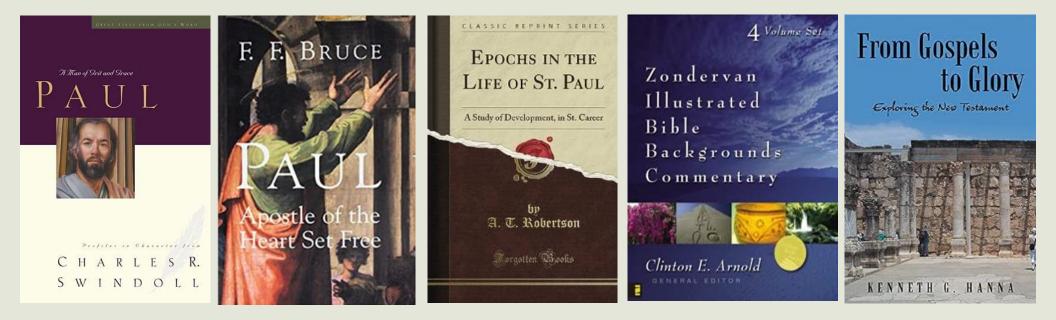
Paul – Lesson 20 New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School September 10, 2023

Source Material



Companion Sources

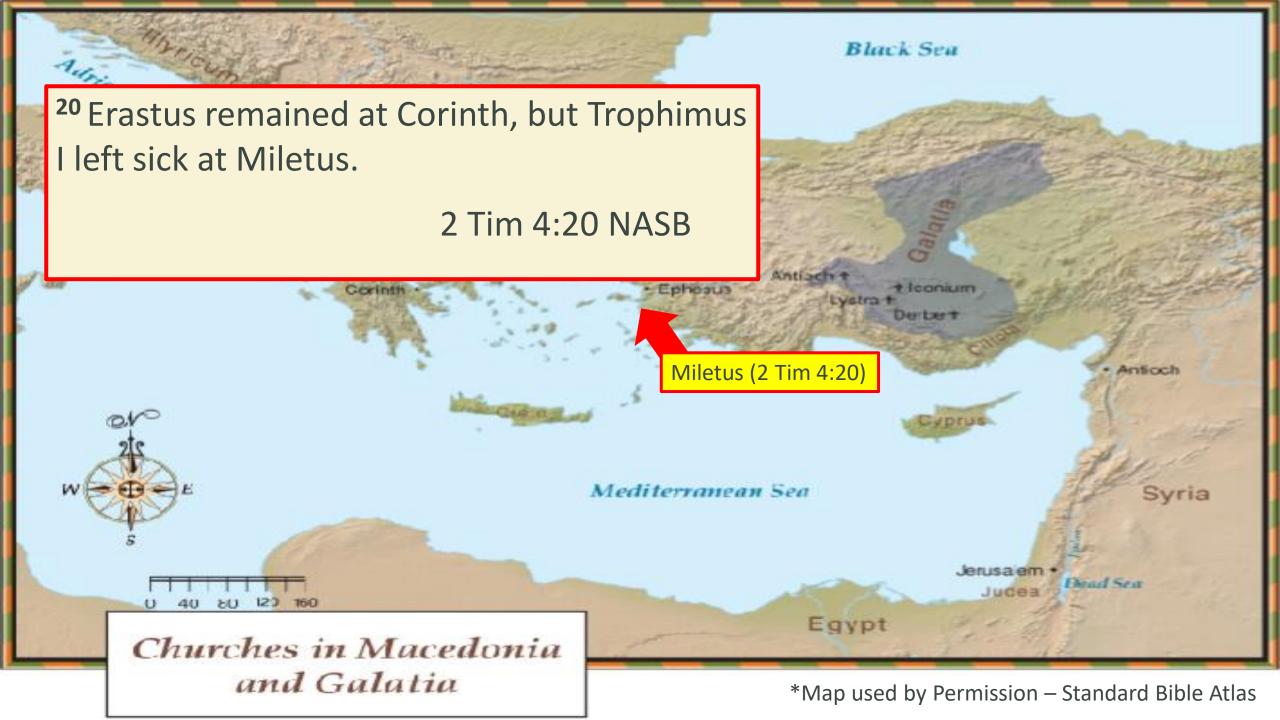
Lesson 20 Intro...

- Where we last saw Paul...
 - He was on the verge of being released from his two-year imprisonment in Rome
 - During these two years in Rome, he received many visitors, evangelized to many Roman soldiers, and wrote the Prison Epistles – Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians
 - Church tradition indicates that he was released sometime in AD62

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

The Pastoral Epistles







Black Sea Adriatic See Macedonia (1 Tim 1:3) Thrace Macedonia Theastonica taly Serea 1 ³ As I urged you upon <u>my departure</u> for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so Achala that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 1 Tim 1:3 NASB Mediterranean Sea Syria Jerusa em Dead Sea Judea 0 40 80 123 160 Egypt Churches in Macedonia and Galatia *Map used by Permission – Standard Bible Atlas







1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Dating the Epistles

1 Timothy \rightarrow Titus \rightarrow 2 Timothy

Titus \rightarrow 1 Timothy \rightarrow 2 Timothy

Where was Paul arrested?

Pax Romana

If his first Roman trial (i.e.. Where Acts ends) had concluded without a clear exoneration, the Roman authorities would have found a second arrest itself sufficient reason to condemn Paul. He was a threat to public order, and as such they would have held him in chains "like a criminal" while awaiting trial (2 Tim 2:9). The Romans were obsessed with public order and were ready to punish any danger to the *pax Romana* with severe measures.

Pax Romana

Pax Romana Tested...

- Jewish Unrest / Jewish War AD66-74
 Hostile Jewish Zealots (cf Acts 20-28) led insurrection AD68
- Great Fire of Rome AD64
 - Persecution of Christians by Nero

Why was Paul arrested...

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Dating the Epistles

1 Timothy \rightarrow Titus \rightarrow 2 Timothy

Titus \rightarrow 1 Timothy \rightarrow 2 Timothy

Where was Paul arrested?

2 Timothy 4:12-16 [NASB]

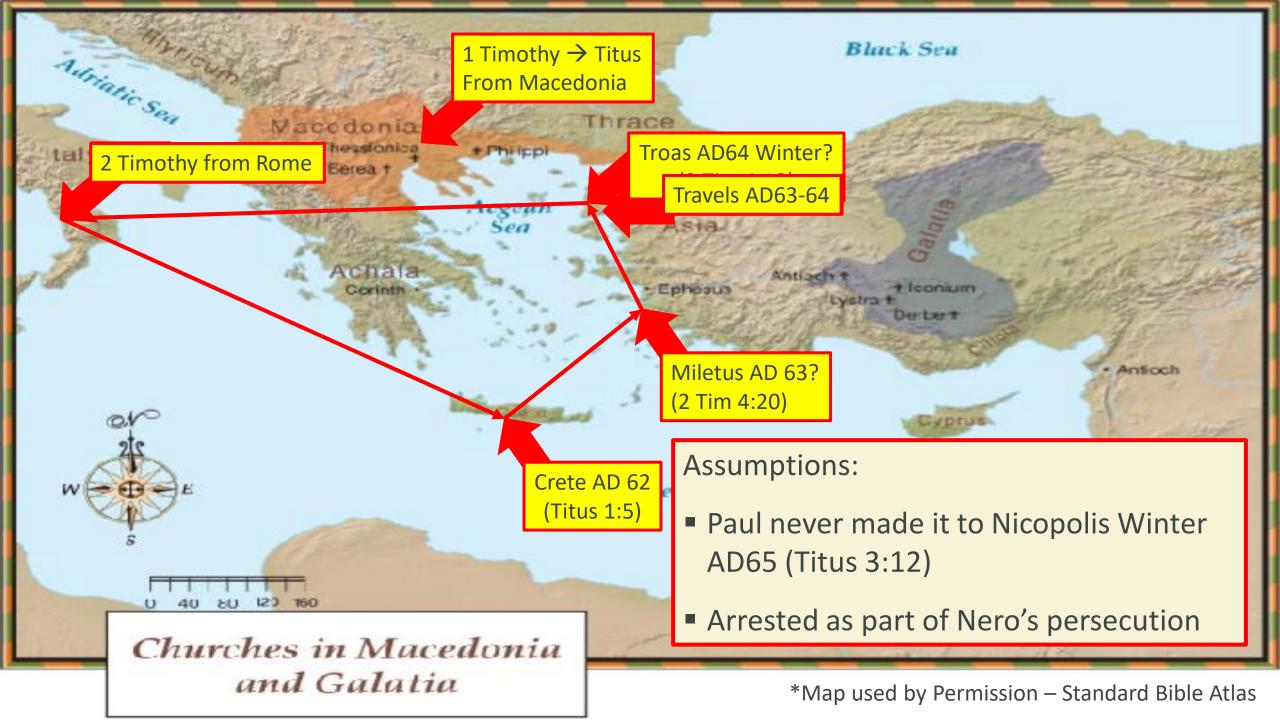
¹² But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

Paul arrested in Troas

2 Timothy 4:12-16 [NASB]

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Paul arrested in Troas



1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Dating the Epistles

1 Timothy \rightarrow Titus \rightarrow 2 Timothy

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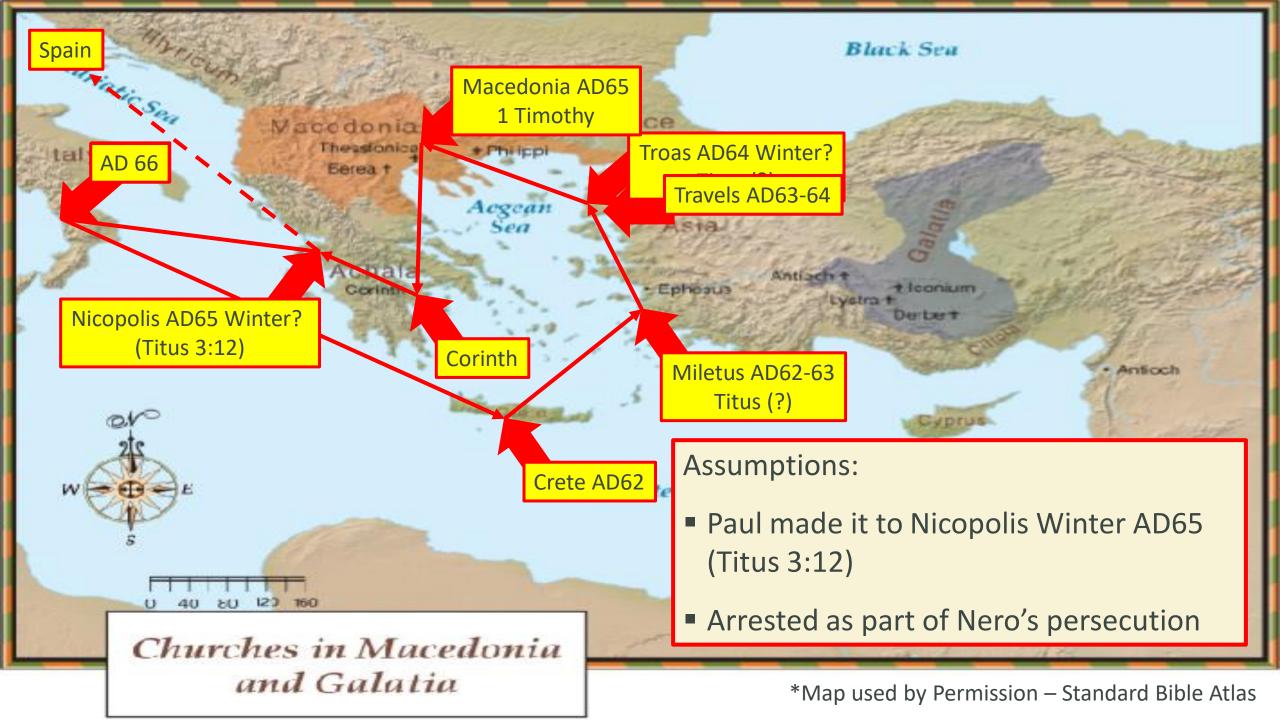
Where was Paul arrested?

Paul's Planned Mission to Spain

²⁸ Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

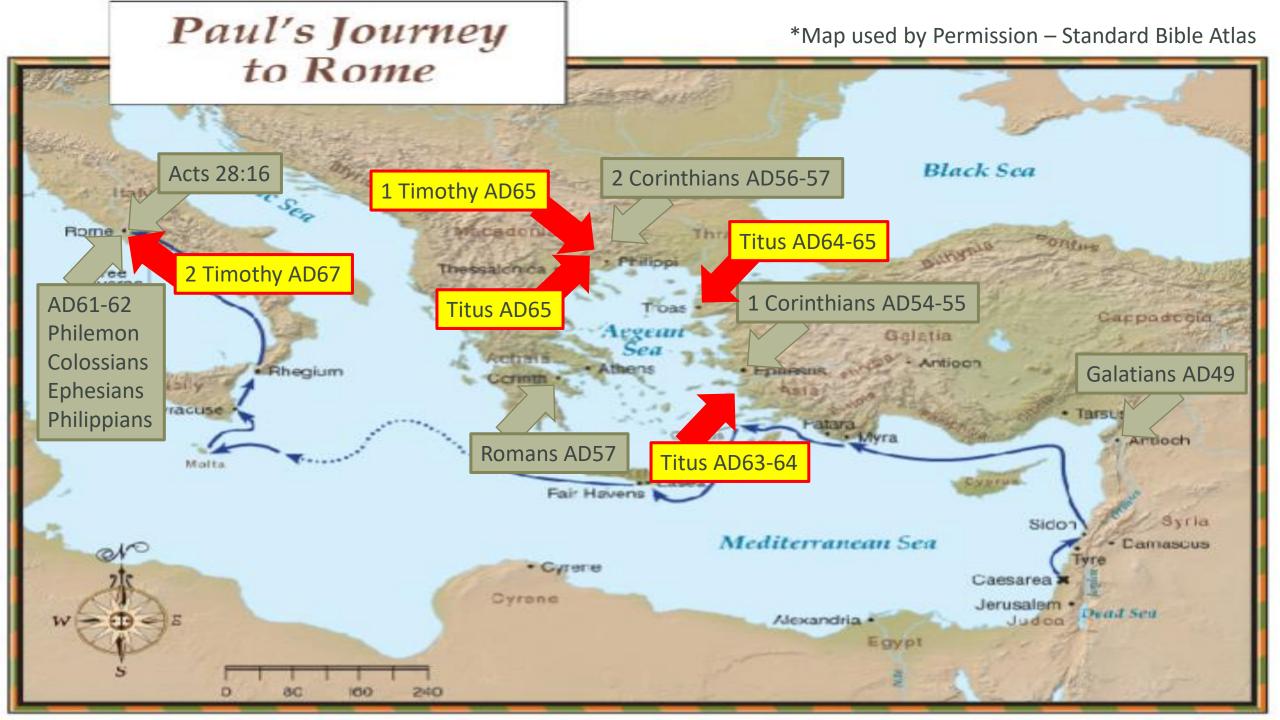
Romans 15:28-29 NASB

Paul arrested in Nicopolis or Rome











1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus

Paul's Final Days through 2 Timothy

2 Timothy

Paul's Final Days through 2 Timothy

 Death-row Prisoner (2 Tim 2:9) - Unlike his first imprisonment where he is free to have visitors, Paul was locked away like a criminal in what is known as a "Mamertine Prison" – a subterranean structure consisting of two vaulted chambers – one above the other connected by a small hole. Men were lowered through the hole and held in the lower chamber until their execution

2 Timothy

Paul's Final Days through 2 Timothy

• Aware of His Death (2 Tim 4:6-8) – Unlike his letter to the church in Philippi, where Paul seems optimistic about being freed, here, Paul seems to recognize that his earthly days are coming to an end

2 Timothy

Paul's Final Days through 2 Timothy

Lonely and depressed (2 Tim 4:9-13) – Being locked away and – likely as a result of Nero's persecution of Christians, Paul became toxic, with many avoiding him for fear of guilt by association. He was lonely, having only Luke staying with him. He desired the company of Timothy and Mark.

2 Timothy 4:10-12 [NASB]

¹⁰ for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. ¹² But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

Swindoll's Summary

Paul's Earthly End

His earthly end came swiftly...abruptly. Alone and without fear, Paul stared directly into the eyes of the execution squad. Several held rods with which they would beat him; one held the sharp axe with which he would sever the apostle's head from his shoulders. Few words were spoken. They marched him through the heavy gate and beyond the stone wall that surrounded Rome... Crowds journeying to Rome knew by the rods and the axe that an execution would soon transpire. They had seen such sights before. They passed it off with a shrug. It happened yesterday; it would happen tomorrow.

The manacled prisoner, walking stiffly, ragged and filthy from the dungeon, was not ashamed or degraded. The squad of grim-faced soldiers never noticed as they frowned and stared ahead, but there was a faint smile on their prisoner's face - he was en route to a triumph – the crowning day of his reward. For to him to live was Christ, to die, gain. No axe across the back of his neck would rob him of his triumphant destiny. It would, in fact, initiate it!

They marched Paul to the third milestone on the Ostian Way, to a little pinewood in a glade – a glade of the tombs, known now as *Tre Fontane*. He is believed to have been put overnight in a tiny cell, near the place of his execution. At first light next dawn, the soldiers took Paul to a stump-like pillar, the executioner stood ready, stark naked, axe in hand.

The men stripped Paul – tied him, kneeling upright, to the low pillar, which exposed his back and neck. The lictors beat him with rods for the last time. He groaned and bled from his nose and mouth. And then, without a hint of hesitation, the executioner frowned as he swung the blade that gleaned in the morning sun high above his head, then brought it down swiftly, hitting its mark with a dull thud.

The head of Paul rolled down into the dust.

CHARLES R. SWINDOLL In that brutal moment, silently and invisibly, the soul of the great apostle – the man of grace and grit – was immediately set free. His spirit soared into the heavens: Absent from the body he was, at last, at home with the Lord.

The Pastoral Epistles

Class Discussion



Questions