

**CHURCHES THAT RESULTED**

**FROM PAUL'S TEACHING**

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## **INTRODUCTION TO MATERIAL**

### **Subject matter**

These 13 lessons present a picture of churches that resulted from Paul's teaching on his three journeys: their strengths, their weaknesses, the conditions that brought Paul joy, the conditions that brought him sadness and concern.

### **Approach**

As we consider each church, we will look at its beginning (familiar material to most of the class), then consider through Paul's letter to the church what its condition was as time went by after Paul's departure.

### **Purpose**

Our purpose is to bring us to think about the church of which we are a part and to encourage all of us to work toward making it a church that is pleasing to our Lord.

## LESSON #1: CHURCHES OF GALATIA

### Introduction

It is generally thought that the "churches of Galatia" included churches in Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and possibly others. These churches were begun on Paul's first journey.

*Answer the following questions briefly*

1. Who accompanied Paul on this first journey? Acts 13:1-3
2. Who started with them on the journey? Acts 13:5
3. What happened at Perga? Acts 13:13
4. What is said in Acts 14:23, indicating their success as they preached in Galatia?
5. Consider Acts 15:36-41. Who accompanied Paul on the second journey?
6. Why was Barnabas not with him?
7. As they traveled through Galatia what did they deliver to the churches? Acts 16:4-5
8. Consider Acts 15:24-29. What was not required of the Gentiles according to these decrees?

What four things were required?

### Paul later wrote to these churches

9. According to Gal. 1:6-7 these churches were being affected by a perverted gospel. What was the specific teaching that was affecting them, according to Gal. 5:1-6?

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10. Read Gal. 1:11-24. What doubts concerning Paul had the false teachers raised before introducing their error?

Why would they do this?

11. The Galatians had received clear instructions concerning circumcision, but are now being led astray. What practical lesson can we learn from this fact?

12. What other practical lessons can we learn from this study?

**LESSON #2: THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI – ITS BEGINNING**

*Answer the following questions from Acts, chapter 16*

1. As Paul, Silas, and Timothy continued on Paul's second journey, why did they not preach in Asia and Bithynia? Verses 6-7
2. What happened at Troas, causing them to go into Macedonia? Verses 8-10
3. Who joined them in Troas (Observe the change in pronouns in verse 10)?
4. Where did Paul and his companions go on the Sabbath after they arrived in Philippi? Verses 11-13
5. Who was converted as a result? Verses 14-15
6. What caused Paul and Silas to be cast into prison? Verses 16-24
7. What happened at midnight? Verses 25-26
8. Who was converted on this occasion? Verses 27-34
9. Major cultural, religious background, and possibly ethnic differences existed between Lydia and the jailor. What differences do you see?
10. As they, along with others, form the church in Philippi, how could they find unity with all the differences that existed among them?

**LESSON #3: THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI – SPECIAL TO PAUL**

*Answer the following questions from the book of Philippians*

1. What expressions are used in Phil. 4:1 that indicate how special the Philippian church was to Paul?
2. "Name" two people who were possibly in the audience when this letter was read to the church.

Would they all have had a copy of the letter?

3. Give evidence from the book of Philippians that Paul was in prison when he wrote.
4. What is said in 1:1 indicating the spiritual development of this church?
5. What had the church just done, prompting the writing of this letter? 4:18

In doing so they had shared in Paul's \_\_\_\_\_, according to 4:14.

6. Had this church helped Paul on other occasions? 4:15-16

Explain.

7. Who delivered the gift to Paul on this occasion? 4:18

What had happened to him while on this mission? 2:25-29

8. As great as this church was, it had a weakness. What did they need to do to fulfill Paul's joy (make his joy complete - NASB)? 2:1-2

9. How was this to be done? 2:3-4



**LESSON #4: THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA – ITS BEGINNING**

*Answer the following questions briefly*

1. As Paul continued his travels, who stayed behind in Philippi (Observe the change in pronouns in Acts 17:1)?

What three men travel on to Thessalonica?

2. Observe the contrast between “some” in Acts 17:4 and “many” in Acts 17:12. What does this indicate about the Jews in Thessalonica?

3. What group of people stirred up persecution against the Christians? Acts 17:5

What motivated them?

4. Why was Jason especially singled out for this persecution? Acts 17:5-9

Was he alone?

5. What did the Thessalonian Christians do for Paul and Silas? Acts 17:10

6. Consider 1 Thess. 3:1-5. Is it surprising that when Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he would mention their persecutions?

In fact, whom had Paul sent to Thessalonica to see how they were handling their persecutions?

7. What report did he give when he returned to Paul? 1 Thess. 3:6-8

8. Who had wanted to go? 1 Thess. 2:17-18

Why had he not gone?



## Churches That Resulted From Paul's Teaching

9. In leaving Thessalonica when persecution arose, was Paul acting cowardly? In answering consider the mistreatment Paul spoke of in 1 Thess. 2:1,2 that would have prevented a weaker man from going to Thessalonica in the first place.
  
10. Two other men besides Jason are associated with the church in Thessalonica in Acts 20:4. Name them.

**LESSON #5: THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA – ACTIVE FROM THE BEGINNING**

*Answer the following questions from First and Second Thessalonians*

1. This church was also special to Paul. What expressions are found in 1 Thess. 2:19-20 that show this?
2. Consider 1 Thess. 2:13. Had Paul preached to these people?  
Had they received the word?  
What was the word accomplishing in them?
3. What are three things Paul remembered about them? 1 Thess. 1:3
4. What is said in 1 Thess. 5:12-13 that shows their spiritual development as a church?
5. What is said in 1 Thess. 1:8 that indicates their zeal for evangelism?  
Their faith?
6. For what were they waiting? 1 Thess. 1:9-10
7. **Research Question:** Find other passages in the New Testament that encourage God's people to eagerly wait for the Lord's return.

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8. As good as this church was, they had need for further instruction and encouragement. State in brief terms what subjects are discussed in the following passages:

1 Thess. 4:3-8 -

1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6-15 -

1 Thess. 4:13 - 5:11 -

9. In what did Paul want them to increase? 1 Thess. 4:9-10?

What is said in 2 Thess. 1:3 along this line?

10. What word would you use to describe Paul's emotions as he wrote the Thessalonians?

**LESSON #6: THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – ITS BEGINNING**

*Answer the following questions from Acts, chapters 17 and 18*

1. Why did many Jews believe in Berea? Acts 17:10-12.

Were they alone in their reception of the gospel?

2. Were there converts in Athens?

Name two. Acts 17:34

We know nothing more about the churches in Berea and Athens, so we move on in our study to Corinth.

3. Corinth was a very immoral city. Describe the conditions that contributed to its immorality (Use a Bible dictionary if necessary).

4. With what success did Paul preach in Corinth? Acts 18:8

5. Who apparently was the first convert? 1 Cor. 16:15

Discuss the courage and faith required to be the first convert in any place.

6. What did the Lord say to Paul in a vision? Acts 18:9-10

7. How long did he stay? Acts 18:11

8. How did Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia, react to the Jews' charges against Paul? Acts 18:12-17?

How did he react when Sosthenes was beaten?

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9. Consider Acts 18:12. In what province was Corinth located?
  
10. We can name several members of the church in Corinth. Considering the following verses, name some of them: Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:10-16; 1 Cor, 16:17-18.

**LESSON #7: THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – PROBLEMS**

*Answer the following questions from First Corinthians*

1. Had Paul preached the gospel to the Corinthians? 1 Cor. 15:1  
Had they received his teaching?
2. When we think of the church in Corinth, we think of problems in the group. From what two sources had Paul learned of their problems? 1:11; 7:1
3. Consider 1 Cor. 1:1-17; also 7:1. List several things said in these verses indicating the church was not all bad.
4. One of the saddest things about the church is that seemingly they were unconcerned about some of their problems. What term is used again and again indicating their lack of concern? 4:6; 5:2; 8:1 See also this attitude among some with spiritual gifts in chapter 12.
5. What is said of love in regards to this attitude in 13:4?
6. It is hard to determine what their greatest problem was, but it might have been that of chapter 5. What problem was discussed in that chapter?
7. What was this man's relationship to the church? 5:1-2, 13
8. What was said of his influence? 5:6
9. What instructions were given to the church regarding him? 5:9-11, 13

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10. What great purpose was to be behind this action? 5:4-5

11. What word would you choose to describe Paul's emotions as he wrote this letter?

After writing your answer, consider Paul's own statement in 2 Cor. 2:4.

**LESSON #8: THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – PROBLEMS  
CORRECTED**

*Answer the following questions from Second Corinthians*

1. Consider 2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7. Whom had Paul sent to gauge the response of the Corinthians to his first letter?

Where had they originally planned to meet?

Where did they meet?

2. What is said in 2:6-11 that indicates the Corinthians had reacted positively to Paul's letter?

3. Was this the only correction they had made? 7:8-11

4. What word would you use to describe Paul's emotions as he wrote of their repentance?

After writing your answer, consider the word Paul uses in 1:4 and 7:6.

5. All was not good, however, in Corinth. False teachers were affecting the church. To be effective they had to discredit Paul. State some things they said of Paul in 10:10; 11:5-9.

6. Look back at Lesson #1, question #10. Do you see a pattern in the approach used by false teachers?

Explain.

7. What were some things Paul said about these false teachers? 10:12; 11:13-15; 11:20.



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8. Discuss the similarities between Gal. 1:8-9 and 2 Cor. 11:4.
  
9. Paul defends his credentials in the following passages. Briefly state his defense in each one:
  - 2 Cor. 11:22-33 -
  
  - 2 Cor. 12:12 -
  
  - 2 Cor. 13:5 -
  
10. What word would you use to describe Paul's emotions as he wrote these final four chapters?

**LESSON #9: CHURCHES OF MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA – MONEY FOR THE POOR SAINTS**

During the latter part of Paul's third journey, churches of Macedonia and Achaia collected funds for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

*Answer the following questions concerning this benevolent work*

1. How was the money to be raised? 1 Cor. 16:1-2
2. List some of the churches of Macedonia and Achaia.
3. Give evidence that other churches were probably involved in this work other than the churches of Macedonia and Achaia. 1 Cor. 16:1; Acts 20:1-4
4. How eager were the churches of Macedonia to help? 2 Cor. 8:1-5
5. At what point had the church in Corinth agreed to participate? 2 Cor. 8:10-11
6. The church in Corinth was being neglectful in collecting their funds. What embarrassing situation was Paul hoping to avoid? 2 Cor. 9:1-5
7. What is said in 2 Cor. 9:6-7 concerning the giving?
8. What choice was given to each church as to who would be carrying the funds? 1 Cor. 16:3

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9. What broad class of people was raising the funds?

What broad class was receiving the funds?

So, this project would hopefully bring about better relations between what two classes of people?

10. In Romans 15:25-31 Paul wrote about this contribution. What concern did he express in verses 30-31?

11. What was the Holy Spirit indicating concerning Paul on this journey? Acts 20:22-24; 21:8-14

What was Paul's attitude about this?

12. With whom did Paul and his companions meet the very next day after their arrival in Jerusalem? Acts 21:15-18

Consider an earlier occasion when brethren in Antioch sent aid to Judea. To whom were the funds delivered on that occasion? Acts 11:27-30

Are we seeing a pattern?

Discuss this. Observe also that the funds were delivered to the elders **where the need existed**.

13. How did the Jewish Christians respond? Acts 21:17, 20

**LESSON #10: CHURCH AT EPHESUS – ITS BEGINNING**

*Answer the following questions from Acts, chapters 18 and 19*

1. As Paul was bringing his second journey to an end, whom did he leave in Ephesus?

Did he himself do any teaching at the time? Acts 18:18-22

2. Before Paul returned, what good work did Aquila and Priscilla do? 18:24-26

3. Discuss briefly the courage and faith required for them to do this work?

4. What was lacking in the teaching the 12 men had received in Ephesus? 19:1-7

Were they “rebaptized”?

5. What two spiritual gifts did they receive?

What action on Paul's part was necessary for them to receive these gifts? 19:6

6. What term is used to identify the seven sons of Sceva in 19:13?

What resulted in their attempt to cast out demons in the name of Jesus? 19:13-20

7. Give evidence of the genuineness of the conversions that took place in Ephesus?

8. What is said in 19:20 of the success of the gospel in Ephesus?

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9. What other evidence is given of the successful preaching of the gospel in that area?  
19:21-27

10. Paul makes reference of his work in Ephesus in the letter to the Corinthians. What does he say in 1 Cor. 15:32?

In 1 Cor. 16:8-9?

11. How long did he stay in Ephesus, according to Acts 20:31?

12. Give the names of two disciples from Ephesus, found in Acts 21:29 and 2 Tim. 1:16-18.

**LESSON #11: THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS – DANGERS AHEAD**

*Answer the following questions briefly*

1. As Paul and his companions were traveling toward Jerusalem they stopped in Miletus. For whom did Paul send? Acts 20:17
  
2. What did Paul say of his teaching in Ephesus? Acts 20:20, 26-27
  
3. With what emotion had he done this teaching? Acts 20:19, 31  
What is said in these same verses concerning the diligence with which he had taught?
  
4. What did he say would occur in Ephesus? Acts 20:29-30
  
5. What was the responsibility of the elders as the church faced these dangers? Acts 20:28, 31
  
6. Describe the sadness of the occasion as Paul was leaving them to continue his journey. Acts 20:36-38
  
7. On a later occasion Paul left Timothy in Ephesus. What was Timothy to do there? 1 Tim. 1:3-4
  
8. What did Paul say of some of the teachers? 1 Tim. 1:6-7
  
9. What warning did Paul give to Timothy? 1 Tim. 6:20-21
  
10. Consider Ephesians 6:10-18. By what means would the Ephesians (and all of us) be able to overcome the forces of evil?

## LESSON #12: THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS – WEAKNESS

*Answer the following questions from the book of Revelation*

1. Consider the description of the Lord in 1:12-16. How did John react when he saw Him, according to verse 17?
2. What did the seven golden lampstands (candlesticks) represent? 1:20
3. Did the Lord know the condition of the church in Ephesus? 2:2
4. What commendable things did the Lord say of the church's dealings with false teachers? 2:2, 6
5. Think back over lesson #11. What warnings had been given the church?  
  
Had they done well in this regard?
6. What commendable thing was said of them in 2:3?
7. **Thought Question:** What opinion do you think we would have of a church like this in our county?
8. What did the Lord have against them? 2:4
9. Because of this, what did the Lord say he would do to the church in Ephesus if they did not repent? 2:5
10. If this occurred, how many lampstands would be left?





**LESSON #13: PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THIS STUDY**

*Answer the following questions briefly*

1. What eventually happened to all the churches that resulted from the apostles' teaching?
2. Were the apostles aware that this would take place?

Be prepared to discuss the following passages: 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:2-4.

3. What did the apostles do to try to save some? 2 Peter 1:12-15; 2 Tim. 2:2; 2 Tim. 4:2- 8
4. Consider 2 Cor. 11:28. After listing the things he had suffered in his work for the Lord, what did Paul say occupied his time and emotions?

How often?

5. One of two things will eventually happen to this church: either it will cease to exist or it will depart from the faith. **Think!** Why do churches eventually depart from the faith?
6. What should we do hopefully to forestall such a departure?
7. Whatever might be the future of this church, what must be my major concern? 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:10

## Churches That Resulted From Paul's Teaching

8. The faithful citizen in any kingdom is always loyal to whom?

Who is our king?

What can we do in order to always be loyal to Him?

9. What can we do to help others to be loyal to Him?

10. List other practical applications to be seen in this series of 13 lessons.