

1. Opening Prayer
2. Timeline of Apostle Paul (From Blueletterbible.org)

A.D 5 – born as a Jew with Roman citizenship in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3 and 8)

15-20 – went to school of Gamaliel in Jerusalem (Acts 22:3)

30-32 – a Pharisee and a member of Sanhedrin (Philippians 3:5 and Acts 26:10)

32-34 – persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3)

34 – conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:10-19)

47 – went to Antioch with Barnabas for church ministry (Acts 11:26)

went back to Jerusalem with grant to help the poor Christians in Judea (Acts 11:29-30)

48 – First mission trip

Cyprus, Phaphos, Antioch of Pisidia, Lystra and Derbe. (Acts 13-14)

49-52 – Second mission trip

Lystra and Derbe, Troas, Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth (Acts 15-18)

53-57 – Third mission trip:

Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Troas, Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea (Acts 18-21)

57 – arrested (Acts 21:28)

58-59 – trials and journey to Rome (Acts 25-28)

60-66 – last years at Rome (Acts 28)

3. Intro: 2 Corinthians

When? during Paul's third mission trip.

Why? to tell why Paul's couldn't come to Corinth (2 Cor. 1:15-24)

to remind the Corinth church that Paul was the true apostle for them. (2. Cor. 2-7)

to encourage the church to give with joy (2 Cor. 8-9)

to warn false apostles (2 Cor. 11)

to encourage the church to keep the faith (2 Cor. 13)

#### 4. Read 2 Cor. Ch. 1

#### 5. Questions

- a. Why do you think Paul described himself as an apostle of Christ by the will of God in those two letters to the Corinthians? Compare with the Romans and Philippians.
- b. Paul experienced the comforting God in the midst of sufferings (vv. 3-5). Have you also experienced comfort from God?
- c. What hardships did Paul suffer in the province of Asia? Read 2 Cor. 11:24-27 and answer to this question: why do you think Paul shared his hardships?
- d. What would God want us to do if we were in sufferings like Paul?
- e. What is the difference between worldly wisdom and God's grace in our ministry?  
(v. 12)

#### 6. Read 2 Cor. Ch. 2

#### 7. Questions

- a. Why do you think Paul wrote that his visitation would make the Corinth church grieve? (vv. 1-3)
- b. How do you understand verse 5 and 6 which sound contradictory?
- c. What does verse 12 mean? Who is Titus? Read 2 Cor. 7:5-8 and 15-16.
- d. What do you imagine in "triumphal procession" in verse 14?
- e. How do you understand that the scent of Christ can be either a smell of death or a fragrance of life?
- f. How shall we understand "peddling" in verse 17? Read Isaiah 1:22.

#### 8. Closing Prayer