

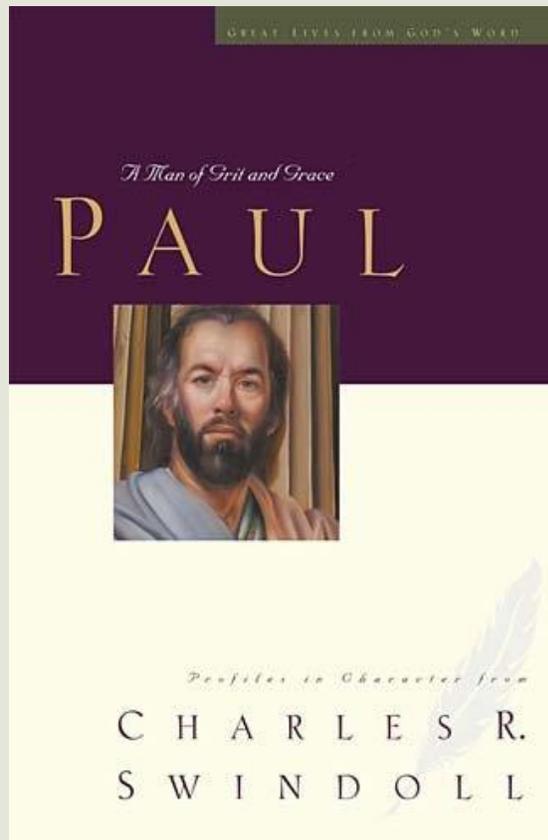
The background is a dark grey chalkboard with various white chalk sketches. On the left, there's a large drawing of a microscope. Above it, a globe of the Earth is sketched. In the bottom left, there's a stack of books. In the bottom center, an open book is shown with some illegible text. To the right of the open book, there are sketches of a percentage sign, an exclamation mark, and a right-pointing arrow.

Paul – Session 4

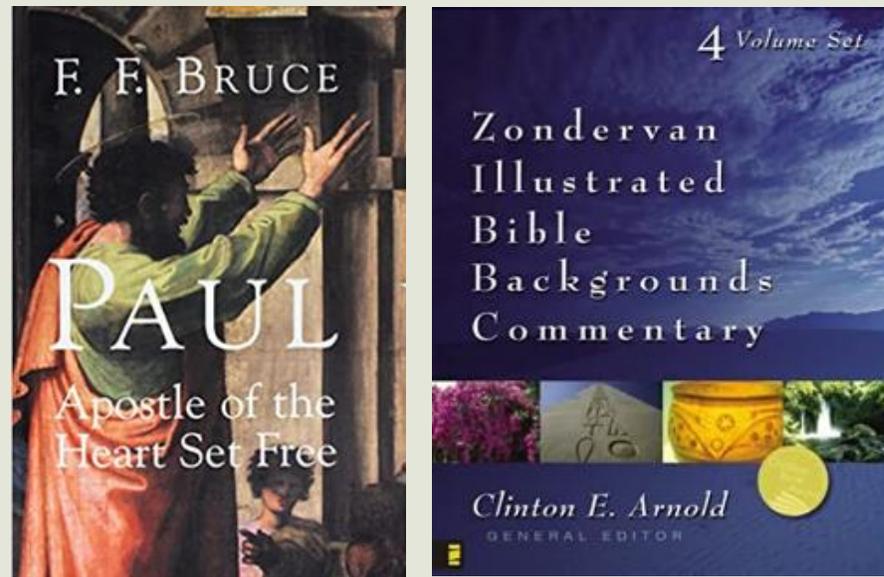
New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School
April 2, 2023

Source Material



Primary Source



Companion Sources

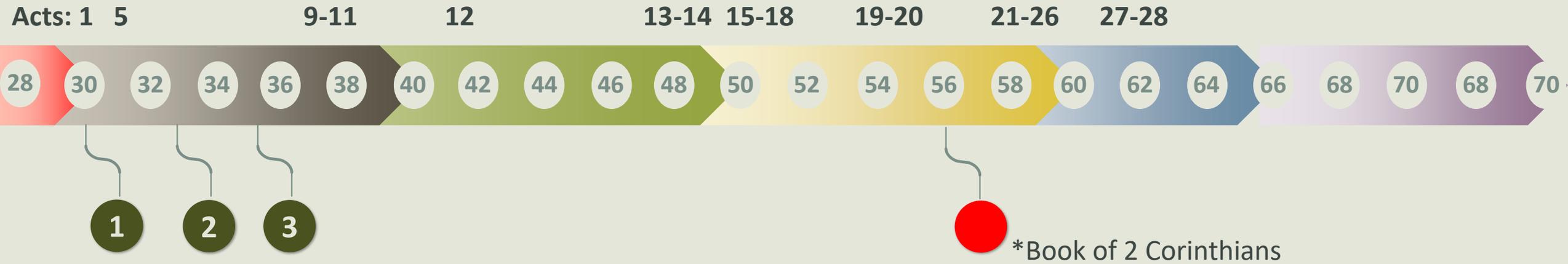
Lesson 4 Intro...

- Acts 9 / Galatians 1 (~ AD 35-37):
 - Paul spent ~ 3 years in the deserts of Arabia medicating / reflecting on His belief system and being educated on Christian theology
 - Paul returns to Jerusalem and meets with apostles Peter and James; stayed in Jerusalem for a short time (15 days)
 - Paul retreats to Tarsus of Cilicia

Galatians 1:18-24 [NASB]



Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



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- 1** Ascension – Acts 1
Pentecost – Acts 2
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5
 - 2** Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7
 - 3** Paul's Conversion – Acts 9
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2 Corinthians 11:24-33 [NASB]

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. ²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; ²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:24-33 [NASB]

²⁹ Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

³⁰ If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, ³³ and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

2 Corinthians 12:1-6 [NASB]

12 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ **who fourteen years ago**—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. ⁵ On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, **except in regard to *my* weaknesses**. ⁶ For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this*, so that **no one will credit me with more than he sees *in* me or hears from me**.

2 Corinthians 12:1-6 [NASB]

⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, **there was given me a thorn in the flesh**, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, **I will rather boast about my weaknesses**, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul in Tarsus (~ AD 37-41)

- Paul's Thorn in the Flesh
 - Changed from boasting about self to boasting about Christ
 - Changed from promoting his strength to accepting his weaknesses
 - Changed from making things about him to making things about Christ
- "In the Body... out of the body..."; "... third heaven":
 - Likely persecuted by Pharisees; flogged to near death
 - Possibly disowned by own family for straying from Pharisee roots

Ministry of "Suffering"

Mean while...

- Paul meets Peter and James
- Paul retreats to Tarsus
- Paul's "Thorn in the Flesh"
 - Solitude / Obscurity
 - Monotony / Reality
 - Preaching / Teaching in Cilicia and Syria (Gal 1:21-24)

~ AD 37

~ AD 39

~ AD 40

~ AD 41

- Angel visits Cornelius (Acts 10)
Peter's vision / Cornelius invitation
Salvation to Gentiles (Acts 10:45)
- Gentile + Hellenistic Jew Revival
broke out in Antioch;
- Barnabas sent to support (Acts
11:19-23)

God's Ministry to the Gentiles

Peter - A Ministry Tour *Acts 9:32-11:1*

-  Peter's route from Jerusalem to Lydda
-  Peter's route from Lydda to Joppa
-  Peter's route from Joppa to Caesarea
-  Peter's route from Caesarea to Jerusalem

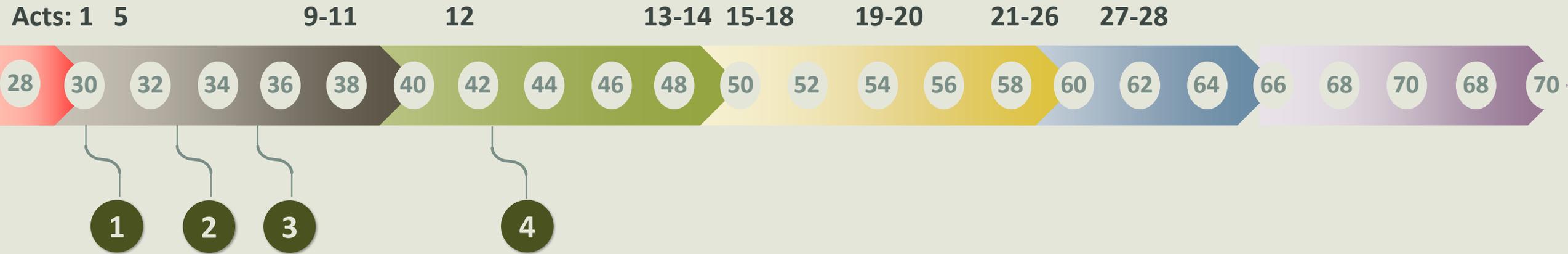


Peter raises Dorcas from the dead ->

Peter heals a paralyzed man in Lydda ->

Peter begins and ends at Jerusalem ->

Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



- 1 Ascension – Acts 1
Pentecost – Acts 2
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5
- 2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7
- 3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9
- 4 Paul to Antioch – Acts 11

Acts 11:19-26 [NASB]

¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

Acts 11:19-26 [NASB]



- Hellenistic Jews (Greek-speaking Jews; Acts 6) scattered to Phoenicia, Cypress, and Antioch after stoning death of Stephen (Acts 7)
- Message that Salvation to Gentiles took place reached these region, causing a great revival in Antioch
- Leaders at the church in Jerusalem commissioned Barnabas to investigate / support the revival in Antioch

Acts 11:19-26 [NASB]

²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; ²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Barnabas

- A Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36)
 - Greek Speaking Culture (= Hellenistic Jew)
 - Cyprus Culture
- Nicknamed “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36)
- Peacemaker (Acts 9:27)
- “Good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” (Acts 11:24)
- People-Centric Temperament (Acts 11:23)
- Christ-Centric Servant (Acts 11:23)

Acts 11:19-26 [NASB]

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Acts 11:26

...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch

- Antioch –
 - City with many cults and religious practices; residents distinguish various religions and their cults by labels
 - Common labeling system – adding ‘.ian’; i.e.. “Herodians” to refer to the dynasty and household of king Herod
 - Christ followers were generally regarded as a “cult” of the Jews, thus given the label “the Way” by Jews and by society. “Christ” at the time was still regarded as a title (meaning “Messiah”), rather than a name attributed to Jesus (i.e.. “Caesar” as a title attribute rather than a name)
 - Label created by non-Christ followers in Antioch in order to distinguish them from the Jews and other religious groups.
 - Label did not “stick” until the first bishop of Antioch – Ignatius – embraced it and popularized its use.

Acts 11:19-26 [NASB]

The Making of God's Ministry Team

Barnabas and Paul

- A Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36)
 - Greek Speaking Culture
 - Cyprus Culture
- Nicknamed “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36)
- Peacemaker (Acts 9:27)
- “Good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” (Acts 11:24)
- People-Centric Temperament (Acts 11:23)
- A Benjamite from Tarsus (Phil 3:5) and a Pharisee (Acts 23:6); speaks Greek, Latin, Aramaic
- Formerly persecutor of “the Way” (Acts 22:4) converted by Christ
- Teacher / Preacher (Gal 1:21-24);
- Humble servant who aims to exalt Christ (2 Corinthians 12:1-6)
- Task-Centric Temperament (Acts 8-9)

The making of God’s Ministry Team!

Custom Made for Antioch

Christians in Antioch –

- Hellenistic Jews –
 - Greek Culture; Greek Language
- Jews and Gentiles from Cyprus and Cyrene
 - Cyprus Culture
- Antioch Jews and Gentiles
 - Different Religious influence

Pastoral Candidate Qualifications

- Jewish Background
- Speaks Greek and Hebrew (“Greek-brew” acceptable)
- Able to minister to multiple cultures
 - Greek Culture (Hellenist)
 - Jewish Culture
 - Cyprus Culture
- Strong in apologetics - able to debate / clarify various cult and other religious influence
- Strong Care Ministry Skills
- Strong Teaching / Preaching Skills
- Strong man of God (Spiritually)

Swindoll's Principles

- Timeless Essentials for Ministering Together

In every ministry, there are at least three essentials that produce an atmosphere of joyous cooperation:

- **1 – Objectives: Whatever God plans, He pursues.** Antioch was not what Barnabas or the apostles in Jerusalem had imagined. Ministry teams must focus on what God is doing, not what we want to do.
- **2 – People: Whomever God Chooses, He uses.** Barnabas' and Paul's past encounters were not incidental or coincidental. Barnabas had the humility to acknowledge his weakness when he sought out Paul – whom God had reformed with the same attitude. God forms / reforms His leaders towards His objectives.
- **3 – Places: Whomever God Selects, He sends.** Barnabas' roots from Cyprus and Paul's roots from Tarsus – leading to different sets of gift-mix custom made for Antioch – were also not incidental or coincidental. God's ministry team complements one another.

Swindoll's Insights on Ministering Together

“Ministering together is always an adventure. It’s about embracing change. It’s about maintaining flexibility. It’s about walking with God through the surprising events He has designed. Barnabas needed help. The work was too much for one gifted, but limited man. Saul stepped into the gap. And together they turned Antioch upside down for Christ”

- Charles Swindoll

Applications

- Before Embarking on a new Ministry Venture
 - See what God is Doing
 - See who God is preparing
 - Be Patient and Wait for God's Timing
 - Start with a Ministry Team
 - Recognize Your limitations
 - Don't Go It Alone
 - Be Flexible

Questions