

# NO MATTER WHAT

A Study in Philippians.  
A Challenge in Joy.



**LUNCH LESSONS** *with Pastor Jody*



**REVELATION**

**THE RETURNING KING**

**This Thursday @ Noon; Middle School Room**



1092 Collected at Church  
+ 1988 Packed @ Warehouse  
+ 98 Build a Shoebox Online

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**= 3178 Total Shoeboxes!**

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a prison cell. A barred window in the upper right corner allows a bright beam of light to stream across the dark floor, creating a path of light and shadow. The walls and floor are dark, and the overall mood is somber and confined.

# **NO MATTER WHAT:**

**It's All About  
The Gospel**

Philippians 1:12-30

# Philippians 1:12-30

12

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the Gospel without fear.

# Philippians 1:12-30

15

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the Gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

# Philippians 1:12-30

18

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.

# Philippians 1:12-30

22

Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.



# Philippians 1:12-30

27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

# Philippians 1:12-30

28

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.



Paul took his First Missionary Journey  
in 47-48AD.



Paul first visited Philippi on his Second Missionary Journey in 50AD.



Paul revisited Philippi on his  
Third Missionary Journey in 55AD.



MACEDONIA

Rome

Thessalonica

Philippi

Byzantium

BITHYNIA

MYSIA

TURKEY

Troas

ACHAIA

Corinth

ASIA

Antioch

GALATIA

Ephesus

Lystra

Tarsus

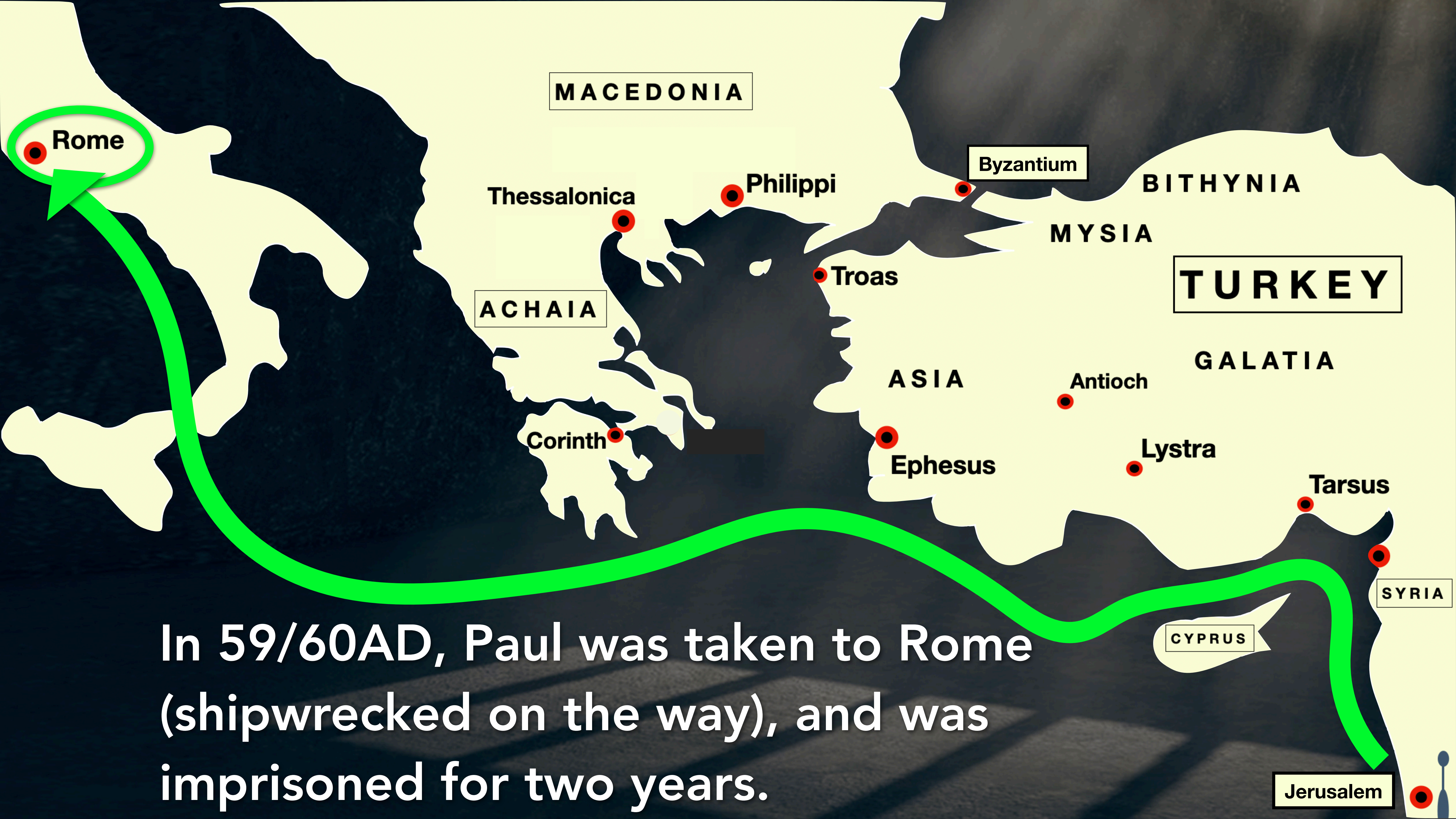
SYRIA

CYPRUS

In 57AD Paul was arrested in Jerusalem,  
and sat in prison for 2 years in Caesarea.

Caesarea

Jerusalem



In 59/60AD, Paul was taken to Rome (shipwrecked on the way), and was imprisoned for two years.



It was during these two years that Paul wrote four letters that we now call the "Prison Epistles."  
(Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon)





By far...Paul's most joyful and upbeat letter is the letter he wrote from prison to the church in Philippi.

Jerusalem

How do you keep a Positive Mental Attitude when you're sitting in prison, facing execution—and you haven't really done anything wrong?

- You meditate on Scripture.

Do you remember the story of Joseph  
way back in Genesis?

He was sitting in prison for ten years—  
and he hadn't done anything wrong.

## Genesis 50:19-20

But Joseph said to them,

“Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?

You intended to harm me, but God

intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

**This is one of the most  
remarkable statements of faith  
anywhere in the Bible!**

God is working for the good.  
Even when everything seems  
to be going bad.

Joseph saw this in hindsight.  
Paul sees it in real time.

**Paul is facing two basic problems:**

**1. He's in prison.**

**2. People are talking about  
Jesus—but in negative ways.**

**(vv. 15-17)**

Faith is having confidence  
in God's surpassing power,  
even when it appears that  
everything is going wrong.

(v. 18)



How often do we get discouraged when our plans don't work out the way we want—  
or when other people make life really tough for us?



But what seem like lower story  
problems...  
are really upper story  
opportunities.

*“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel.”*

*Philippians 1:12*

*served to advance* **the Gospel**

What we live for is more  
important than how long we live.

For Paul—

It's all about the Gospel.

**“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”**

**Philippians 1:27**

Are you looking for purpose  
in 2023?

There is no greater purpose...  
no greater Truth...  
than the Gospel.

Receive it.

Believe it.

Proclaim it.



*"Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

