

The Life of Paul

Explanation

The book of Acts provides an excellent outline of many parts of Paul's ministry. Although exact dating can be ventured for only some of the events in Paul's life, a fairly reliable sequence of events and even the approximate dating of those events is found in chart 15-2. As far as possible, the time and place of Paul's composition of individual epistles are included. Dating is given in the Roman system used at the time, with modern equivalents. Also offered are scriptural references for the activities noted in the scriptures. Aspects of Paul's ministry after his arrival at Rome are conjectural, based on early Christian tradition.

Chart 15-3 details the missionary experiences of Paul, showing the various locations where he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and the results thereof.

Paul was an impressive missionary. Although he may be best known through his exposition of doctrine and powerful testimony that still live in the words of his epistles, his actions speak even louder than his words. Paul displayed his faithfulness and dedication throughout his missionary labors. Chart 15-3 summarizes the information reported in the book of Acts about Paul's experiences as a missionary. Details about where he went, what events are known to have occurred there, what lengths of time were involved, and what outcomes they produced are listed along with the scriptural references.

References

Sidney B. Sperry, *Paul's Life and Letters* (1955; reprint, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995).
Richard Lloyd Anderson, *Understanding Paul* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1983).
Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955).

Paul's Missionary Experiences

LOCATION	REFERENCE	DURATION	OUTCOME
Antioch	Acts 13:4		Called to be a missionary along with Barnabas
Seleucia	13:4		
Cyprus	13:4		
Salamis	13:5		Preaches in synagogues
Paphos	13:6–12		Curses Elymas, the false sorcerer; Sergius Paulus converted
Perga in Pamphylia	13:13		
Antioch in Pisidia	13:14–51	At least a week	Success among Gentiles, expelled by Jews. Shakes the dust off of his feet
Iconium	13:51–14:6	Long	Disciples filled with joy and the Holy Ghost. Great multitudes of Greeks and Jews believe. Unbelievers attempt to stone them. They flee
Lystra in Lycaonia	14:6–20		Heals a lame man. People call Paul and Baranbas Mercury and Jupiter. Paul stoned. Disciples surround him and he raises up
Derbe in Lycaonia	14:20–21		Teaches many
Lystra	14:21–23		Confirms disciples, teaches faith, ordains elders
Iconium	14:21–23		Confirms disciples, teaches faith, ordains elders
Antioch	14:21–23		Confirms disciples, teaches faith, ordains elders
Pisidia	14:24	Passed through	
Pamphylia	14:24	Passed through	
Perga	14:25		Preaches the word
Attalia	14:25		
Antioch	14:26	Long	End of first missionary journey
Phenice	15:3	Brief	Reports conversion of Gentiles to the brethren
Samaria	15:3	Brief	Reports conversion of Gentiles to the brethren
Jerusalem	15:4–29	Brief	Jerusalem conference
Antioch	15:30–40		Teaches and preaches. Splits with Barnabas and takes Silas as a companion
Syria	15:41		Confirms the churches
Cilicia	15:41		Confirms the churches
Derbe	16:1		Churches established in the faith and increase in numbers daily
Lystra	16:1		Churches established in the faith and increase in numbers daily
Phrygia	16:6		
the region of Galatia	16:6		Forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach in Asia
Mysia	16:7		Attempts to go to Bithnyia, forbidden by the Holy Ghost
Troas	16:8–11		
“Samothracia in Macedonia”	16:11	1 day	Has vision of Macedonian asking for help

Neapolis	16:11		
Philippi	16:12–40	Certain days	Baptizes Lydia and her household. Beaten and thrown into prison. Keeper of the prison and his household baptized
Amphipolis	17:1		
Appollonia	17:1		
Thessalonica	17:1–9	3 weeks	Some Jews and a ‘great multitude’ of Greeks converted. The Jews stir up the rulers of the people; Paul released by the rulers, but sent away by night by the Christians
Berea	17:10–14		People prepared and many believe. The Jews of Thessalonica stir up the people, and the brethren send Paul away
Athens	17:15–18:1		Unknown God speech
Corinth	18:1–18	“18 months to 2 years”	Shakes the blood of the Jews from his garments and would henceforth go to the Gentiles. Crispus (ruler of the synagogue) and many Corinthians baptized
Cenchrea	18:18		
Syria	18:18		
Ephesus	18:19–20	Brief	People ask him to stay, but he leaves to be in Jerusalem for a feast
Caesarea	18:22	Brief	
Antioch	18:22–23	Some time	
Galatia	18:23		
Phrygia	18:23		
Upper coasts	19:1	Passed through	
Ephesus	19:1–41	3 years	Many converted
Macedonia	20:1		
Greece	20:2	3 months	
Philippi	20:6		
Troas	20:6–12	7 days	Paul raises a young man from the dead
Assos	20:13–14		
Mitylene	20:14		
Chios	20:15	1 day	
Samos	20:15		
Trogyllium	20:15	1 day	
Miletus	20:15–38	Some time	
Coos	21:1	1 day	
Rhodes	21:1		
Patara	21:1		
Tyre	21:3–6	7 days	
Ptolemais	21:7	1 day	
Caesarea	21:8–14	Many days	
Jerusalem	21:15		Imprisoned