



This tour has made an impact on my preaching, teaching and study of Paul's letters. I have a deeper of the early church and what Paul was experiencing. My continued study of Paul will be

greatly enhanced. I also gained friendships that will continue to grow as we explore Paul and the gospels together in our different contexts. I pray that many others can experience this life changing tour.

The Rev. Paul Malek
Bethel Lutheran, Firth, ID

IN SEARCH OF PAUL

Odyssey: a long journey usually marked by change; an intellectual or spiritual wandering or quest.

Travel to the Aegean basin and search for the Paul of the 1st century.

Contemporary Biblical scholars often describe four "Pauls":

- The Paul of the autograph letters: Philemon, 1 Thessalonians, Philippians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans.
- The "Paul" of the pastorals: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.
- The "Paul" of Ephesians, Colossians, and 2 Thessalonians.
- The "traditional Paul" of Acts.

Lutherans and other churches of the Reformation may also have a "fifth Paul" - the "Paul" of the 16th century.

Is the "Reformation Paul" the "genuine Paul"? What did Paul understand justice, righteousness, salvation, faith, law, and gospel as he wrote to diverse urban people living in a society dominated by patronage and Roman Imperial Theology? What does a 1st century gospel mean in a 21st century context? These are the questions we will explore.

Participants will commit to advance reading so there will be common ground for discussion.

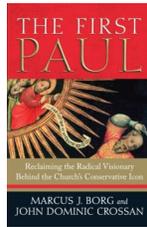
- Read the **essential** books on the reading list, and other articles that will be shared electronically.
- Read Paul's seven autographs as a holistic letters, not as a pericope source. What is each one "up to"?
- Read Acts. What is the author "up to" in the second volume of Luke-Acts?
- Participate in three pre-trip online orientation and discussion Zoom meetings.

PLEASE NOTE

1) Many "tourist sites" are visited, but this is not primarily a "sight-seeing tour". It is a 1st century emersion in which participants, through reflection and conversation, grow in their understanding of Paul, his theology, and the context of the early "church". Proactive involvement is assumed.

2) The many archeological sites visited may have uneven footing, ramps, stairs, changes in elevation, and are certainly not ADA compliant. Some days may require 5000—10,000 footsteps. Almost 100 people of diverse ages (see pictures) have participated, but please inquire if you have questions or mobility issues.

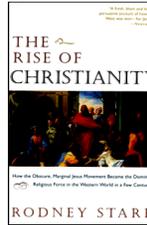
3. We travel over 1500 scenic miles by bus, ferry, and water taxi.



ESSENTIAL READING

[The First Paul](#) (Kindle available)

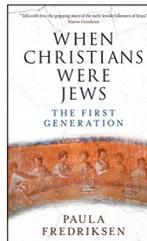
The book explores the widely accepted view that the later "letters of Paul" were created by the early church to dilute his message and make him more traditional to fit Roman norms in regards to slavery, patriarchy, and patronage. In truth, Paul was an apostle whose vision of life "in Christ" is faithful to the message of Jesus.



ESSENTIAL READING

[The Rise of Christianity](#) (unavailable in Kindle)

Stark asserts that Christianity's appeal in the empire arose from its offer of a better way of life; attracting the privileged, the poor, women, and marginalized Jews. "Christianity was a success because it provided those who joined it with a more appealing, more assuring, happier, and perhaps longer life".



ESSENTIAL READING

[When Christians Were Jews](#) (Kindle available)

Was the Jesus movement intended to supplant Judaism? Did Paul remain Jewish or become "Christian"? Was he "trinitarian"? How did he understand "son of God" and "messiah"? What about the temple? A look into the religious milieu of Jesus' message and Paul's gospel - through "pre-Nicene" eyes.

Resources for Digging Deeper

[The Authentic Letters of Paul](#) (Kindle available)

[In the Shadow of Empire](#) (Kindle available)

[In Search of Paul](#) (Kindle available)

[Son of God in the Roman World](#) (unavailable in Kindle)

[Speaking Christian](#) (Kindle available)

[Ten Caesars](#) (Kindle available)

[The Real Paul](#) (Kindle available)

[Paul: the Pagan's' Apostle](#) (Kindle available)



Friends in Christ,

This picture was taken during our first trip in 2014. We had just finished the Greece portion of our "search for Paul" and were leaving the port of Skala on Patmos, heading for Kusadasi in Turkey. A week of new sites, insights, fun, and fellowship still lay ahead of us.

In subsequent years, it has been a privilege to continue to host these trips, getting to know many wonderful fellow travelers. We continue to be blessed with our knowledgeable and personable guides, Voula and Cenk, who understand what we are "up to" and plan accordingly.

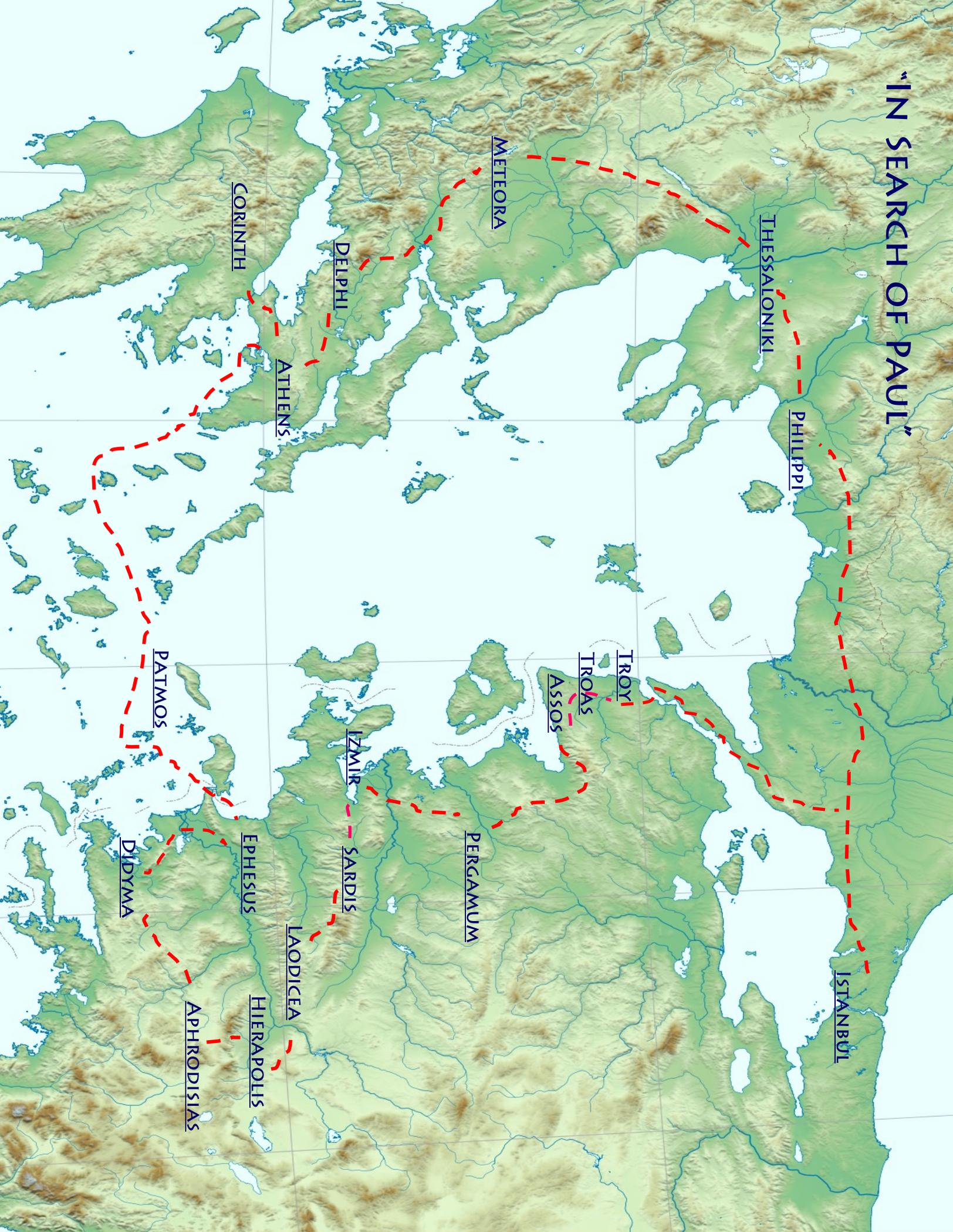
Using evaluations from the last six years, the itinerary and schedule have been fine-tuned. And don't worry about safety. In western Turkey and eastern Greece, our people have always felt very comfortable and secure.

I hope that you will consider being a part of this educational and spiritual opportunity. If you have questions, please email me at donmcarlson@gmail.com.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Don Carlson

"IN SEARCH OF PAUL"



ISTANBUL

PHILIPPI

THESSALONIKI

TROY

TROAS

ASSOS

PERGAMUM

IZMIR

SARDIS

LAODICEA

EPHESUS

HIERAPOLIS

APHRODISIAS

DIDYMA

PATMOS

ATHENS

DELPHI

CORINTH

METEORA