

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

Acts 16:6-10

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

➤ The Guidance of God

"When we are in the flow of the Spirit, He will use all our intellectual and emotional capacities to communicate the rightness and wrongness of a direction. When our purpose and long-range goals are clear, we can dare to trust our consecrated thinking and responses of our emotions. The Spirit trusts us more than we trust Him at times." – Lloyd Ogilvie



➤ The Ripple Effect of Obedience

Acts 16:13-15

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.

Lydia and her family become the founding members of the church at Philippi.

On a little piece of ground alongside a river in Philippi, the flag of the Gospel of Jesus is raised in the heart of a businesswoman, establishing a beachhead for the Kingdom of God that would eventually penetrate the towering walls of Rome.



The Roman Empire in 1st century



Rome...

- light of the world
- savior from all that was wrong
- hope for prosperity and peace
- bow to Rome and all will be well

"We look back upon history, and what do we see? Empires rising and falling, revolutions and counterrevolutions, Wealth accumulated and wealth disbursed. Shakespeare has written of the rise and fall of great ones, that ebb and flow

with the moon...I have seen America wealthier and, in terms of military weaponry, more powerful than the rest of the world put together—so that had the American people so desired, they could have outdone a Caesar, or an Alexander in the range and scale of their conquests. All in one lifetime, all in one lifetime, all gone. Gone with the wind. Behind the debris of these self-styled solemn supermen, there stands the gigantic figure of one, because of whom, by whom, in whom and through whom alone, mankind may still have hope: the person of Jesus Christ." – Malcom Muggeridge

➤ The Way of the Least-Likely

Acts 16:16-18

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:25-26

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Acts 16:29-34

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.