

Follow the Footsteps of Apostle Paul



RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY APRIL 26, 2012!

From Athens to Izmir

Highlights: Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and Lystra, where Paul was stoned and left for dead

Accompany Professor O. Palmer Robertson, author and Director of African Bible University of Uganda.

Professor Robertson will supplement our journey with teachings from "The Christ of the Consummation", a proposed sequel to "The Christ of the Covenants" and "The Christ of the Prophets".

June 25 – July 7, 2012

Includes: Round Trip Airfare From JFK, Breakfast and Dinner, 12 Nights Accommodations, English Speaking Guide, Luxury Motorcoach, Entrance Fees, Portage

STARTING FROM **\$3,648**

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Follow the Footsteps of Apostle Paul

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 - June 25th Depart the USA

Day 2 - June 26th Arrive in Athens

Day 3 - June 27th Corinth/Athens

In Corinth, the city where Paul met Aquilla and Priscilla, the tent makers, and where the Lord spoke to Paul by a vision saying, "I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18: 10). Here, Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue believed in the Lord, and many Corinthians as well hearing Paul, believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8); thus, began the church at Corinth to whom Paul wrote two epistles. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place and Temples. Walk among the ruins and stand on the Bema where Paul stood before Gallio facing charges brought by the Jews that were dropped. Enjoy the architectural splendors of the ancient city of Athens as you follow your guide to the world renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erectheum. View Mars Hill where the apostle Paul stood and said, "I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you" (Acts 17:23). See the Agora, the ancient market place and center of the Athenian public life, where the apostle Paul preached "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18) to the skeptical Athenians. Also see the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Day 4 - June 28th Meteora/Berea

Visit the rock forest of Meteora in western Thessaly and ponder the rough terrain in which the apostle Paul walked during his missionary journey. See famous Byzantine monasteries perch precariously on summits of soaring, sheer-sided grey rock pinnacles of varied and spectacular shapes. Their history goes back to the 14th century when the monks sought refuge in cliff-side caves, then fled higher to build the original wooden shelters, later transformed into monasteries. Visit one of these monasteries.

Day 5 - June 29th Thessaloniki/Philippi/Kavala

In Thessalonika, the city where Paul was accused of turning the world upside down by his preaching of Christ (Acts 17: 3-6), and the church to whom he addressed his Thessalonian epistles, visit St. George's Basilica, traditionally believed to be built over the synagogue where Paul preached. View the Old City Ramparts, and the Galerius Arch that rises over the Via Egnatia. Visit the Archaeological Museum. See two of the most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Sophia and St. Demetrios, dedicated to a distinguished member of the Roman army and a martyred Christian convert. Continue to Philippi, where Paul spoke to the women gathered by the stream. Lydia, the seller of purple, had her heart open to the words that he spoke (Acts 16) and became the first European convert to Christianity. This place is remembered with a small outdoor worship area. Nearby is a chapel whose acoustics will thrill your heart as you sing praises there! Further into Philippi, you will come across a chamber thought to have been where Paul was imprisoned here. See the famous Acropolis, Marketplace, Theater, and the remains of a great Christian Basilica that once served the Philippians.

Day 6 - June 30th Border/Istanbul

Cross the border into Turkey. You will have some time in Istanbul after crossing the border.

Day 7 - July 1st Istanbul

The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents and is home to 450 mosques. You will visit the famous Blue Mosque with its six minarets and sparkling interior. You will also visit the Topkapi Palace, once home to royal Sultans. Inside, you will see the fabled jewels of the Treasury, delicate displays of Chinese porcelain in the Kitchen Quarters, and the provocative Harem Quarters. Walk through St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia), which was the largest church in Christendom for 1000 years. Built by Justinian (532-537 A.D.), the church has 107 columns; fossil imbedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold.

Day 8 - July 2nd Pergamum/Thyatira/Sardis/Philadelphia

Early Morning flight to Pergamum. Pergamum was another of the seven churches mentioned in Revelations (Rev. 2: 12). It displeased the Lord because it tolerated the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes which Christ hated (Rev. 2:13-17). The fabled Acropolis towers 1000 feet above the town and commands a spectacular panorama. As you pass through the Royal Gates, you will enter one of the great centers of classic Greek culture. You will see the foundations of the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Athena, and the ruins of the Library which once held 200,000 parchment volumes. You will see the remains of the Temple of Trajan, the Grand Theatre, the Gymnasium, and the Health Center (Aesclepiion). Visit Thyatira once a busy trading center, famous as a "seller of purple". Today, it is famous for Persian rugs. Thyatira, one of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelations, tolerated the false prophetess, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Travel to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3: 1-6). Coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated in Sardis. You will be impressed by the massive scale of the Temple of Artemis, by the white marble Royal Road, by the gymnasium, and by the synagogue. Visit the site of Philadelphia

also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3: 7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem." (Rev.3: 12) Today, not much is left to mark the spot. You will see an ancient wall and the remains of a Byzantine basilica. Hierapolis is blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 9 - July 3rd Hierapolis/Laodicea/Colossae

Paul mentions Hierapolis in his Letter to the Colossians in saluting Epaphras, a fellow laborer, for his love of the brethren there (Colossians 4: 13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You will see the impressive amphitheatre with seats still in perfect condition. You will see the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches, which have stood through time and earthquakes. Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning "Cotton Castle", named for the limestone-laden hot springs which cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev. 3: 14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3: 20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock . . .". Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Famous as the receiver of Paul's Letter to the Colossians, the town of Colossae has fallen into obscurity. While you can still see traces of the theatre, the Necropolis and the Church, the ancient city is mostly indistinguishable ruins.

Day 10 - July 4th Pisidia/Antioch/Iconium/Lystra/Derbe

This "Antioch of Pisidia" is the second "Antioch" mentioned in Acts and visited by Paul. "Antioch of Syria" was the place to which many Jerusalem Christians fled after the persecution arose at the death of Stephen. In this Syrian Antioch, the early church first began to declare the gospel to non-Israelites. Here the disciples were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:19-21). Paul and Barnabas stayed in this Antioch for a year, where they taught many people (Acts 11: 22-26). Later this church commissioned Barnabas and Paul as the first Christian missionaries (Acts 13:1-5). In their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas first went through the island of Cyprus. Then they travelled to the other "Antioch," located in the region of Pisidia. A full report of Paul's first recorded sermon as preached in Antioch of Pisidia may be found in Acts 13:13-39. When persecution was stirred up against them, Paul and Barnabas then went to Iconium. Having heard of a plot to stone them, they fled to Lystra (Acts 13:50-14:7). In Lystra, Paul encountered a crippled man who had faith to be healed. The townspeople witnessed the miracle and declared that "the gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Paul did his best to dissuade the people from sacrificing to them (Acts 14:8-18). Later a crowd was stirred up against them. They stoned Paul and left him outside the city, thinking he was dead (Acts 14:19). But Paul got up, went back into the city, and left the next day for Derbe. This city lies 30 miles to the southeast of Lystra, and is the most easterly city visited by Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:20-23). Here the apostles preached the gospel and "made many disciples." One of their converts in Derbe was named Gaius, who later accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:4). After concluding their labors in Derbe, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, explaining that through many tribulations they must enter the kingdom of God, and establishing elders in every church (Acts. 14:21-23). They then returned to the church in "Antioch of Syria" that had originally commissioned them. They reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the nations (Acts 14:26-28). So the first missionary journey was completed. Quite possibly it was to these churches that Paul addressed his letter "to the churches in Galatia" (Gal. 1:2). He was "astounded" that they had turned so quickly from the God who had called them to another gospel, which was really no gospel at all! (Gal. 1:6).

Day 11 - July 5th Aspendos/Miletus/Kusadasi

The Aspendos amphitheater, known for its outstanding acoustics, is extremely well preserved and still in use today for special events. Visit the excavations at Miletus, where Paul bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus at the end of his Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20).

Day 12 July 6th Ephesus

Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1: 11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today, you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You will view the Library and the huge Agora. The Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You will visit the Basilica of St. John, traditional site of his grave. From the basilica, enjoy a commanding view of the area. You will visit the Museum of Ephesus for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. You will have time to explore this powerful city on your own and recreate some of the footsteps of Paul.

Day 12 - July 7th Izmir/Return Home

Return to USA