

TIMELINE OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 15:36-18:22)

AD 49-50 (Spring)

- **Antioch (Syria):** Paul and Barnabas part ways; Paul chooses Silas as companion (Acts 15:36-41)
- **Syria and Cilicia:** Strengthening churches (Acts 15:41)
- **Derbe and Lystra:** Timothy joins the team (Acts 16:1-5)
- **Phrygia and Galatia:** Preaching throughout the region (Acts 16:6)

AD 50 (Summer-Fall)

- **Troas:** Paul receives the Macedonian vision (Acts 16:8-10); Luke joins the party
- **Samothrace and Neapolis:** Brief stops en route to Macedonia (Acts 16:11)
- **Philippi:** Lydia converted; Paul and Silas imprisoned; jailer saved (Acts 16:12-40)
- **Amphipolis and Apollonia:** Traveling through Macedonia (Acts 17:1)
- **Thessalonica:** Ministry of approximately three weeks to three months (Acts 17:1-9)¹
- **Berea:** Noble reception; many believe (Acts 17:10-14)
- **Athens:** Paul reasons in the synagogue and Areopagus (Acts 17:15-34)

AD 50-51 (Late Fall/Winter through Spring AD 52)

- **Corinth:** Paul remains for eighteen months (Acts 18:1-11)²
 - Writes 1 Thessalonians (approximately AD 51)
 - Writes 2 Thessalonians (approximately AD 51-52)
 - Appears before Gallio (Acts 18:12-17)³

AD 52 (Spring-Summer)

- **Cenchrea:** Paul takes a vow (Acts 18:18)
- **Ephesus:** Brief visit; leaves Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:19-21)

- **Caesarea:** Greet the church (Acts 18:22)
- **Jerusalem:** Implied visit to fulfill vow (Acts 18:22)
- **Antioch (Syria):** Returns to sending church, ending the journey (Acts 18:22)

Total Duration: Approximately 3 years (AD 49-52)

Footnotes:

¹ The length of Paul's Thessalonian ministry is debated. Acts 17:2 mentions "three sabbath days," suggesting a minimum of three weeks. However, Philippians 4:16 indicates the Philippians sent support to Paul "even in Thessalonica" more than once, and 1 Thessalonians 2:9 and 2 Thessalonians 3:8 reference Paul working night and day to support himself, suggesting a longer stay of perhaps two to three months. See F. F. Bruce, *1 and 2 Thessalonians*, Word Biblical Commentary 45 (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1982), xxxiv-xxxv; Leon Morris, *The First and Second Epistles to the Thessalonians*, New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959), 24-25.

² Acts 18:11 states explicitly, "And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."

³ The Gallio inscription discovered at Delphi provides crucial chronological anchor for Pauline chronology. Gallio served as proconsul of Achaia from approximately AD 51-52, making Paul's appearance before him datable to this period. See Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, *St. Paul's Corinth: Texts and Archaeology*, 3rd ed. (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2002), 161-169; Rainer Riesner, *Paul's Early Period: Chronology, Mission Strategy, Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998), 199-208.