

## **Evergreen Baptist Church Men's Ministry**

### **Study Guide for Chapter 12 in *Paul: Living for the Call of Christ* “Finishing the Race with Grace”**

For Tuesday, May 5, 2009, and Saturday, May 9, 2009

If you have the study book, read Chapter 12 (pages 200-219) and review the study questions on pages 219-220. The following questions are designed to help you prepare for the Men's Meeting, even if you do not have the book.

1. The Lord assured Paul that he would be granting his prayer request to go to Rome (Romans 15:22-24, 30-33; Acts 23:11), and the journey finally begins in Acts 27:1. God does not always give us all the details right away about His plans for us. Certainly going to Rome as a prisoner of the Emperor would not have been Paul's first choice of mode of transportation to the capital city. And there would be more surprises to come. Things started out well enough. What facts do we learn from Acts 27:2-3 about the first leg of the trip?

2. According to Acts 27:4-8, after leaving Sidon, where did Paul land? What happened there? What was the first sign of trouble to come? The story continues in 27:9-12. What warning does Paul give to his fellow passengers? Why was his advice not heeded? Was his statement an indication that Paul was now doubting the word of the Lord who had assured Paul that he would go to Rome when He appeared to him in the prison in Jerusalem in Acts 23:11? Why or why not?

3. The story gets much more intense when we get to Acts 27:13-44. What details impress you about Luke's account? What do you learn about Paul from this incident? Why do you think that the Lord sent the angelic messenger to Paul as He did? How do you see the Lord sovereignly intervening in these events in order to fulfill His promises to Paul that he would both go to Rome (23:11), and also appear before Caesar (27:24)? What do you learn from this? What does the angel's statement to Paul that “indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you” tell you?

4. When Luke resumes the narrative in chapter 28, what happens to Paul while on this unscheduled stop in his cruise to Rome? What do you learn about the residents of this island? What impresses you the most about Paul's three months on Malta?

5. In the spring, Paul resumes his journey towards Rome, and Luke ends his account once they are settled in the metropolis. Whom did they meet outside of the city? How would Paul have known these people if he had never been to Rome before this? What did you notice about Paul's relationship with the centurion? How could you explain his treatment of this prisoner?

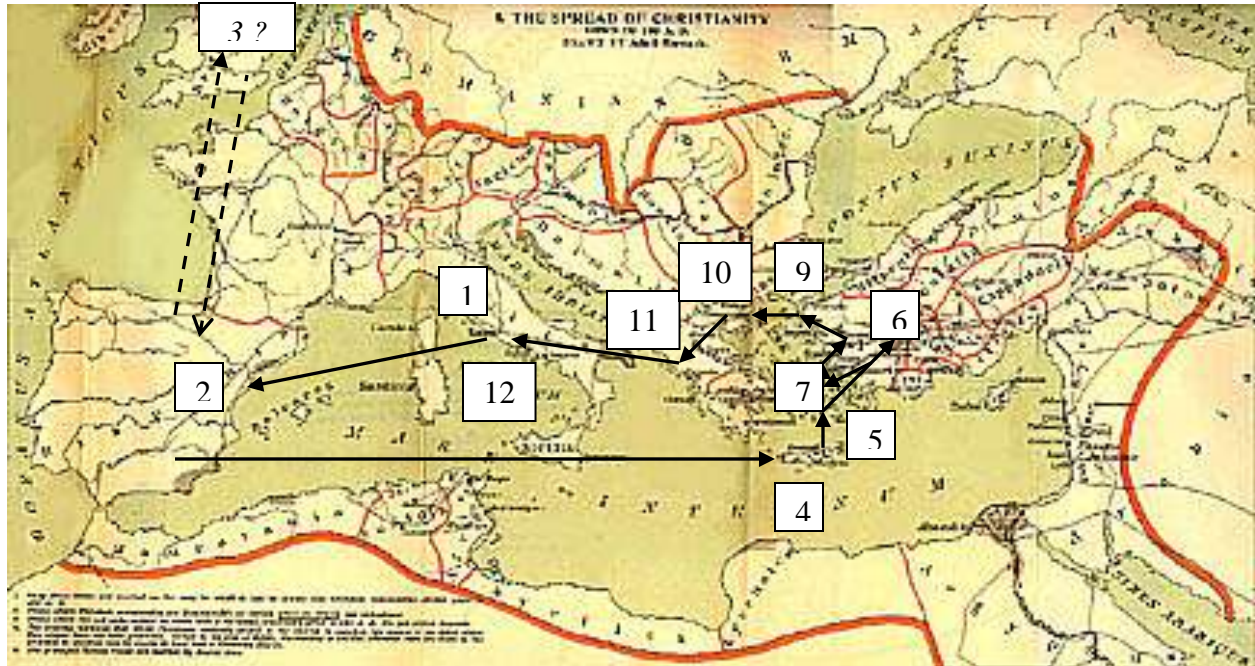
6. Once Paul is settled in the city who does he make a point of meeting with? Why do you think he wanted to hold this meeting? What was the result of the conference?

7. What kind of confinement is imposed on Paul while waiting for his trial before Caesar? What does Paul do during these two years? From what you know of the rest of the New Testament record, what else did Paul do during these two years of imprisonment?

8. After waiting two years for his accusers to come from Jerusalem to Rome to press their case against Paul, it appears that the case may have been dismissed and Paul released. Why do you think that the Sanhedrin never sent a delegation to Rome to argue before Caesar as they had before Felix?

9. On the next page is a suggested itinerary for Paul from the time he was freed from his house arrest in Rome until he was brought back to the city in chains a second time, probably about 4 or 5 years later. What most impresses you about this possible fifth journey of the Apostle? Why do you think he visited the places that are suggested? If this is an accurate understanding of Paul's activities between his two imprisonments, what does it tell you about the man?

Suggested Route of Paul's Final Missionary Journey; c. A.D. 63-66



The stops are pieced together from references in Paul's later epistles that do not seem to correlate with the events recorded in Acts 13-21 and based upon the logical order that such a tour would have followed using the major travel routes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.

1. Released from first imprisonment in Rome (Philippians 2:24; Philemon 22; also early church histories such as Eusebius's *Ecclesiastical History*)
2. Preaching tour of Spain (Romans 15:24, 28; also Clement of Rome's *Epistle to the Corinthians*, chapter 5; and other ancient sources including Cyril of Jerusalem and Chrysostom)
3. (?) Preaching tour to Britain (Romans 15:20; and according to ancient British traditions – St. Paul's Cathedral in London is built on the supposed location of Paul's first sermon there)
4. From Spain to Crete (Titus 1:5)
5. From Crete to Miletus (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:20)
6. From Miletus to Colossae (Philemon 22)
7. From Colossae to Ephesus (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:3; 3:14-15)
8. From Ephesus to Pergamum (conjecture based on main routes of travel)
9. From Pergamum to Troas (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:13)
10. From Troas to Philippi (Philippians 2:23-24; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:3)
11. From Philippi to Nicopolis (Titus 3:12)
12. 2<sup>nd</sup> arrest and imprisonment in Rome ending with his martyrdom c. 67/68 (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:6-12, 14-18)

10. Roman law allowed a citizen to have one slave while in jail in order to meet his needs. In both his stays in Rome, Luke is with Paul (Acts 28:14-15 – “we” and “us”; then 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:11). What might this tell you about this “beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14) and his character?

11. Dr. Getz brings this final chapter to a close with three principles that are designed to help us become the men of character that God wants us to be. After each one, describe ways that you have seen it to be true in your experience. As you read the Scriptures that go with each principle, what further insight do they give you about these principles?

1. “God has given all of us certain specifics regarding His perfect will in His revealed Word but gives us a great deal of freedom within these divine guidelines.” (See 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:23-33; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:15-16.)
2. “God promises to give us divine wisdom when we need it, but we must be careful not to equate this wisdom on the same level as divine revelation.” (See James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:9.)
3. “God wants all of us to ‘finish the race with grace.’” (See Hebrews 12:1-2; Ephesians 3:20-21; Philippians 2:16-17; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:6-8.)

12. The final memory verse for this study is Hebrews 12:1-2a: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith....” How will the principles in this passage help you to “finish your race with grace”?

13. You have traveled a long way with Paul. As you look back on this study, what impresses you the most about the Apostle? If you could interview the Apostle, what question would you want to ask him first, and why? What was the most interesting thing you learned in this study? What parts of his story have most inspired you to become a man of character? How did Paul show you what it means to live for the call of Christ? How will your life be different because of the miles you covered with this great missionary?

14. What specific prayer requests do you have to share with your brothers?