

# The Early Church



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**Rome**  
Paul under house arrest  
Three Taverns  
Forum on the Appian Way

**Puteoli**

**Philippi**  
Lydia, fortune-teller and jailer converted

**Thessalonica**

**Amphipolis**

**Apollonia**

**Assos**  
Man of Macedonia vision  
Eutychus resurrected

**Smyrna**

**Miletus**  
Tearful meeting  
Ephesian elders

**Corinth**

**Ephesus**  
John imprisoned

**Iconium**

**Antioch**

**Lystra**  
Cripple healed  
Paul stoned

**Seleucia**

**Antioch**  
Disciples first called Christians  
Missionary journeys begin

**Jerusalem**  
John Mark leaves

**Paphos**  
Governor converted  
Bar-Jesus blinded

**Sidon**

**Tyre**

**Caesarea**  
Cornelius converted  
Spirit descends on Gentiles  
Agabus predicts Paul's arrest  
Paul tried by Felix, Festus, and Agrippa

**Joppa**

**Lydia**

**Gaza**

**Jerusalem**  
First church headquarters  
Paul arrested, tried before Jewish Council

**Caesarea**  
Peter raises Dorcas from dead  
Peter's vision

**Aeneas**  
Aeneas healed of palsy

**Ethiopian**  
Ethiopian converted

**Jerusalem**  
Paul trained 2 years

— Modern boundary  
- - - Disputed boundary

0 200 400 Miles  
0 200 400 Kilometers

NORTH

# PAUL'S CALLING TO BE A MISSIONARY

Acts 9.15-16: But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

# GOD INITIATES

- ‘This man is **My chosen instrument** to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and the people of Israel’ – Acts 9.15
- [Y]ou will be told **all that you have been assigned to do.** – Acts 22.10
- ‘The God of our ancestors **has chosen you** to know His will and ... **You will be His witness** to all people... – Acts 22.14-15
- ‘I have appeared to you **to appoint you as a servant and as a witness** of what you have seen and will see of me. **I am sending you to [the Gentiles]** – Acts 26.16-17

## WE RESPOND

- However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to **finish the race and complete the task** the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. – Acts 20.24
- “My brothers, **I have fulfilled my duty to God** in all good conscience to this day.” – Acts 23.1
- ‘**I was not disobedient** to the vision from heaven’ - Acts 26.19

# START SMALL WHERE YOU ARE

Acts 9.19-20- Paul spend several days with the disciples **in Damascus**. **At once** Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.



Zechariah 4.10: Who dares despise the day of small things?

# START SMALL WHERE YOU ARE

**Galatians 1.15-17:** But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

- **In wilderness to:**
  - Cultivate character
  - Develop skills

# BE READY TO SUFFER

I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. – Acts 9.16

- Five times 39 lashes from Jews
- Three times beaten w/rods
- Once pelted w/stones
- Three times shipwrecked
- Spent a night and a day in the open sea
- Been constantly on the move
- Been cold and naked

- Been in danger from rivers, bandits, Jews, Gentiles, false believers
- In danger in city, country, at sea
- Labored/toiled; often gone w/o sleep
- Known hunger/thirst; often gone w/o food



# DON'T FOCUS ON RESULTS

- When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. – Acts 24.27
- Some [Jews] were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. – Acts 28.24
- Be aware of your definition of success- that is the idol you will be tempted to serve.