

THE LIFE OF PAUL

LESSON XV

PAUL, A MISSIONARY AFTER REACHING ROME PART I (Paul's First Imprisonment)

1. The last lessons on the life of Paul are probably the most difficult to put together and to maintain continuity of the scriptures. I recommend that the student read the following letters before proceeding with the study.

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| a) Philemon | d) Philippians |
| b) Colossians | e) I & II Timothy |
| c) Ephesians | f) Titus |

As you read these letters, make notes and record the scriptures that:

- i) refer to Paul's imprisonment.
 - a) **Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20**
 - b) **Phil. 1:3,14,16**
 - c) **Col. 4:10,18**
 - d) **Philemon 1,9,10**
 - ii) refer to Paul's liberty.
 - iii) list all his fellow laborers and or fellow prisoners.
 - a) **Tychicus Eph. 6:21; Tit. 3:12,13; Col. 4:3**
 - b) **Aristarchus & Marcus Col. 4:10-11**
 - c) **Epaphras Col. 4:12**
 - d) **Luke & Demas Col. 4:14**
 - e) **Timothy I Thess. 1:1; 3:2; II Thess. 1:1**
 - f) **Silas I Thess. 1:1; II Thess. 1:1**
 - iv) refer to those workers who delivered letters and/or helped Paul.
 - a) **Tychicus Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:8**
 - b) **Onesimus Col. 4:9**
2. Consider why Paul would spend two years in prison before his trial. Our historians tell us that this is not unusual. Any or a combination of the following reasons could be responsible for the delay.
- a) The prosecutors had not arrived.
 - b) The prosecutors did not have their case adequately prepared. Their witnesses may not have been ready or available.
 - c) The emperor was known to procrastinate in holding such trials that they had little personal interest.
3. What were the charges being brought against Paul? Acts 21:21,28; 24:5-6; 25:7-8
- a) **(Acts 21:21 - "but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.)**
 - b) **(Acts 21:28 - crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place (Jerusalem); and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.")**
 - c) **(Acts 24:5-6 - "For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of**

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the sect of the Nazarenes. "He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.)

- d) **(Acts 25:7-8 - When he had come, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove, while he answered for himself, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I offended in anything at all.")**
4. Who are the fellow prisoners or laborers with Paul in Rome during his first imprisonment? Col. 4:10-14; Philemon 1,10,23-24; Eph. 6:21; Phil. 2:25; 4:18; Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; II Tim. 1:16;4:10,19; Tit. 3:12
- a) **(Col. 4:10-14 - Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.)**
- b) **(Phile. 1:1 - Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer,)**
- c) **(Phile. 1:10 - I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,)**
- d) **(Phile. 1:23-24 - Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.)**
- e) **(Eph 6:21 - But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;)**
- f) **(Phil 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:)**
- g) **(Phil 2:25 - Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;)**
- h) **(Phil 4:18 - Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.)**
- i) **(Acts 19:29 - So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.)**
- j) **(Acts 20:4 - And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia-- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.)**

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- k) (Acts 27:2 - So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.)
- l) (2 Tim 1:16 - The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;)
- m) (2 Tim 4:10 - for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica-- Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.)
- n) (2 Tim 4:19 - Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.)
- o) (Titus 3:12-13 - When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.)
5. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to Philemon? Philemon 1,10,23 (Phile. 1:1 - Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer,) (Phile. 1:10 - I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,) (Phile. 1:23 - Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,)
6. Who is with Paul when he writes the letter to Philemon? **Timothy, Onesimus & Epaphras.**
7. How confident is Paul that he will be set free? Philemon 22; Phil. 1:25; 2:23-24 (Phile. 1:22 - But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.) (Phil 1:25 - And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,) (Phil 2:23-24 - Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.) Paul appears to be very confident that he will be released from prison>
8. What city is Philemon most likely from? Col. 4:9,17; Philemon 2 (Col. 4:9 - with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.) (Col. 4:17 - And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.") (Phile. 1:2 - to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:) It appears that Philemon is from Colosse.
9. Compare the following scriptures (II Tim. 1:3-6,13; 2:15-16,22-25; 3:14-17; 4:2-4, 7-22) to (Philemon 22; Phil. 2:19-24). What difference do you see? (2 Tim 1:3-6 - I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.) (2 Tim 1:13 - Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.) (2 Tim 2:15-16 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.) (2 Tim 2:22-25 - Flee also

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youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,) (2 Tim 3:14-17 - But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.) (2 Tim 4:2-4 - Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.) (2 Tim 4:7-22 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica-- Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come-- and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick. Do your utmost to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, as well as Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brethren. The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.) (Phile. 1:22 - But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.) (Phil 2:19-24 - But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.) In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he seems to be giving his son in the faith his last instructions and is looking forward to his death. He asks Timothy to come to him rather than to be prepared for Paul to come to Timothy as he did in the Philippian's letter. Things have become so grave concerning the conditions surrounding Paul, that almost all of his devout men have abandoned him. Paul was confident that he would soon be released from his first imprisonment, as expressed in his letters to Philemon and the Philippians.

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10. Since Paul was in the Roman prison two years (Acts 28:30), what year would he be released or put to death? AD 63 or 64.
11. Read I Tim. 1:3; Tit. 1:5; 3:12. Where is Paul when he writes these letters? Is he in or out of prison? It seems that Paul must be out of prison. It doesn't appear possible that he wrote the letters before his imprisonment due to all of his activity at that time. Paul must have been released from prison and went to Ephesus with Timothy and left him there. Paul went on to Macedonia and probably stopped at Crete either on his way to Macedonia or on his way to Ephesus or on his way back to Rome.
12. Consider question 5 and read the following scriptures. (Philemon 10-16; Col. 4:7-12; Eph. 6:21-22) What conclusions might one be able to determine about the time when the three letters (Philemon, Ephesians & Colossians) were written? **(Phile 1:10-16 - I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave-- a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.) (Col. 4:7-12 - Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.) (Eph 6:21-22 -But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.)**
The fact is that Onesimus and Tychicus carried all three letters to Asia at the same time. The letters were written while Paul was in prison. This must have been between AD 62-63.
13. Summarize the letter to the Colossians.
 - a) Introduction 1:1-14
 - i) Paul's Greeting to the Colossians 1:1-2
 - ii) Paul's Thanksgiving for the Colossians 1:3-8
 - iii) Paul's Prayer for the Colossians 1:9-14
 - b) The Preeminence of Christ 1:15-2:3
 - i) Christ Is Preeminent in Creation 1:15-18
 - ii) Christ Is Preeminent in Redemption 1:19-23
 - iii) Christ Is Preeminent in the Church 1:24-2:3

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- c) The Freedom in Christ 2:4-23
 - i) Freedom from Enticing Words 2:4-7
 - ii) Freedom from Vain Philosophy 2:8-10
 - iii) Freedom from the Judgment of Men 2:11-17
 - iv) Freedom from Improper Worship 2:18-19
 - v) Freedom from the Doctrine of Men 2:20-23
- d) Part Two: The Submission to Christ in the Church (3:1-4:18)
 - i) The Position of the Believer 3:1-4
 - ii) The Practice of the Believer 3:5-4:6
 - a) Put Off the Old Man 3:5-11
 - b) Put On the New Man 3:12-17
 - c) Personal Commands for Holiness 3:18-4:6
 - (1) Holiness in Family Life 3:18-21
 - (2) Holiness in Work Life 3:22-4:1
 - (3) Holiness in Public Life 4:2-6
 - d) Conclusion 4:7-18
 - (1) Commendation of Tychicus 4:7-9
 - (2) Greetings from Paul's Friends 4:10-14
 - (3) Introduction Regarding This Letter 4:15-18
- 14. Summarize Philemon.
 - a) The Prayer of Thanksgiving for Philemon 1-7
 - b) The Petition of Paul for Onesimus 8-16
 - c) The Promise of Paul to Philemon 17-25
- 15. Summarize Ephesians. (Was the Ephesian letter actually written to the Ephesian?)
There is considerable question whether Paul wrote to the Ephesians or to the Laodiceans as mentioned in Col. 4:16. Since the reference to Ephesus in Eph. 1:1 was not found in the latest discovered Sinaitic, some believe that Ephesus was added later. St. Basil says that the early writers declared that the manuscripts of this epistle did not contain the name of Ephesus. Marion entitled this epistle to the Laodiceans. At best, this leaves the question to whom did Paul actually write this epistle, in question.
 - a) Part One: The Position of the Christian (1:1-3:21)
 - i) Praise for Redemption 1:1-14
 - a) Salutation from Paul 1:1-2
 - b) Chosen by the Father 1:3-6
 - c) Redeemed by the Son 1:7-12
 - d) Sealed by the Spirit 1:13-14
 - ii) Prayer for Revelation 1:15-23
 - iii) Position of the Christian 2:1-3:13

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- a) The Christian's Position Individually 2:1-10
 - (1) Old Condition: Dead to God 2:1-3
 - (2) New Condition: Alive to God 2:4-10
- iv) The Christian's Position Corporately 2:11-3:13
 - a) Reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles 2:11-22
 - b) Revelation of the Mystery of the Church 3:1-13
- v) Prayer for Revelation 3:14-21
- b) Part Two: The Practice of the Christian (4:1-6:24)
 - i) Unity in the Church 4:1-16
 - a) Exhortation to Unity 4:1-3
 - b) Explanation of Unity 4:4-6
 - c) Means for Unity: The Gifts 4:7-11
 - d) Purpose of the Gifts 4:12-16
 - ii) Holiness In Life 4:17-5:21
 - a) Put Off the Old Man 4:17-22
 - b) Put On the New Man 4:23-29
 - c) Grieve Not the Holy Spirit 4:30-5:12
 - d) Walk as Children of Light 5:13-17
 - e) Be Filled with the Spirit 5:18-21
 - iii) Responsibilities In the Home and at Work 5:22-6:9
 - a) Wives: Submit to Your Husbands 5:22-24
 - b) Husbands:.. Service on the Job 6:5-9
 - iv) Conduct In the Conflict 6:10-24
 - a) Put On the Armor of God 6:10-17
 - b) Pray for Boldness 6:18-20
- c) Conclusion 6:21-24

16. Were there any problems in the church at Philippi? Phil. 2:1-2 **(Phil 2:1-2 - Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.)** It appears that Paul was addressing a problem between two of the saints in as discrete a way as possible. Paul was attempting to resolve any difference without strife (Phil. 2:3).
17. What was happening in Rome due to Paul's imprisonment? Phil. 1:12 **(Phil 1:12 - But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,) The gospel was being preached.**