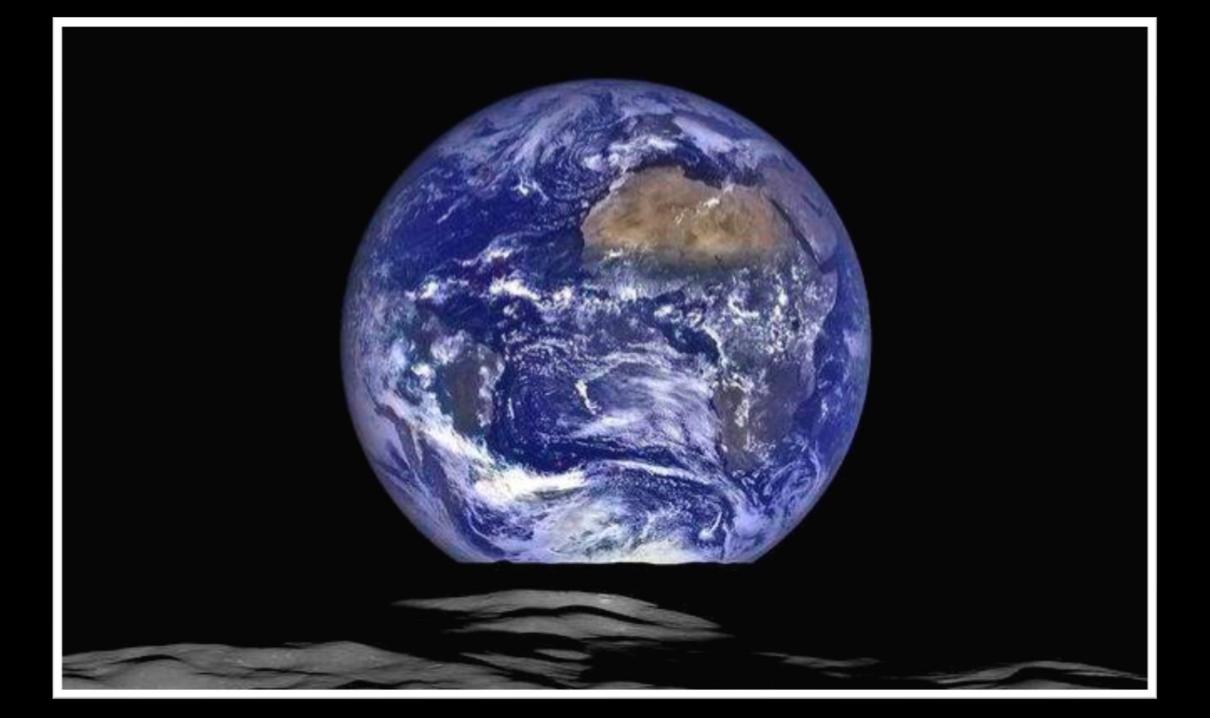
No preacher worked harder to keep himself and the doctrine for us hearers to be saved than Paul!

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

I Timothy 4:16

- 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:
- 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: <u>lest</u> that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

I Timothy 4:16



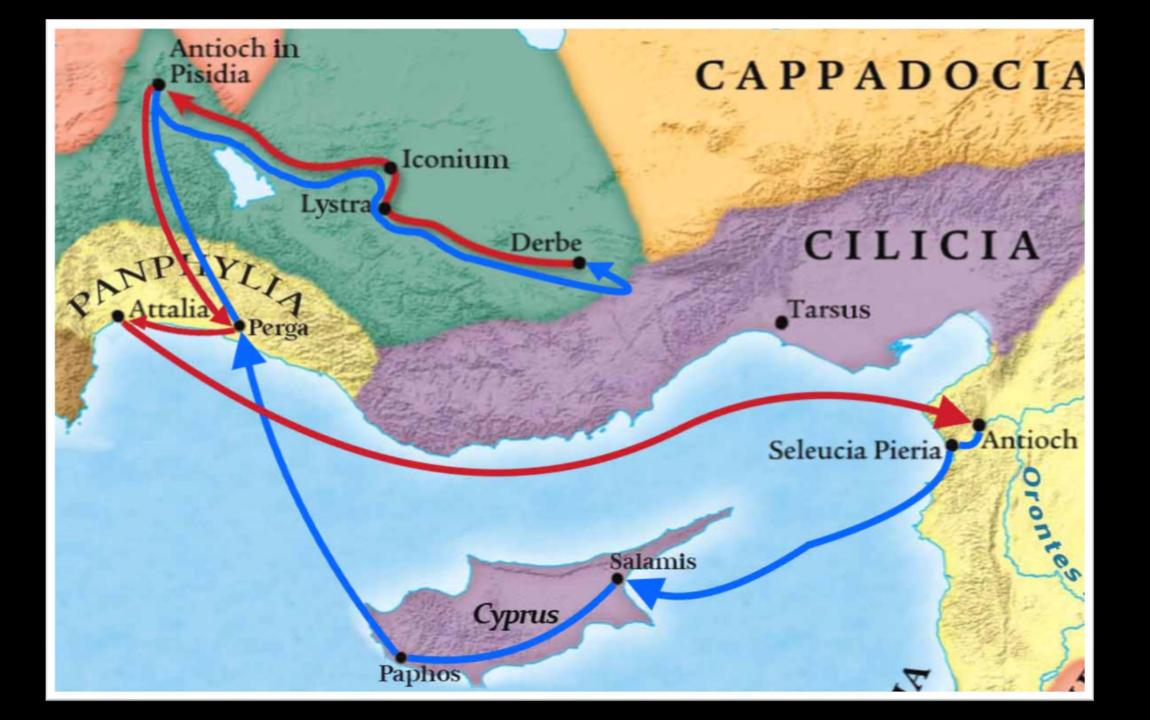




























- 30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
- 31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Acts 28:30-31

Paul was very effective in evangelism even in prison, for he had conversions in Caesar's household and also Onesimus, and he wrote seven epistles there.

## Paul's Epistles from Rome and Italy

- GALATIANS to instruct and warn weak churches from Jewish legalism.
- EPHESIANS confirm apostolic doctrine and exhortation to godly living.
- PHILIPPIANS confirm apostolic doctrine and exhortation to godly living.
- COLOSSIANS confirm apostolic doctrine and exhortation to godly living.
- PHILEMON personal letter to friend at Colosse to forgive Onesimus.
- HEBREWS the glory of Christ over O.T., for Jews in Judea before 70 A.D.
- II TIMOTHY Paul's instructions and warning to Timothy before death.

Do Paul's trips end here?
Probably not!
What?!

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Acts 28:30-31

Luke left Paul here with no mention of trial before Nero or execution of him by the Romans.

When Luke penned these final words, was Paul dead, still in his rental house, or at liberty and traveling among the churches?

Luke ended his history of Paul's trips here, but there was very likely another trip(s), with strong circumstantial evidence, but without Luke's detailed record.

We conclude II Timothy was Paul's last epistle by things stated in it and his preparation for death.

- 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:6-7

Paul's last chapter implies a fifth trip, but we are without Luke's itinerary journal.

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

II Timothy 4:13

If only four trips, it had been at least 5 years since Paul was in Troas, why ask for stuff now?

2 years ... in Caesarea2 years ... in Rome1 year ... other

- 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:
- 15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

II Timothy 4:14-15

If only four trips, it had been at least 5 years since Alexander's resistance, why tell Timothy about it now?

Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have <u>I left at Miletum</u> sick.

II Timothy 4:20

If only four trips, it had been at least 5 years since Paul left Trophimus at Miletum sick, why write about it now?

Pastor, are you teasing us about Paul?

Are there other verses like these that indicate Paul was released from captivity in Rome for a fifth preaching trip before a second arrest and then his execution?

- 24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company....
- 28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Romans 15:24-28

- 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:
- 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.
- 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;
- 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Philippians 1:23-26

- 23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.
- 24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

  Philippians 2:23-24

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

**Titus 1:5** 

When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: <u>for I have determined there to</u> winter.

**Titus 3:12** 

But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

Philemon 1:22

- 18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.
- 19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner....
- 23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, <u>I will see you</u>.

Hebrews 13:19-23

Not only are there these inspired verses of Paul's travels outside Luke's book of Acts ...

there are accounts by ancient church historians of Paul being released, after which he visited Spain and the western fringes of the Empire, including some reports he went to Britain.

Our study here was to look at four trips for the sake of simplicity to emphasize the gospel to Gentiles.

If the Lord convicts further, we may construct a fifth trip by circumstantial evidence.

Pastor, is there anything else you want to tell us before leaving Paul's fourth trip?

So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

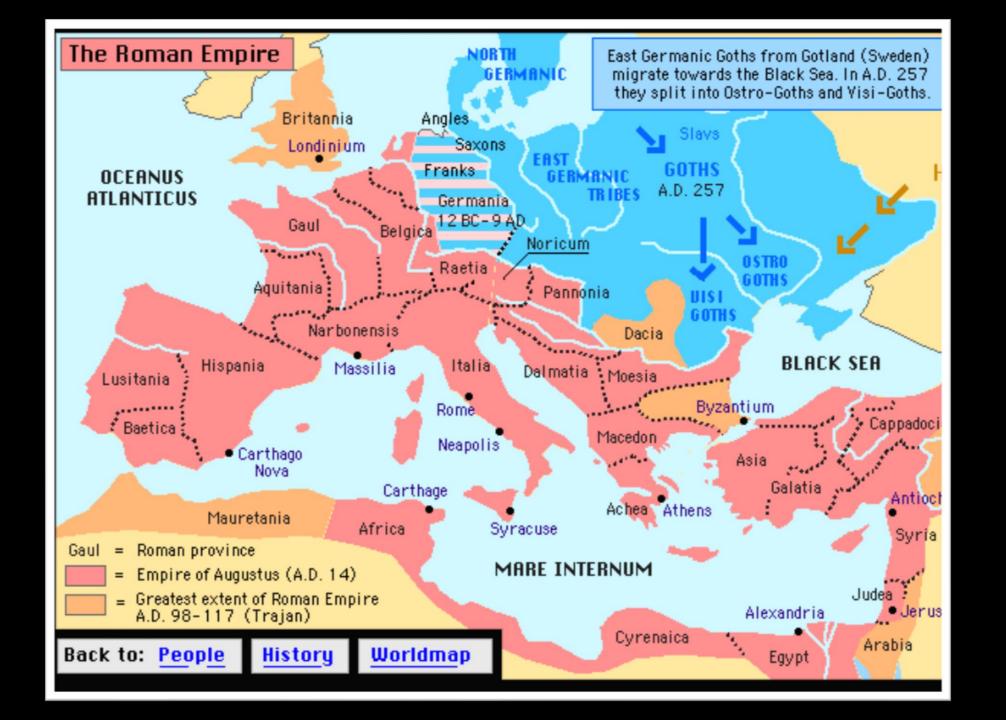
Philippians 1:13

All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

Philippians 4:22

Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

II Timothy 4:21



Julius Caesar had tried to conquer Britain in 55 & 54 B.C., but only opened up diplomatic and trading relationships with the nation, which did allow travel back and forth.

Claudius Caesar in 43 A.D. began efforts to subjugate Britain, which finally succeeded. Much greater exchange occurred between Rome and Britain by this ruler (Acts 18:2). This was about the time Paul began his Gentile travels continually going west.

At least Pudens and Claudia of these four named are connected strongly to Baptist history in Wales, the western mountainous area of Britannia, now the United Kingdom, having been converted by Paul's ministry.

The gospel was taken to Wales by those named and others. It was kept pure from Paul's day in spite of terrible persecutions by Diocletian (about 300) and Augustine of Canterbury (about 600).

In 180 A.D. Lucius the king of Wales is baptized and is the first king to become a Christian.

Welsh Baptists emigrated to America and formed churches there, including in 1736 the Welsh Neck community on the Pee Dee River in South Carolina.