

# THE STORY



## PAUL'S FINAL DAYS

Acts 20-23, 27-28 & II Timothy 1-4

### HERO & ZERO

Emperor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Apostle \_\_\_\_\_ were both in Rome around A.D. 66-67.

### RUNNING THE RACE

*"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."*

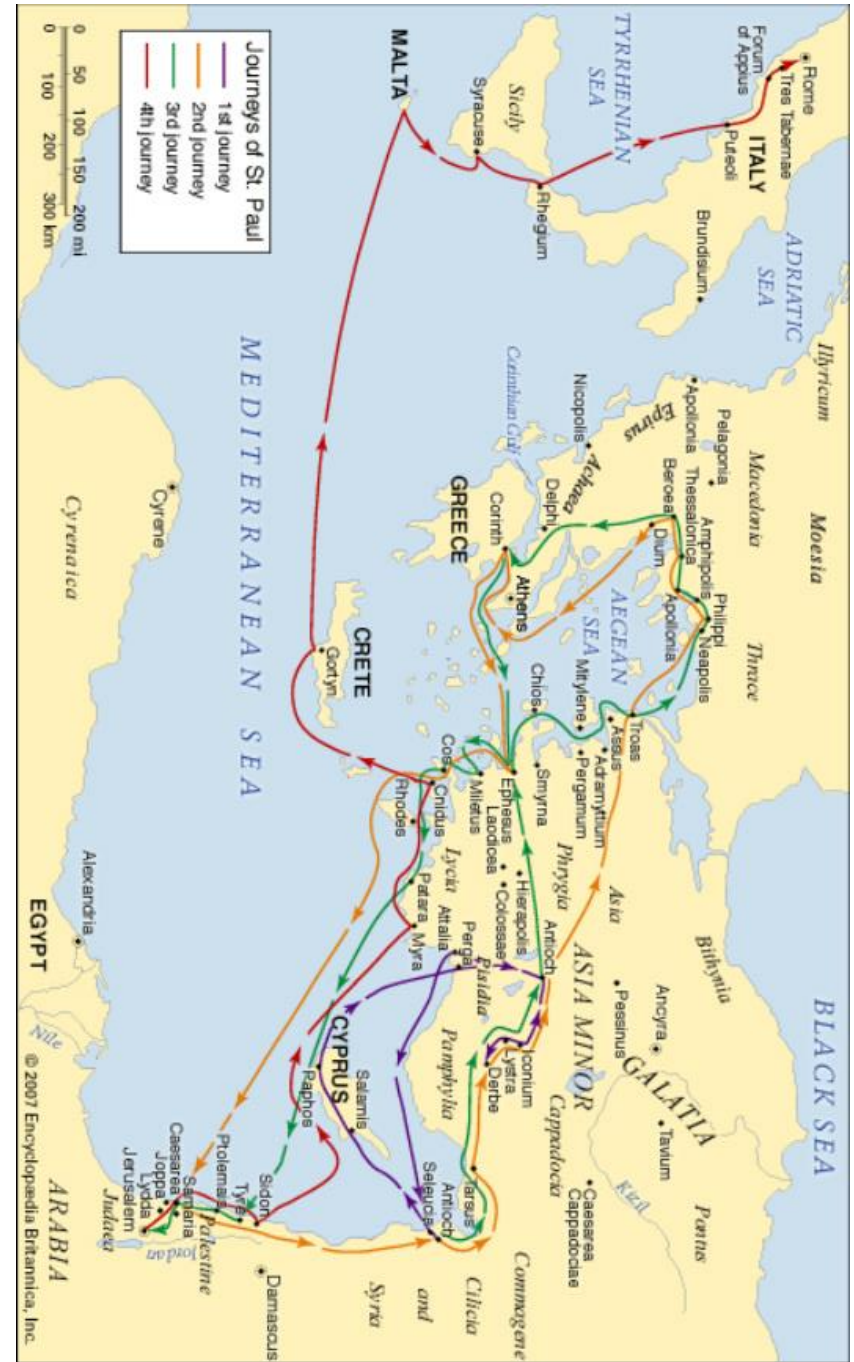
Acts 20:24

### THE FINAL LAP

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

II Timothy 4:7-8

Is what you're living for worth living for?



# THE STORY

Sermon on November 13, 2022

## Chapter 30 – Paul’s Final Days

### Getting to Know Me

1. What items/activities do you have on your Bucket List?
2. What do you want your great-great-great grandkids to say about you?

### Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn about Paul’s journey and life from *The Story* or hearing Pastor Phil’s sermon this past Sunday?
4. Read together Acts 20:22-24. What was Paul’s single focus in life according to these verses? As he faces the trials he knows are coming, how would you describe his demeanor?
5. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul uses the metaphors of running a race and fighting a fight to represent how he lives out his purpose in life. How does living as a Jesus-follower resemble running a race or competing in a fight?
6. Paul’s purpose was to “*declare to Jews and Gentiles that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in Jesus*” (Acts 20:21). What do you see your purpose as a Jesus-follower to be? What specific race are you running?

7. What character qualities do you see in Paul that are worth emulating? What practical steps can you take to cultivate character qualities that resemble Paul’s?

### Where Do I Go from Here?

8. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What practical steps do you see in these verses to help you run the race of following Jesus or help you live the life God has created you to live?
9. Every Jesus Follower is running the race of pursuing Jesus and growing in a relationship with him, but – at the same time – we all have a unique course to run. What race route do you believe God has set before you? Where do you see God calling you to grow or serve? What spiritual gifts has he given you to share with the world?
10. As this session of our Growth Group comes to a close, how can we support each other in running the race God has called us to run? What specific help, encouragement, or wisdom do you need to help you move forward with God’s plan for your life?

### Prayer

How has your faith grown as a result of studying *The Story* this year? Share briefly and then pray for God’s continued work in one another.

Read Paul’s prayer from Ephesians 3:16-21 as a prayer for your group.

*“We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”*

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