



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 13: THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH – III

Review

What was the focus of the apostles' preaching?

Recall two events from the life of the Apostle Peter.

The Apostle Paul

- Paul was first known as Saul. He was a native of Tarsus, the capital of the Roman province of Cilicia.
- Before he became a Christian, he was a devout Jew and a persecutor of Christians. He was on hand when Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 8:1-3).
- The Jews thought that people could get to heaven by keeping certain religious laws. Saul would later learn that a person gets to heaven only by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus to "round up" the Christians there when Jesus appeared to him on the road and spoke to him saying (Acts 9:4-9):



"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

- After Jesus appeared to him, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and became a Christian. He no longer went by his original Hebrew name "Saul," but was rather called "Paul."

Paul's Missionary Journeys



Paul's First Missionary Journey

- Trace the route of Paul's first missionary journey using the numbers on the map.
- At Paphos [4] Paul blinded Elymas the sorcerer who tried to stop his preaching (Ac 13:6-12) .
- At Iconium [7], Paul and Barnabas had to leave to escape being killed (Ac 14).

- At Lystra [8], some wanted to make Paul and Barnabas into gods because Paul had healed a cripple.
- When Paul arrived back in Antioch [15], he reported how many had come to faith in Jesus.

Ac 14:26-28 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

- Between his first and second missionary journeys, Paul traveled to Jerusalem [16-18] for a conference which had been called to discuss a controversy that had developed in the church.



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- Trace the route of Paul's second missionary journey using the numbers on the map.
- At Troas [9], Paul had a vision that they should go across to Macedonia so they sailed for Samothrace (Ac 16:6-10).
- They spent some days at Philippi [12].

- At Philippi, Paul and Silas were thrown in jail for putting an evil spirit out of a slave girl. The evil spirit was making money for the girl's master because she was predicting the future.
- While in prison, the jailer keeping watch on Paul and Silas is converted to Christianity as well as his whole family (Ac 16:16-36).
- At Beroea [16], the people received the word of God with great eagerness (Ac 17:10-15).
- In Athens [17], Paul taught the people about the true God who created the heavens and the earth (Ac 17:16-34).
- Paul stayed for a year and a half in Corinth [18] after being told by God in a vision that it was safe to remain there (Ac 18).
- Paul visited the church in Jerusalem [22] before returning to Antioch [23].



Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- Trace the route of Paul's third missionary journey using the numbers on the map.
- Paul stayed a long time at Ephesus [4], three years!
- At Troas [9], a man fell asleep while listening to Paul speak. When he fell asleep, he fell out of the window near where he was sitting. The man died, but Paul raised him from the dead (Ac 20:7-12).
- While Paul was on his missionary journeys, he wrote letters to churches he had previously visited. These letters were authored by God and can be found in the New Testament. Paul wrote down 13 books of the New Testament.

Assignment

- Finish any previous assignments in this church history unit.