

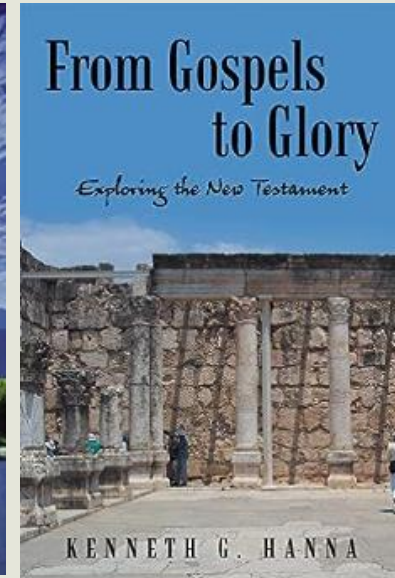
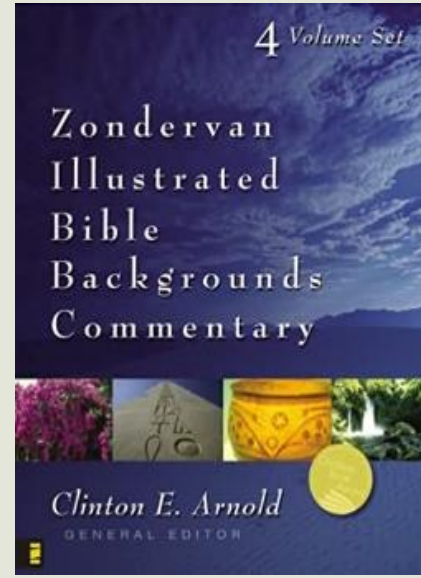
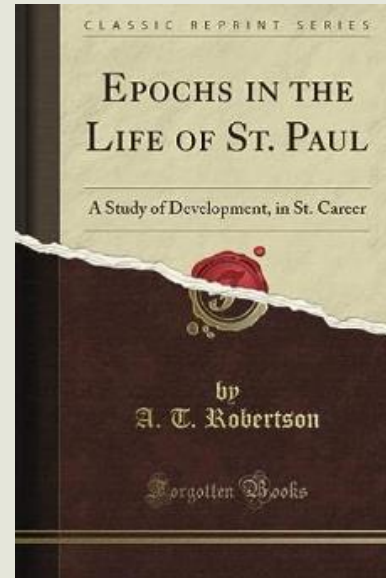
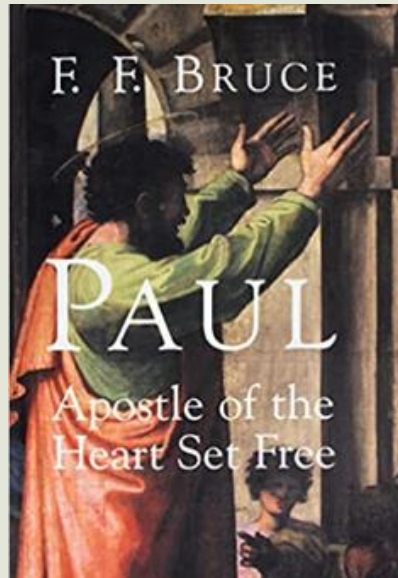
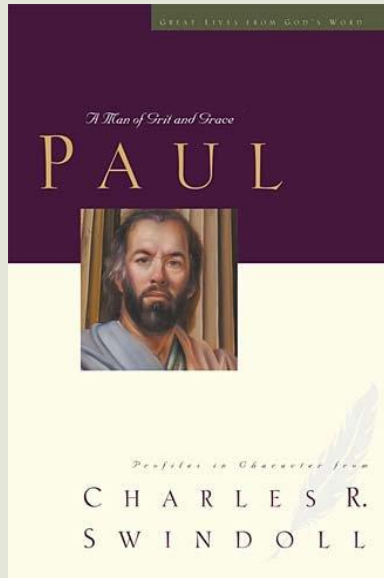


Paul – Lesson 19

New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School
August 27, 2023

Source Material



Companion Sources

Lesson 19 Intro...

- Acts 28:17-30 (~ AD 60):
 - Where we last saw Paul, he arrived into Rome after spending the winter months on the Island of Malta.
 - Prior to his arrival in Malta, he and 276 other passengers made a rough journey Caesarea, enduring life-threatening storms, being lost at sea and finally shipwrecked on this Island. Luke chronicled this experience in Acts 27.

Acts 28:17-30 [NASB]

When In Rome: The Prison Epistles

Acts 28:16; 30-31 [NASB]

¹⁶ When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Book of Acts – AD60-62

“There is indeed, adequate evidence for the view that Luke gathered or set in order much of the material for both parts of his history in Palestine between 57 and 59, that other material was added in Rome, the complete Gospel (= Book I) sent to Theophilus AD61 and Acts (= Book II) not very long afterwards” (*The Acts of the Apostles* – FF Bruce)

Book of Acts – AD60-62

Key Historical Events Not Mentioned by Luke:

- Fall of Jerusalem AD70
- Paul's Death AD67-68
- Nero Persecution of Christians AD 64-65
- Paul's Prison Epistles AD61-62

Evidence Support Early AD61 Date

Acts 28:16; 30-31 [NASB]

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³⁰ **For two whole years** Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Paul's Journey to Rome

*Map used by Permission – Standard Bible Atlas

Acts 28:16

1 Timothy AD63-65

2 Corinthians AD56-57

2 Timothy AD67

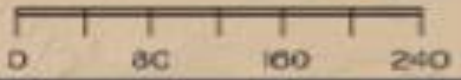
1 Corinthians AD54-55

AD61-62
Philemon
Colossians
Ephesians
Philippians

Galatians AD49

Romans AD57

Titus AD64



The Prison Epistles

Tracking Paul's Activities in Rome AD60-62

Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

Philippians

- Paul's **Gospel Ministry** *in* Rome
 - Trial Before Nero already happened (Phil 1:19-20)
 - Uncertain if he will live or die, but optimistic about surviving (Phil 1:24-26)
 - Chained with a Roman guard 24x7 (Phil 1:7 cf Acts 28:16)
 - Evangelized with every Roman guard (Phil 1:12-14);
 - Brought all to salvation (Phil 1:13)
 - Carry on Gospel ministry to other areas (Phil 2:19-30)
 - Able to receive visitors to meet his needs (Phil 4:10-18)

Philemon

- Paul's **Counseling and Mentorship** Ministry *in* Rome
 - Able to receive visitors to meet his needs (Phil 4:10-18)
 - Met Onesimus, runaway slave of someone Paul knew well (Philem 2)
 - Philemon owns the house where the church in Colossae met (Philem 2)
 - Brought Onesimus to Christ (Philem 10)
 - Mentored Onesimus to be a mature disciple (Philem 16) and then coworker (Philem 11)
 - Developing strong bond with Onesimus, willing to pay for his debts (Philem 19).
 - Wrote letter advocating for grace on behalf of Onesimus.

Paul's Journey to Rome

*Map used by Permission – Standard Bible Atlas

Acts 28:16

Acts 19

Colossians



Colossians

- Paul's **Pastoral Admin. Ministry** to a Trouble Church From Rome
 - Epaphras was another visitor who visited Paul (Philem 23)
 - Epaphras was the church planter and leader of the church in Colossae (Col 1:7)
 - Brought news of false teachings in that church (Col 2:4-5) and its church plants in Lycus Valley (Col 4:16).
 - Paul –
 - Writes letter addressing false teaching (Colossians)
 - Tasked Tychicus to deliver letter (Col 4:7-8) to Philemon's house where church met
 - Tasked Tychicus to accompany Onesimus to Philemon (Col 4:9)
 - Tasked Tychicus to deliver a companion letter (Ephesians) to be distributed to area churches (Col 4:16)
 - Plans to send Mark to assist as needed (Col 4:10)
 - Encourages Archippus to complete his ministry training per his calling (Col 4:17)
 - Introduces the church to other co-laborers in Christ (for possible future assistance) (Col 4:7-14)

Ephesians

- Paul's **Pastoral Care & Teaching** Ministry From Rome
 - Epistle was a companion letter to Colossians intended for all churches in Asia Minor. Churches are to task scribes to copy the letter and pass to other churches (Col 4:16)
 - Circular Epistle
 - Epistle was inspired by the doctrinal contamination reported by Epaphras in Asia Minor.
 - Intended to be general, focusing on doctrine of the Body of Christ, not addressing any specific issue at any local church
 - Epistle reveals Paul teaching style using illustrations – Roman Guard's outfit – to illustrate armor of God (Eph 6:10-20).

The Prison Epistles

Class Discussion

Swindoll's Principles

Paul – When in Rome
(The Prison Epistles)

Principles I

Embrace an Attitude of Unselfish Humility (Phil 2:3-4) – Paul’s troubles and predicament were not a result of his own doing, but a result of wrongful prosecution. His life had been turned upside down and made extremely uncomfortable. Yet, nowhere in the book of Acts or in any of his Prison Epistles do we find him crying “woe is me.” Through his epistles, we can see how he acknowledged those who cared for his needs, but no records were kept of those who did him wrong. He simply and humbly submitted to his situation and doing his best to take the focus off of him and onto the Gospel Ministry. This is the “emptying-out principle” demonstrated by Christ that is the foundation for the attitude of unselfish humility. Effectively, don’t make the situation – whatever situation – about us. Make it about the mission.

Principles II

Embrace an Attitude of Joyful Acceptance (Phil 2:14-15) – In two of his later epistles, Paul identified one qualification for spiritual leadership to be ‘above reproach’ (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:6). What does it mean to be ‘above reproach’? Paul says it means to “do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Phil 2:14). Given how he has been wronged, he could justly complain, grumble, and make things awkward for others in the room. But he recognizes that doing so would put the credibility of the gospel at risk; as it would push people away. Instead, he chooses to accept his situation with a joyful attitude. People are drawn to joy; and people tend to stay away from grumblers. For ministry to thrive and support to grow, embrace a joyful acceptance for whatever the situation.

Principles III

Embrace an Attitude of Strong Determination (Phil 3:13-14) – In the third chapter of Philippians, Paul cited the need for us to confront our fleshly desires. As Swindoll noted: “At a time when many people in his place would be looking back in regret, wondering what life would have been like in a different profession, Paul repudiates the past and looks with confidence to the future.” By Paul’s own account, his flesh tells him that it’s time to quit, change course, pursue the easy and comfortable path that he used to have. But knowing the truth and the Gospel, his determination guides him to finish the race. Following Jesus was never going to be easy in this world (cf Matt 16:24). We are all encouraged to “press on” with a strong determination to finish the race.

Questions