

Handout: Acts Lesson 8

St. Paul’s 3 missionary journeys into Asia Minor and Greece (c. 45-58 AD) were some of the most successful Christian missions in the history of the Church:

- Paul’s missionary successes among the Gentiles confirmed the Church’s decision at the Council of Jerusalem that Gentiles should be admitted to the New Covenant Church founded by Jesus Christ without submitting to circumcision and Mosaic Law.
- Of the fourteen letters written by Paul in the New Testament, seven were written to faith communities.
- Five of the letters were written to churches he founded during the Aegean phase of his second and third missions: letters to the Philippians, Thessalonians, Corinthians, Ephesians and Colossians, all faith communities within 100 miles (160 kilometers) or so from the Aegean coast.
- Paul’s missions received several signs of divine guidance and approval (Acts 13:2; 16:1-10; 18:9-10; 19:11-12) and triumphed over demon spirits and human “wisdom” (16:16-18; 17:22-31; 19:13-16).
- In his 3 missionary journeys across Asia Minor and Greece, Paul and his companions covered an estimated 6,900 miles, successfully spreading the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ. On his fourth journey that ended in Rome he covered c. 2,250 miles.

St. Paul made several life-long friends on the second missionary journey, including Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy who were his companions and Jewish converts to Christianity Priscilla and her husband Aquila. From the first person plural passages, it is also assumed that St. Luke was part of the missionary team. In addition to the “we/us” passages in Acts chapters 16-28, St. Luke is also mentioned in Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 24.

<p>ST. PAUL’S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY Approximate dates: 53 – 58 AD Companions: Timothy, Luke, and other disciples Mission field: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Judea-Samaria-Galilee Approximate miles traveled 2,700 Sent by church of Antioch, Syria</p>	
Galatia and Phrygia	Acts 18:23
Ephesus	Acts 19:1-20, 23-40
Macedonia	Acts 19:21; 20:1
Greece (Achaia)	Acts 20:2-3
Macedonia, Philippi, and Troas	Acts 20:3-12
Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus	Acts 20:13-38
Cos, Rhodes, Patara	Acts 21:1-2
Tyre and Ptolemais	Acts 21:3-7
Caesarea	Acts 21:8-16
Jerusalem	Acts 21:17-23:22
Caesarea (imprisoned 2 years)	Acts 23:23-26:32

The Church in the First Century

