

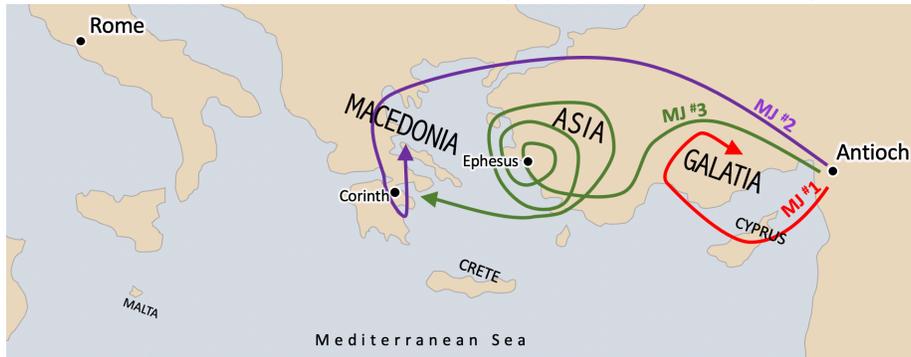
“VOICE OF PAUL-x-LUKE” SERIES

This series shows how the writings of the apostle Paul and his traveling-&-writing assistant Luke, all tie in together to construct “the basic frame of the entire New Testament” from 16 of its books. Under Paul’s unique influence, all these writings emphasize *God forging His People into a new kind of Followership whose “growth policy” involves embodying every kind of people & heritage.* It is within the framework of this people-building endeavor that (1) the Forgiving-&-Restoring Power of Jesus especially gets to be displayed, and where (2) its best participants are those whose lives have God’s Presence “pouring forth” within them.

study #25: Paul in Corinth Writes Romans as his Calling-Card

— covering **Acts 20:2-3** and **Romans 1:1-16 & 15:14—16:24** —

ACTION #1. Read **Acts 20:2-3**. In these 2 short verses about getting to “Greece” (specifically “Corinth”), Paul wrote the world-famous book of **Romans**. Discuss: *what can you recall Paul has accomplished before this point?*



ACTION #2. Many people think of *Romans* as *the book that best explains Christianity’s theology or thinking*. But **what might have been Paul’s motivation** to sit down and write it in the first place? One Answer: Remember how years earlier Paul had become the city of Antioch’s “apostle” and that he then used Antioch to launch all 3 of his missionary journeys? Well now, in exactly the same way, he wanted to become Rome’s apostle for the same purposes... thus he now begins by sharing with Rome his Teachings.

Read **Romans 1:8-15** and also **15:22-24** and then discuss in your group:

- in your own words how would you describe what Paul is saying in these verses?
- here at the start and end of his *Romans* letter, what particular plans does Paul express?
- in verses **1:11-12**, how does Paul describe the relational “method” of how he builds up other people?

ACTION #3. At the very end of his letter, Paul “name-drops” a couple dozen different Christian Leaders who are already living in Rome—saying to “greet them” for him. For just 1 minute on your own, *browse* through some of those names in **chapter 16**, then discuss as a group:

- how might Paul have come to know all these people in Rome even though he has never been there yet?
- hearing all these familiar names, how do you think *other* Romans began to feel about Paul’s coming visit?
- why do you think Paul felt it was a good idea to use *the rest* of his letter (all the middle chapters) for divulging his own version of Christian Theology/Thinking?

ACTION #4. Each person share briefly one final summary, personal take-away, “ah-ha!” insight, or new question or curiosity from today’s study—or, *how would you describe what *Romans* is all about?*

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Romans 1-8**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... (=daily reading + cover full NT+Psalms during series): read **GC** plus **John 1-6**