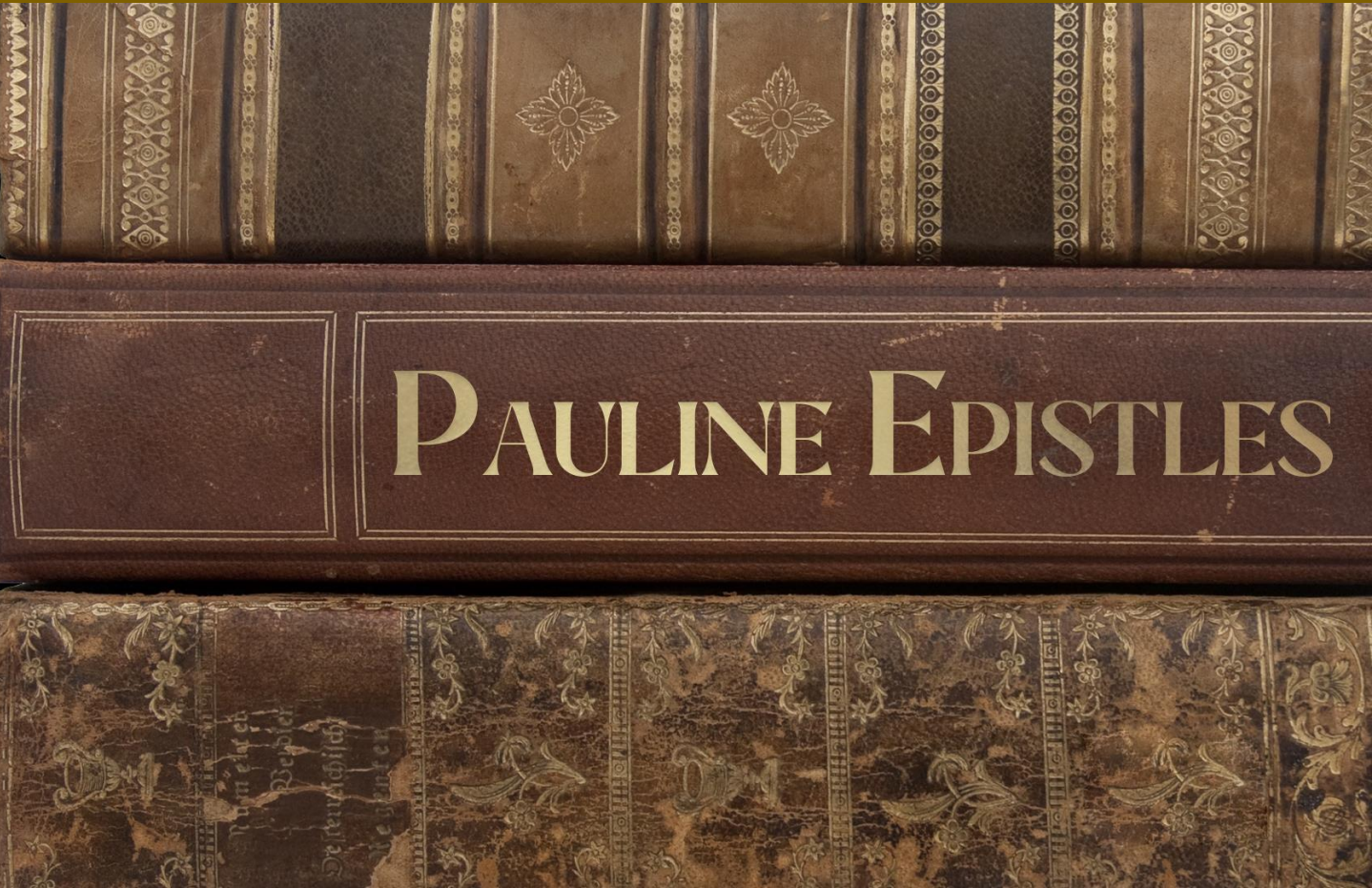
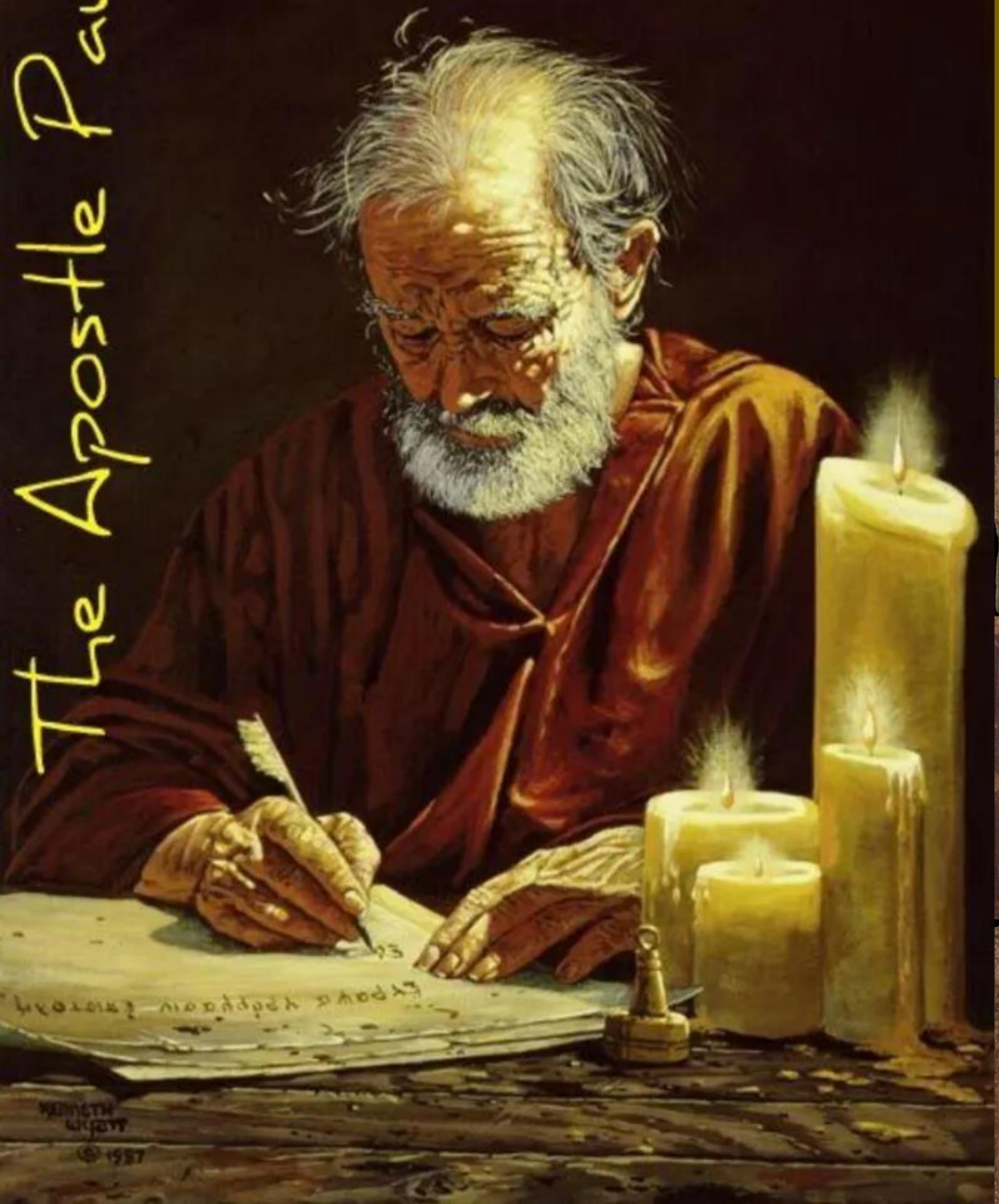
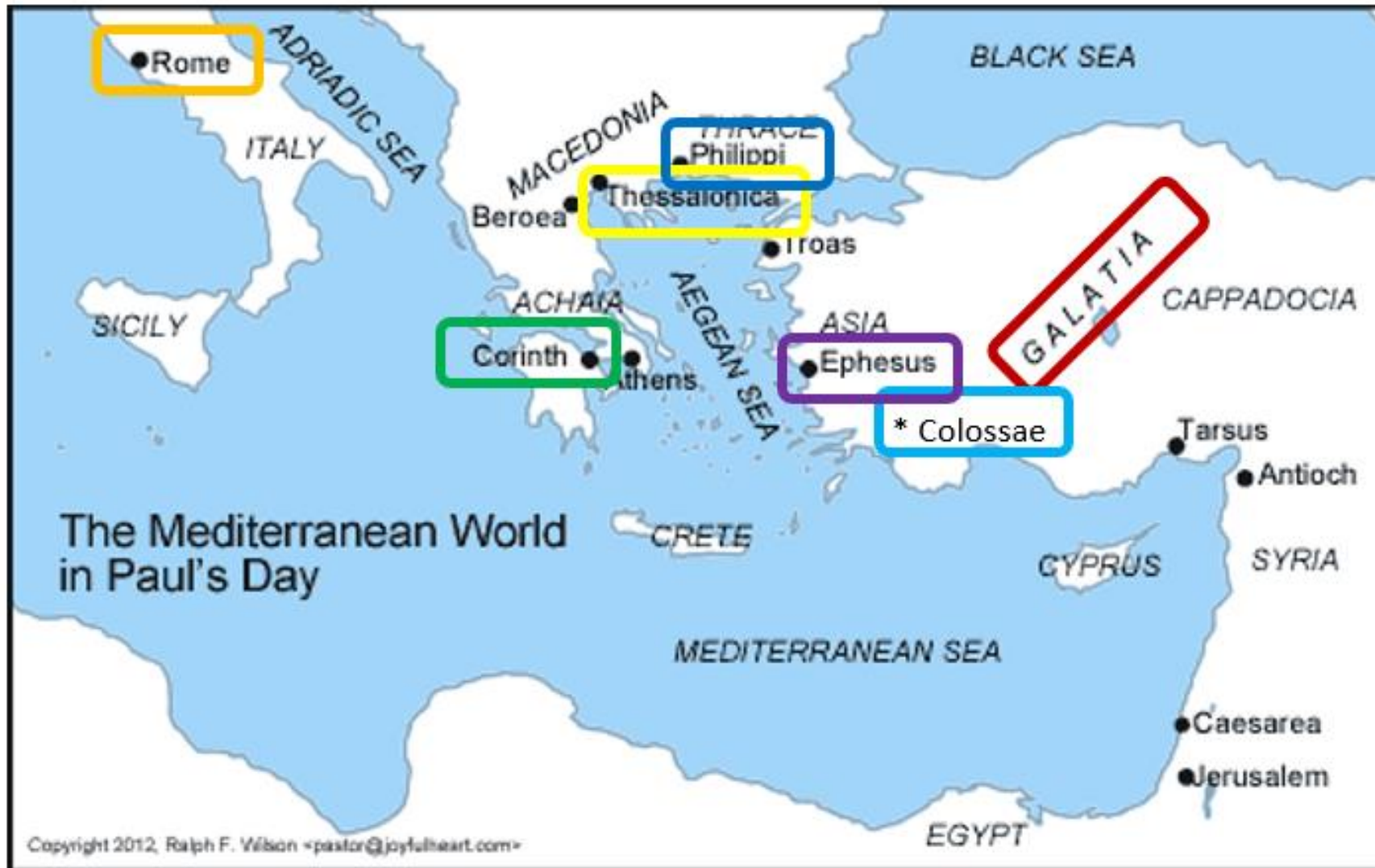


The Apostle Paul





9 letters to 7 churches

4 letters to 3 individuals: Timothy, Titus, Philemon

Pauline Themes



Suffering and
Perseverance

Worship

Grace

Righteous
living

False
teaching

Fruit of the
Spirit

Holy Spirit

Return of
Christ

Discipleship

Suffering and Perseverance

- Suffering is part of a fallen nature.
- “For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Heb. 12:2,3).
- “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).



Worship

- Worship is the awed response to the saving acts and praiseworthy character of God.
- Worship is much more than singing for a few minutes on Sunday morning.
- “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1).



Grace

- Greeting and closing of every letter.
- “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Eph. 2:8,9).
- Calls for our action
 - Gratitude
 - Extend grace to others
 - Righteous living



Righteous Living

- “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (Eph. 4:1).
- Flesh vs Spirit
- “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27).



False Teaching and Heresy

- “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them” (Rom. 16:17).



Fruit of the Spirit

- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Gal. 5:22, 23).



Holy Spirit

- The work of the trinity in Romans:
 - The judgment of God, the Father, on sin.
 - 1:18-3:20
 - The atoning work of the Son
 - 3:21-7:25
 - The freedom and guidance of the spirit
 - 8:1-39
- “For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live” (Rom. 8:13).
- “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Cor. 12).



Return of Christ

- “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thess. 4:16,17)
- “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Phil 3:20,21).



DISCIPLESHIP



Preaching and Teaching



Entrust these things to faithful men
who will be able to teach others also.
2 Timothy 2:2

Preach the word;
be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage—
with great patience and careful instruction.

2 Timothy 4:2

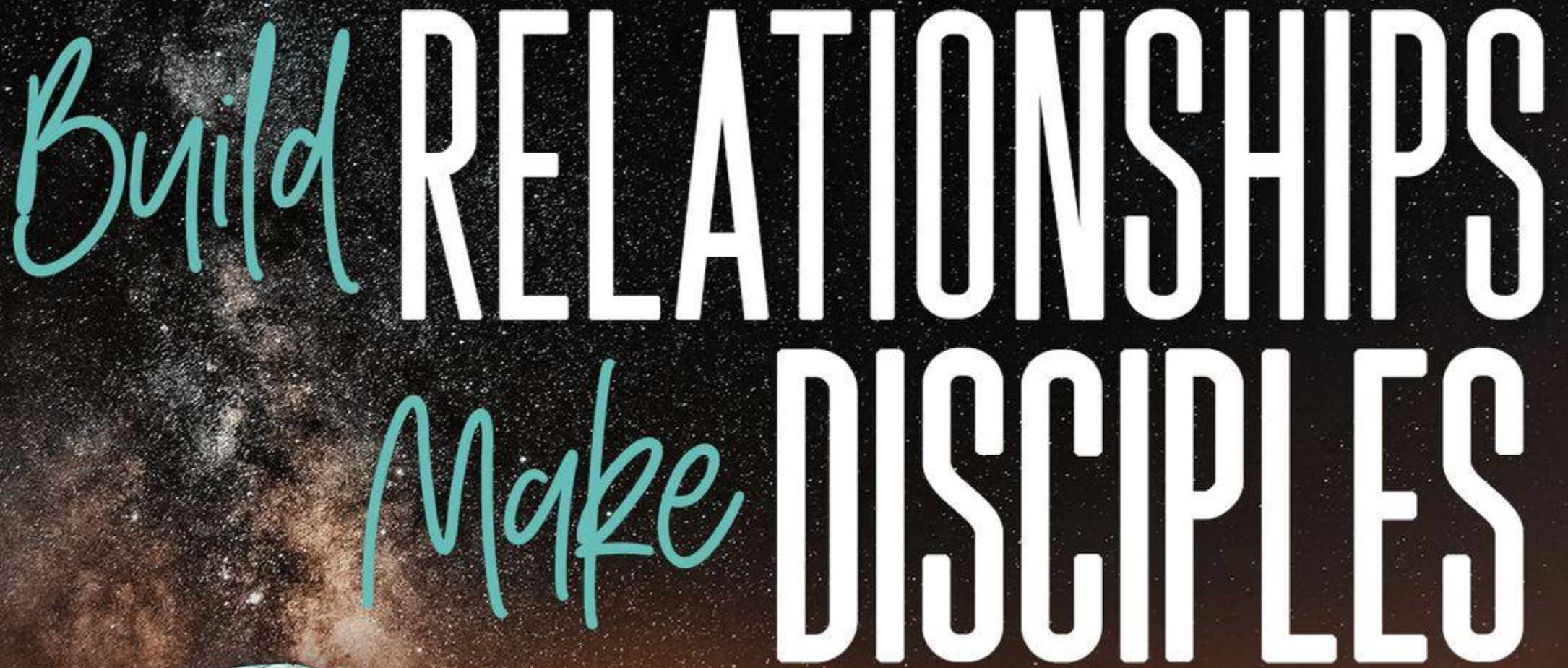


AND WE ALSO THANK GOD CONSTANTLY
FOR THIS, THAT WHEN YOU RECEIVED
THE WORD OF GOD...

YOU ACCEPTED IT NOT
AS THE WORD OF MEN
BUT AS WHAT IT
REALLY IS, THE
WORD OF GOD

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 ESV





Build RELATIONSHIPS
Make DISCIPLES

Building Strong Relationships

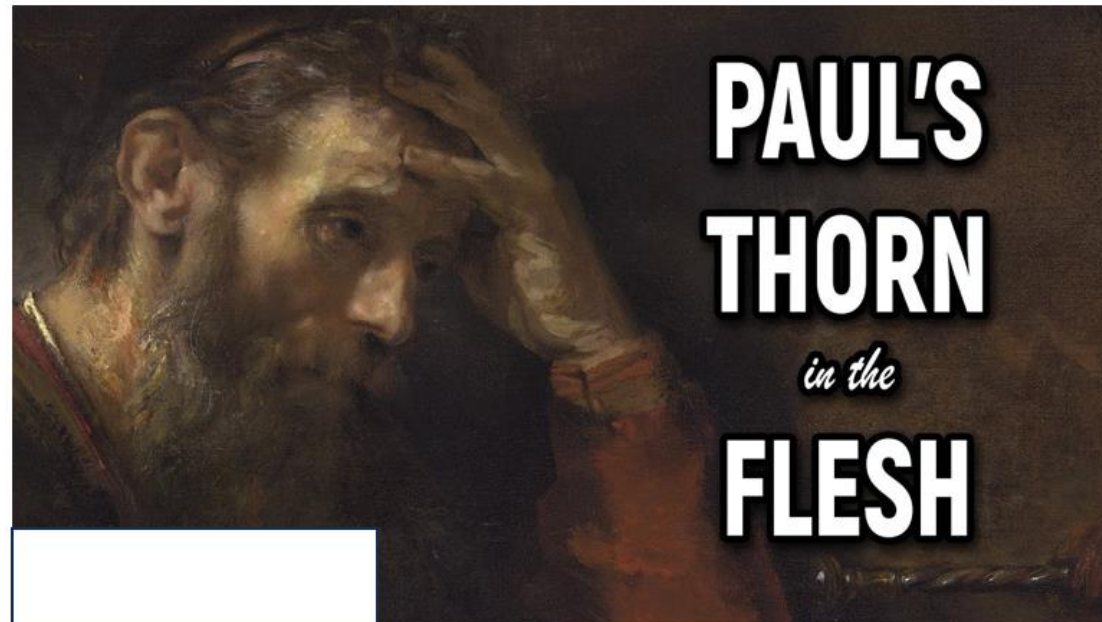



Persistent Prayer

- “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...” ([Colossians 1:3](#))
- “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...” ([Col. 1:9](#))
- “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you...” ([Romans 1:8-10](#))
- “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus...” ([1 Corinthians 1:4](#))
- “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...” ([Ephesians 1:16](#))
- “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy...” ([Philippians 1:3-4](#))
- “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers...” ([1 Thessalonians 1:2-3a](#))
- We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right...” ([2 Thess. 1:3](#))
- “I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.” ([2 Tim. 1:3](#))
- “I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers...” ([Philemon 1:4](#))

Humble, Candid, and Transparent

- “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor. 4:1,2).





I PRESS ON TOWARD THE
GOAL FOR THE **PRIZE** OF
THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

A Plan, a
Goal, and
Flexibility

Set an Example Worth Following

1 Cor. 11:1

"Follow my example..."



...as I follow the example of Christ."



Ministry Team

Seminary at Ephesus

⁸ And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, having discussions and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took the disciples away *with him*, and had discussions daily in the school (lecture hall) of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks



Paul's traveling companions listed by name

- Timothy (Lystra, 11 letters)
- Luke (Antioch Syria, author, Dr.)
- Barnabas (Cypress)
- Silas / Silvanus (Jerusalem)
- John Mark (Jerusalem)
- Aristarchus (Thessalonica)
- Jason (Thessalonica)
- Epaphras (Colossae)
- Onesimus (Colossae, Philemon)
- Sopator / Sosipater (Iconium / Berea)
- Sostenes (Corinth, co-author of 1st Cor.)
- Erastus (Corinth)
- Gaius (Corinth / Ephesus)
- Trophimus (Ephesus)
- Tychicus (Ephesus)

The Holy Spirit

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.



Bringing it all together:

1 Thessalonians 2



2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. **2** We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. **6** We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. **7** Instead, we were like young children among you.



1 Thessalonians 2

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.



1 Thessalonians 2

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶ in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.



1 Thessalonians 2

¹⁷ But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. ¹⁸ For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰ Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

Themes and Key Takeaways



