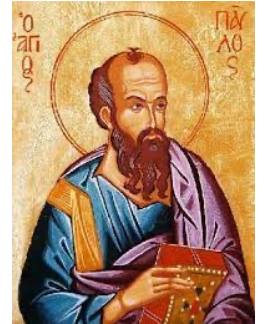


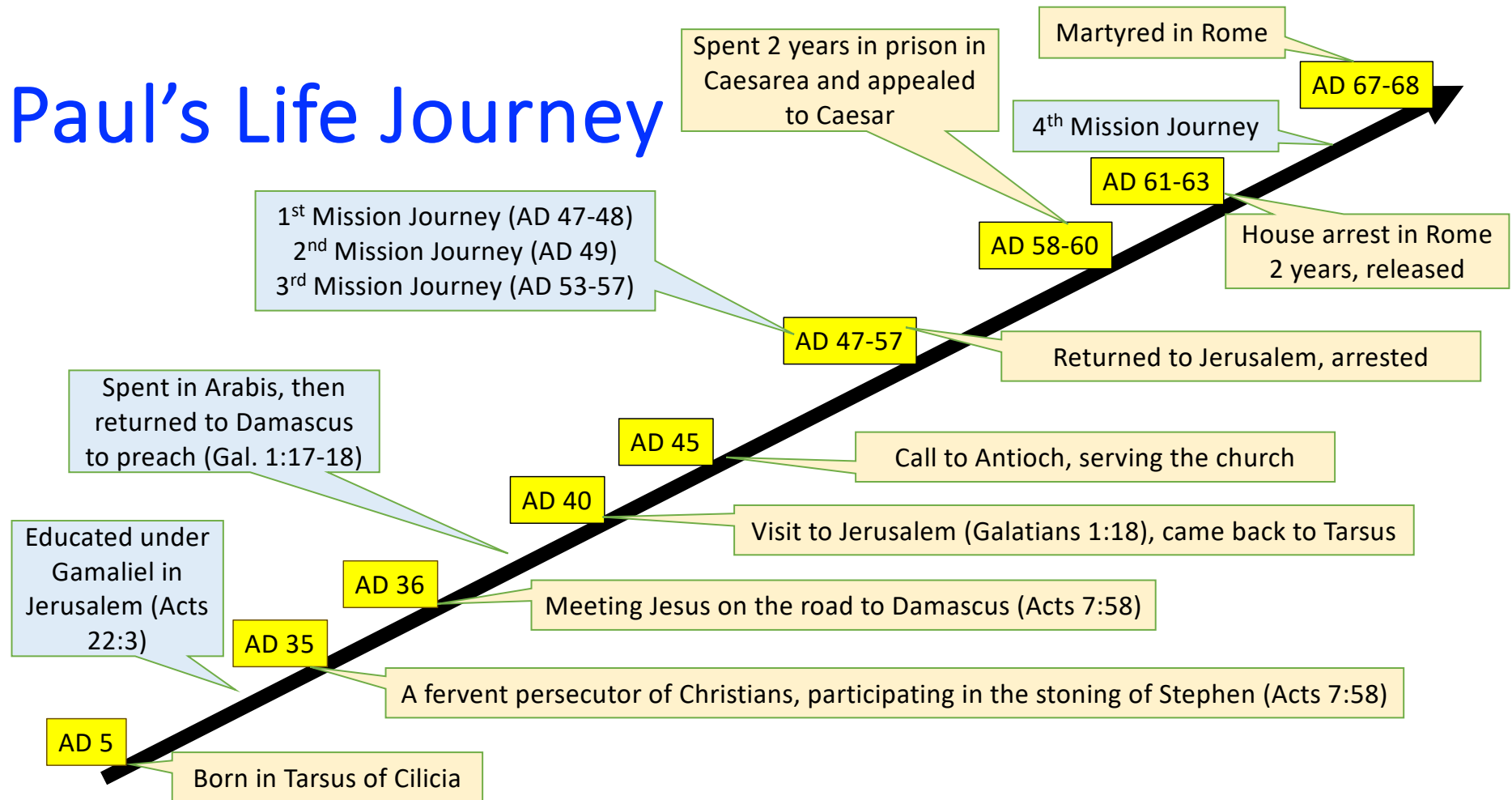


The Unstoppable Mission of Paul



- Who is Paul?
 - The most significant figure in the New Testament after Jesus, largely responsible for shaping early Christianity into a distinct global movement.
 - But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name” (Acts 9:15-16).
 - Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8).
- The greatest missionary whose life wholly devoted to the gospel.
 - Spreading Christianity to the Gentiles.
 - Shaping Christian theology (Justification by faith, Law and grace, death & resurrection of Jesus).
 - Establishing early Christian communities (Planted at least 14 new churches, wrote 13 books of the NT).
 - Pioneering missionary journeys (3+ missionary journeys for 10+ years).

Paul's Life Journey



Apostle Paul: Completely Changed

- Saul of Tarsus
 - Paul is a zealous Pharisee and persecutor of the church which highlights his intellectual prowess and commitment to Jewish law.
- From persecutor to proclaimer
 - The Damascus Road Encounter: A divine interruption that transformed everything (Acts 9:15).
- Called the apostle to the Gentiles
 - For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:8).
 - I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry (Romans 11:13).
 - We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46).
- He preached with his life
 - I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phillipians 3:12, 14).
 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

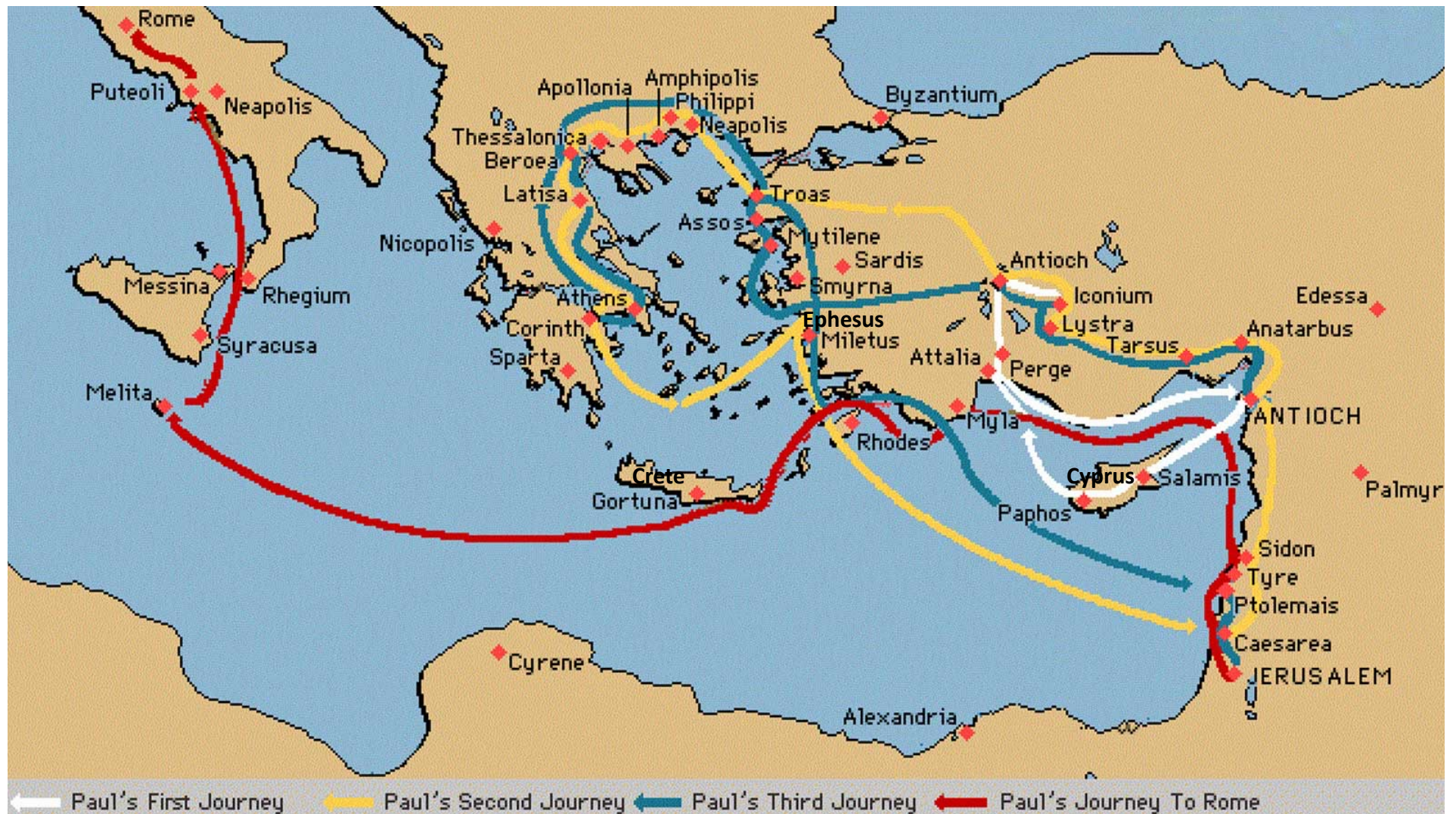
Paul's Mission Attitude

- A Heart for the Gospel:

- **Unashamed of the Gospel**: Paul's unwavering conviction in the power of the gospel for all people. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).
- **Burning Desire for the Lost**: "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).
- **Passion for Christ's Glory**: His ultimate motivation was to see Christ glorified among the nations. "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known" (Romans 15:20).
- **Willingness to Suffer**: Suffering is a means to experience Christ's resurrection power. "Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24).

- Application:

- Do you share Paul's **unashamed enthusiasm** for the gospel? Are you willing to step out of your comfort zones for the sake of reaching others?



Mission-Oriented Lifestyle

- Self-Support (Tentmaker/leatherworker):
 - Worked with his hands to avoid being a burden and to demonstrate the gospel (Acts 18:3, 1 Corinthians 9:18).
- Relational Evangelism:
 - Engaged with people in their daily lives, workplaces, and public squares.
 - He went to the synagogue...he spoke daily in the marketplace (Acts 17:17).
 - Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks (Acts 18:4).
- Church Planting and Discipleship:
 - His goal was not just conversions, but establishing healthy, reproducing churches and mentoring leaders (Titus, Timothy).
- Perseverance through Suffering:
 - Labors, imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks, dangers of all kinds – yet he pressed on.
 - I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again... I have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked (2 Corinthians 11:23-27).

Undivided Devotion

- To Live is Christ, to Die is Gain (Philippians 1:21)
 - His entire existence was centered on Christ and His mission. No earthly ambition surpassed this.
- Sacrificial Love for the Church:
 - His anxieties for all the churches
 - Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches (2 Corinthians 11:28).
- Focus on the Cross: The centrality of the gospel message
 - For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2).
- Driven by the Call:
 - I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace (Acts 20:24).
- Application:
 - What is your "one thing"? Is Christ and His mission truly at the core of your daily lives and decisions?

Lessons for the Church Today

- Evangelism and Outreach
 - We need to be a sending church. Actively identify, equip, and send out missionaries. Support them sacrificially.
 - Paul actively sought opportunities to share the Gospel with diverse groups, including Jews and Gentiles, demonstrating a willingness to transcend cultural and social barriers.
- Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
 - Paul emphasized the importance of both evangelism and discipleship, encouraging believers to grow in their faith through spiritual disciplines.
 - Paul actively disciplined younger leaders like Timothy and Titus, demonstrating the importance of investing in the next generation of church leaders.
- Perseverance and Endurance
 - Paul's missionary journeys were marked by hardship and challenges, yet he persevered in his calling, providing an example of steadfastness.
 - Paul's experiences with persecution demonstrated that suffering can be a catalyst for resilience and a deeper experience of God's presence.

Call to Action

- Personal Evangelism
 - Look for opportunities to share your faith in your spheres of influence – your family, workplace, neighborhood.
- Partnering with God's Mission
 - Paul's mission wasn't just his mission; it was the unfolding of God's redemptive plan through a devoted servant.
- The Unfinished Task
 - The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) remains for us today.
- Prayer Warrior
 - Pray for the unreached, for missionaries, and for opportunities to share the gospel yourself.
- Live with Purpose
 - Recognize that God has placed you where you are for a purpose – to be His witness.
 - How will you follow Paul's example in embracing God's global heart and living a life wholly devoted to the gospel?