

Taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth

Paul's goal was to fulfill the great commission by taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

He [Jesus] said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in <u>Jerusalem</u>, and in all <u>Judea</u> and <u>Samaria</u>, and to the <u>ends of the earth</u>." (Acts 1:7-6)

■ This verse provides the outline for the book of Acts.

The Book of Acts				
CHAPTERS 1-7	CHAPTERS 8-12	CHAPTERS 13-29		
Formation of church Jewish Jerusalem center Peter To Jerusalem	Translation of church Samaritan Antioch center Paul & Barnabas To Judea & Samaria	Expansion of church Gentile Roman center Paul To uttermost parts 4 Journeys of Paul Galatia (Acts 13-15) Greece (Acts 16-18) Asia (Acts 18-21) Rome (Acts 22-28)		
A.D. 30-36 (7 years)	A.D. 37-46 (10 years)	A.D. 47-66 (20 years)		
Adapted from: Terry Hall, Bible Panorama: A wide	angle view of the Scriptures—to give you the big picture	, (Wheaton IL, Victor Books, 1985), p. 162		

Paul's Mission

Taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth

Paul's target was to take the gospel to Spain, at the outer edge of the Mediterranean Sea and the Roman Empire.

I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. (Romans 15:24 ESV)



















Paul's Mission
Three Phases of Development

Paul's Mission

Phase 1. The Missionary Journeys

- If we look at the progression of Paul's ministry, it divides into three parts, around the city of Rome.
- In phase one, his missionary journeys take him to the brink of reaching Rome and then Spain.
- His third journey ends with a letter to the Romans, written from Corinth, indicating his intent to travel there, but with a brief diversion to Jerusalem to deliver a gift.

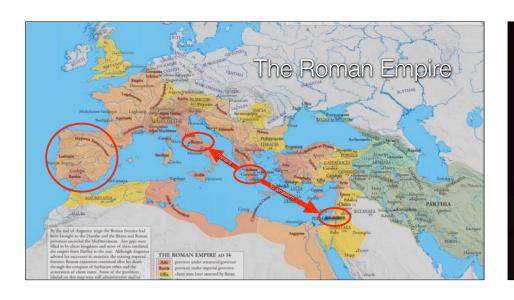
Paul's Mission

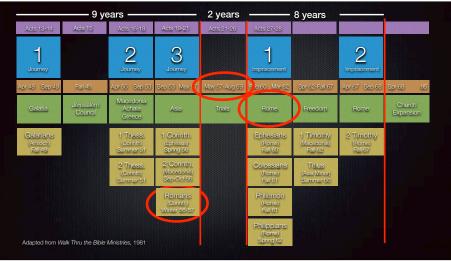
Phase 1. The Missionary Journey

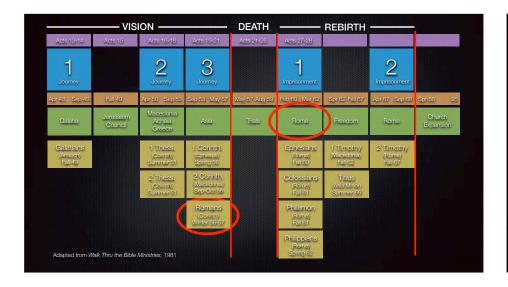
But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

At present, however, I am going to <u>Jerusalem</u> bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem... When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for <u>Spain</u> by way of you [Rome]. (Romans 15:23-26, 28 ESV)

Little did Paul know how long his "side-trip" would take



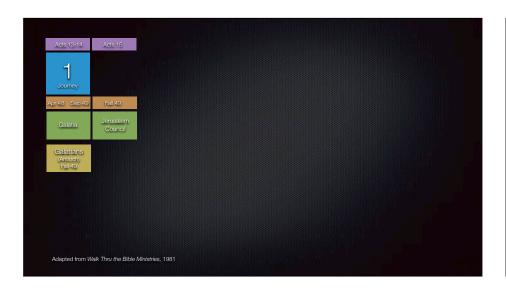








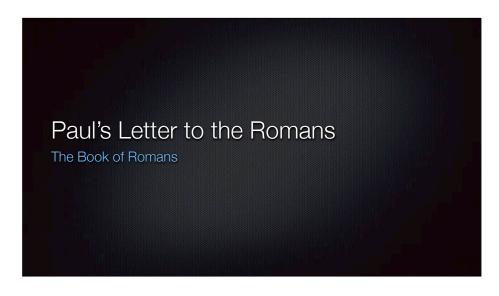














Issues and content

■ The main purpose of the letter is summarized in Romans 1:16-17...

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17 ESV)

Romans, more than any other epistle, deals in a systematic way with salvation in all of its ramifications, including justification, sanctification and glorification.

Letter to the Romans

Issues and conter

The book of Romans naturally divides into three parts:

- Chapters 1-8. <u>Doctrinal</u>, outlining the basic doctrines of the gospel of a righteousness (justification and sanctification) of God through faith.
- Chapters 9-11. National, describing God's dealings with Jews and Gentiles and the relationship of each to the gospel.
- Chapters 12-16. <u>Practical</u> or applicational, demonstrating the ramifications of the gospel on a believer's daily life.

Romans. https://bible.org/seriespage/4-pauline-epistles

ROMANS THE GOSPEL Saving the Sinner Concerning Israel Concerning Christian Conduct Depravity of humanity Divine sovereignty and human will Social Grace of God Civil Past, present, and future Justification by faith Personal Sanctification through the Spirit Security of the saint CHAPTERS CHAPTERS CHAPTERS Emphasi Doctrinal National Practical Hope Doctrine of Go Wrath Righteousness Grace Doctrine o Fallen Dead Struggling Doctrine of Sir Exposed Conquered Scope Dead in sin Dead to sin Love for others Peace with God God's righteousness is given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. Key Verse Jesus is the focus of the cospel and the means of salvation by God's grace apart from works (1:1-4, 16-17). Copyright © 1982, 1997, 2010 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

Letter to the Romans

Issues and content

■ In chapters 1-3, Paul argues that all have sinned and stand condemned:

For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. (Romans 2:11-12 ESV)

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:22-23 ESV)

Issues and content

In chapters 4-5, Paul demonstrates how righteousness is imputed through faith in Christ:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2 ESV)

Letter to the Romans

Issues and conter

Chapters 6-8, Paul shows how righteous living comes through God's empowerment:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? (Romans 6:1-2 ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2 ESV)

Letter to the Romans

Issues and content

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:3-4 ESV)

ROMANS THE GOSPEL Saving the Sinner Concerning Israel Concerning Christian Conduct Depravity of humanity Divine sovereignty and human will Social Civil Grace of God Past, present, and future Justification by faith of the nation Sanctification through the Spirit Security of the saint CHAPTERS CHAPTERS CHAPTERS Emphasi Doctrinal National Practical Respon Doctrine of Goo Wrath Righteousness Grace Fallen Dead Struggling Freed Doctrine of Sin Exposed Conquered Scope Dead in sin Love for others Dead to sin Peace with God God's righteousness is given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. 1:16-17 Key Verse Jesus is the focus of the cospel and the means of salvation by God's grace apart from works (1:1-4, 16-17) Copyright © 1982, 1997, 2010 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

Issues and content

Chapters 9-11, Paul discusses the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles in God's plan:

So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass <u>salvation has come to the Gentiles</u>, so as to <u>make Israel</u> <u>jealous</u>. (Romans 11:11 ESV)

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob" (Romans 11:25-27 ESV)

Letter to the Romans

Issues and content

■ In his discussion, he makes a wonderful analogy using the olive tree:

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. (Romans 11:17-21 ESV)

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Letter to the Romans

Issues and content

Chapters 12-15, Paul argues for a practical response to God's plan of salvation:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2 ESV)

■ Chapters 15-16 include personal remarks and plans:

When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you [Romans]. I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. (Romans 15:28-29 ESV)

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

- Prior to Paul's visit to Rome, there were already believers in the city, people he anticipated meeting. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I
 - have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. (Romans 15:23-24 ESV)
- Paul evidently had a genius for friendship, considering the list of people he mentions by name in Romans, 23 total:

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

PERSON	SCRIPTURE	ROLE
Epenetus	Romans 16:5	First convert in Asia
Mary	Romans 16:6	Worked hard
Andronicus and Junia	Romans 16:7	Imprisoned with Paul
Ampliatus	Romans 16:8	Dear friend in the Lord
Urbanus	Romans 16:9	Co-worker
Stachys	Romans 16:9	Dear friend
Apelles	Romans 16:10	Fidelity to Christ stood the test
Aristobulus	Romans 16:10	Household

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

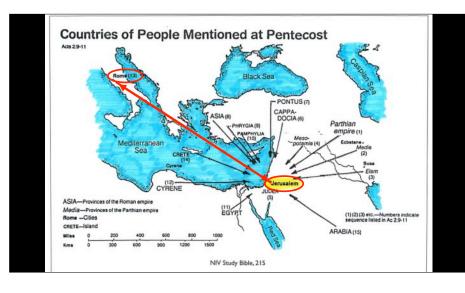
PERSON	SCRIPTURE	ROLE	
Herodion	Romans 16:11	Fellow Jew	
Narcissus	Romans 16:11	Household	
Tryphena	Romans 16:12	Worked hard in the Lord	
Tryphosa	Romans 16:12	Worked hard in the Lord	
Persis	Romans 16:12	Dear friend, Worked hard in the Lord	
Rufus	Romans 16:13	Chosen in the Lord	
Rufus' mother	Romans 16:13	Has been a mother to me	
Asyncritus	Romans 16:14		

Believers i			
PERSON	SCRIPTURE	ROLE	
Phlegon	Romans 16:14		
Hermes	Romans 16:14		
Patrobas	Romans 16:14		
Philologus	Romans 16:15		
Julia	Romans 16:15		
Nereus	Romans 16:15		
Olympas	Romans 16:15		

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

- How did so many in Rome believe, and how did Paul know so many of them?
- On the Day of Pentecost, there were people from Rome in Jerusalem who heard the gospel and returned to Rome with the good news.
 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ... Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. (Acts 2:5, 9-11 ESV)



Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

- The known relatives of the three thousand of Pentecost must have numbered scores of thousands. The synagogue communities around the Mediterranean were made up of fairly recent émigrés who married back into the Palestinian Hebrew community and who had many connections with Jerusalem.
- It is certain, therefore, that in many a Jewish synagogue all over the Roman Empire there was within two years after Pentecost at least one person who could say, "Yes, I know we Jews are following a new way. My second cousin, my aunt, my wife's uncle are now known as followers of Jesus of Nazareth."

4 C. L. Feinberg. "Synagogue" in The New Bible Dictionary. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1962, 1227.

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

It is possible that Paul had met some Romans during his travels, as he had encountered <u>Aristarchus</u>, who traveled with him from Greece to Asia (Acts 20:4) and later accompanied him on a ship to Rome (Acts 27:2).

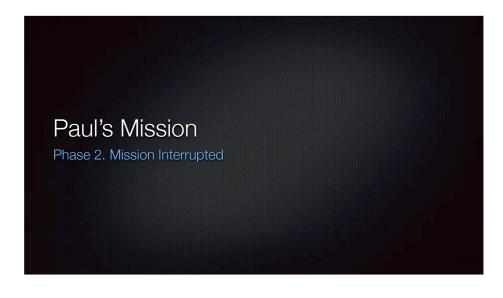
Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, <u>Aristarchus</u> and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. (Acts 20:4 ESV)

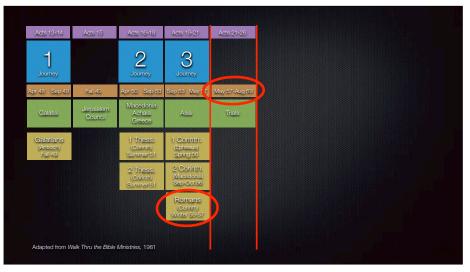
And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by <u>Aristarchus</u>, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. (Acts 27:2 ESV)

Believers in Rome

Paul's Letter to the Romans

- He also encountered <u>Aquila and Priscilla</u> in Corinth after they had been expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius in 49 CE.
 - After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, (Acts 18:1-2 ESV)
- From his comments in the letter about these people, it is clear that there were previous converts, co-workers, and even fellow-prisoners that were then in Rome.







Phase 2. Mission Interrupted

- Paul pleaded his case eloquently but his appeal was rejected by the Jews: Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." (Acts 22:22 ESV)
- Paul is taken by the tribune to be flogged but he asserts his citizenship. The next day his is taken before the Sanhedrin, where disagreements ensue.
 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. (Acts 23:10 ESV)

Paul's Mission

Phase 2. Mission Interrupted

 Tipped off about a plot to ambush and kill Paul, the centurion arranges for his transfer to Caesarea;

So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things." Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night." (Acts 23:22-23 ESV)

Paul's Mission

Phase 2. Mission Interrupted

So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium. (Acts 23:31-35 ESV)











Phase 2. Mission Interrupted

After Festus arrives in the province, he journeys to Jerusalem where the Jewish leaders again assert their case against Paul. Upon arriving at Caesarea he calls Paul before him where the Jewish leaders again accuse him.

But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?"

But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. Lappeal to Caesar." (Acts 25:9-11 ESV)

Paul's Mission

Phase 2. Mission Interrupted

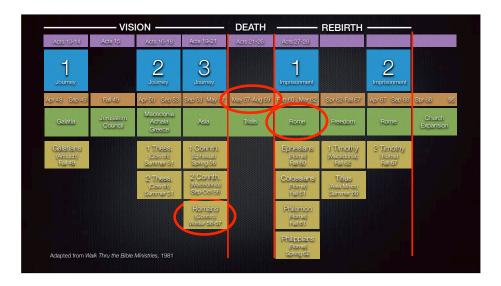
■ This appeal sets in motion Paul's journey to Rome.

And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. (Acts 27:1-2 ESV)

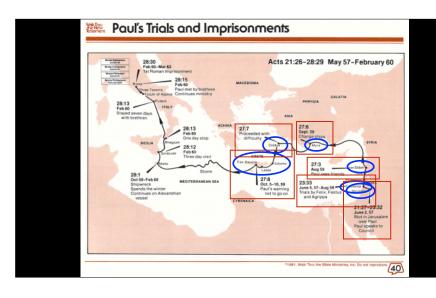
 Based upon the use of the pronoun "we" it is assumed that Luke accompanied Paul on this trip.

Paul's Mission

Phase 3. Mission Resumed

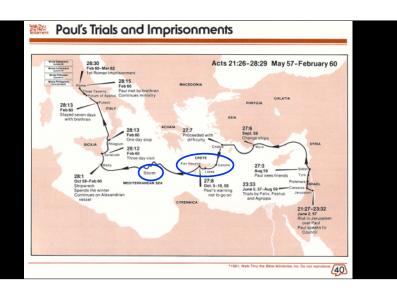






Paul's Mission Phase 3. Mission Resumed Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there. (Acts 27:9-12 ESV)

Paul's Mission Phase 3. Mission Resumed The result is that they set sail, end up in a storm, and almost lose the ship and their lives. They jettison cargo, the ship's tackle and lose all hope is lost.

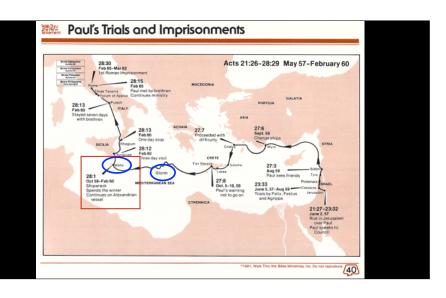




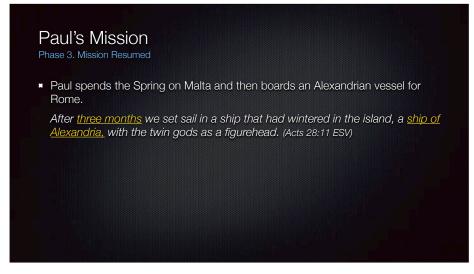
■ An angel informs Paul that he must go to Rome and stand before Caesar and therefore he and the passengers would be saved, but the ship would be lost. Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." (Acts 27:21-25 ESV)

Paul's Mission





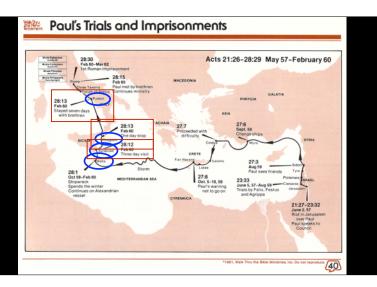




Phase 3. Mission Resumed

■ Paul moves through several locations on his way to Rome.

Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. (Acts 28:12-14 ESV)



Paul's Mission

Phase 3. Mission Resumed

- Puteoli was harbor city located on the north side of the Gulf of Naples, within a volcanic caldera eight miles in diameter, most of which is submerged.
- It was the transit port of Rome, receiving grain ships from Alexandria and ships with other cargoes from around the Roman empire.
- It was also important for the export of its local volcanic sand (today called pozzolana) that was used in mortar for concrete that could set under water.
- Remember, Herod's artificial harbor Caesarea was constructed using a mixture of mortar, Italian pozzolana, sandstone and slaked lime.

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