

34 AD – Paul’s conversion

35-45 AD – Paul’s “silent years” in Arabia and Tarsus

46-48 AD – First missionary journey

49-50 AD – Paul attends Jerusalem Council
50 AD *Galatians*

50-52 AD – Second missionary journey
51-52 AD *1 & 2 Thessalonians*

53-58 AD – Third missionary journey
56 AD *1 & 2 Corinthians*
57 AD *Romans*

58-60 AD – Paul’s arrest, imprisonment, & journey to Rome
60 AD *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*

62-67 AD – Paul’s trip to Spain
63 AD *1 Timothy*
64 AD *Titus*
67 AD *2 Timothy*

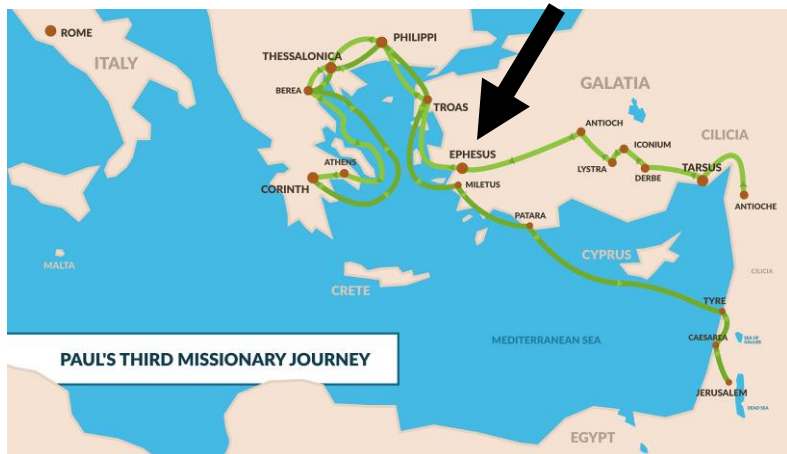
67 AD – Paul executed in Rome by Nero

“Paul had spent a day or two in each of the Galatian churches. He had stayed a few days in Philippi, a few weeks in Thessalonica, a day or two in Berea, a few days in Athens. Then he had spent 18 months in Corinth; and now, as a kind of climax to his work, he was in one of the major centers of the Mediterranean world, Ephesus itself, a great city hub of the trade routes of the world, full of culture and money and temples and politics and soldiers and merchants and slaves. And power...social, civic, religious, and spiritual power.” – N.T. Wright

Ephesus

- Population = approx. 300,000
- Treasure house of Asia
- Located at mouth of the Cayster River
- Hub of financial, political, and spiritual power
- Home of the Temple of Artemis

(425 ft. long, 220 ft. wide, 60 ft. tall, w/ 127 marble pillars)



Acts 19:1-2

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

➤ **A call to internalize the core beliefs.**

regula fidei (Latin) = rule of faith, foundation for evaluating spiritual truth



Acts 19:3-5

3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:8-10

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

➤ **A call to breadth and depth in our discipleship.**

Every worldview addresses five core areas...

Origin - Where did I come from?

Identity - Who am I?

Meaning - Why am I here?

Morality - How should I live?

Destiny - Where am I going?

To be born & raised in Ephesus = immersed in an Artemis-centered worldview

To be "born again" in Jesus = a journey of discipleship, unlearning the ways of Artemis and Ephesus and embracing the way of Jesus.

-- teaching, discussing, understanding, internalizing...DAILY, for TWO YEARS!!!

Roman Empire (1st Century)



Nero (Roman Emperor) could have never imagined that this small group of Jesus-followers gathering in the Lecture Hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus were planting a flag for the Gospel that would usher in a Kingdom which would surpass the range and scale of the Empire.