



October 1-13/16, 2024

Steps of Paul Cruise Tour

Hosted by Dr. Case Thorp



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October 1-13/16, 2024

Dear Travelers,

Frank and I are so delighted to join you on this exciting trip to Greece and Turkey in the footsteps of St. Paul. We will all miss Becky and Don! As our tour begins, We have designed the tour to be an enjoyable time of delving deeper into the world of the New Testament as we listen to Case's teachings throughout the trip. We also hope that as we explore the world that the Apostle Paul lived in and learn more about his relentless proclamation of the Gospel, that our faith will be deepened.

We have created this tour book as a companion to our trip, with extra information on the places we will visit and the scriptures relevant to each site.

Finally, we hope that we will return home from our tour refreshed and enriched in mind and spirit.

Prayerfully,
Frank and Rowena Drinkhouse,
Reformation Tours, Ltd





The Collaborative creates discipleship resources and experiences for Christ-centered professionals in the public square. Pilgrimage is a key *experience* we provide.

Pilgrimages incorporating fellowship, spiritual formation, and theological training are essential pillars in the journey of faith, each playing a crucial role in deepening one's relationship with the divine. Pilgrimage serves as a tangible expression of devotion, allowing believers to physically and spiritually reconnect with sacred traditions and places.

An essential component of pilgrimage is formation of the heart. Anyone can "travel" or "take a vacation", but this is different. Spiritual formation is the ongoing process of shaping one's inner life to reflect the character and teachings of Christ, cultivating virtues that sustain a faithful and purposeful life. And on the journey, we learn together. Theological and Scriptural training while on the journey equips believers with the knowledge and tools to understand, articulate, and defend their faith.

Together, these elements create a holistic approach to faith that nurtures both personal and communal spiritual vitality. Welcome to the journey.

Upcoming Trips: Hiking the Camino Santiago, Spain Men's Trip in October 2025.

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Table of Contents

Itinerary and Hotels

- Itinerary
- Thessaloniki
- Philippi & Kevala
- Berea & Mt. Olympus
- Meteora & Delphi
- Athens
- Windstar Cruise
- Mykonos
- Ephesus & Selçuk
- Patmos
- Santorini
- Monemvasia
- Nafplio
- Istanbul

Biblical References

- Passages from Acts
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- I and II Thessalonians
- Passages from Revelation

Background Information

- Greek gods
- Greek Orthodox Church
- St. Paul Timeline
- Maps of Paul's Journeys
- Paul's Inner Circle

Practical Information

- Climate & Electricity
- Language Basics
- Currency
- Fun Facts

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134 BX	20263869	Harold Armstrong	Marilyn Armstrong
205 AX	20297759	Craig Clayton	Barbara Clayton
207 AX	20297772	Paul Shiver	Beverly Shiver
217 AX	20300300	Bob Carter	Carol Carter
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For the yachting portion of the trip, we will be using Elysium as a hearing aid, if needed, while Dr. Thorp teaches. To access the audio feed, try either of these two options: Using the internet browser in your phone, go to www.join.guide and enter the PIN number provided on the trip. Or scan the QR code with your camera, and you will automatically be brought to the Elysium Waiting Room.



Meteora 1

Thessaloniki 2

Berea

Philippi

Kavala

3 Istanbul

Delphi

Athens

Ephesus

Nafplio

Mykonos

Patmos

Monemvasia

Santorini

7

Itinerary Summary

Key: IF = In Flight Meals, B= Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day	Date	Itinerary	Meals
1	Tue. Oct. 1	Overnight flight to Thessalonica / Pre-tour night	IF
2	Wed. Oct. 2	Arrival / Thessaloniki	B/D
3	Thu. Oct. 3	Philippi, Kavala, Thessaloniki	B/L/D
4	Fri. Oct. 4	Berea. Meteora, Kalambaka	B/D
5	Sat. Oct. 5	Delphi, Athens	B/D
6	Sun. Oct. 6	Athens, Cruise	B/D
7	Mon. Oct. 7	Mykonos, Cruise	B/L/D
8	Tue. Oct. 8	Ephesus, Kuşadası, Selçuk, Cruise	B/L/D
9	Wed. Oct. 9	Patmos, Cruise	B/L/D
10	Thu. Oct. 10	Santorini, Cruise	B/L/D
11	Fri. Oct. 11	Monemvasia, Cruise	B/L/D
12	Sat. Oct. 12	Nafplio, Cruise	B/L/D
13	Sun. Oct. 13	Departure / Istanbul	B/IF
14	Mon. Oct. 14	Istanbul	B
15	Tue. Oct. 15	Istanbul	B
16	Wed. Oct. 16	Departure	B/IF

Featured Hotels

October 2-4, 2024

Mediterranean Palace, Thessalonica

October 6-13, 2024

Wind Spirit Cruise Ship

October 4-5, 2024

Divani Meteora, Kalambaka

October 13-16, 2024

Swissotel Bosphorus, Istanbul

October 5-6, 2018

Divani Palace Acropolis, Athens



Itinerary and Hotels

Itinerary

Day 1: Tuesday, October 1, 2024: Depart

Some of the group will fly today. Those with a pre-tour will have private transfers to the hotel. Frank and Rowena will be in the hotel to welcome arrivals. **(IF)**

Day 2: Wednesday, October 2, 2024: Thessaloniki

Early arrivals will have a morning tour of Thessaloniki. We will drive to the upper part of the Old City Walls where we will have excellent views of the city port. On our sightseeing drive, we will view the White Tower, the statue of Alexander the Great, the triumphal Arch of Galerius, and the Rotunda. In St. Demetrius' Church, we will see its early Byzantine mosaics. The afternoon includes a visit to the Thessaloniki Archeological Museum or free time. Those arriving today will have a private transfer to the hotel. We will have a welcome dinner at our hotel in Thessaloniki. **(D)**

Day 3: Thursday, October 3, 2024: Philippi, Kavala, Thessaloniki

We will begin our tour in Philippi where the Apostle Paul established a strong church. The letter he wrote to the church is recorded in Acts 16:9-33. We will see the river where Lydia is said to have been baptized, the ruins of a prison where Paul and Silas were kept, the Agora, the 5th and 6th-century Basilica, and the Theater. We will have a group lunch in the bay of the ancient port of Kavala, known as Neapolis and mentioned in Acts 16:11. Kavala has a wonderful aqueduct and acropolis. We will dine in our hotel in Thessaloniki this evening. **(B/L/D)**

Day 4: Friday, October 4, 2024: Berea, Meteora, Kalambaka

Paul and his companions went to Berea to escape the angry Jews of Thessaloniki, finding that the Bereans, “*received the word with great eagerness...*” The Bema memorial commemorating Paul’s preaching features gorgeous Byzantine-style mosaic scenes of Paul spreading the gospel. We will pass by Katerini and see Mount Olympus, the home of the twelve Olympian gods and goddesses. We will take a spectacular drive up to visit Meteora. Breathtakingly beautiful centuries-old monasteries perched precariously high above the ground were first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. Meteora is the biggest and most important monastery group in Greece after those in Mount Athos. We can locate the first traces of their history from 11th c. when the first hermits settled there. The rock monasteries have been characterized by UNESCO as a unique phenomenon of cultural heritage and form one of the most important stations of cultural map of Greece. Our evening meal is in our hotel in Kalambaka. **(B/D)**

Day 5: Saturday, October 5, 2024: Delphi, Athens

Delphi was the capital of the Ancient World. On the slopes of Mt. Parnassos, in a landscape of unparalleled natural beauty, is the archaeological site of Delphi. Considered by early Greeks to be the center of the world. Walking the Sacra Via to the Athenian Treasury, we will see the amphitheater, stadium, and the Temple of Apollo, where the oracle performed his or her prophetic rituals. With pagan ruins surrounding our walk, capture a glimpse of the challenge the apostle Paul incurred in preaching the Gospel of Christ in Macedonia. In the Delphi Museum, we will view many ancient treasures, the chief of which is the 5th century bronzed Charioteer, complete with eyelashes. We will arrive in Athens in the evening and will dine in the Hill Athens Restaurant with spectacular views of the Acropolis. **(B/D)**

Day 6: Sunday, October 6, 2024: Athens, Cruise

This morning, we will begin by visiting the Acropolis and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) (Acts 17:22) where Apostle Paul delivered his soul-stirring sermon. Pastor Case will share insights about Paul's preaching there. We will visit the Acropolis Museum, followed by free time for lunch and the opportunity to visit the Agora Excavations. We will have a city panoramic tour on the way to Piraeus Port. We will board our Windstar cruise in the afternoon and be ready for the 5 PM departure on the Treasures of the Greek Isles cruise. The ship has many wonderful amenities, including a spa, watersports platform, whirlpool, live music in the Lounge, fabulous food, and attentive staff. All meals, Wi-Fi, and unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are included, and we'll enjoy an array of fresh, seasonal ingredients sourced from each port along the way. **(B/D)**

Day 7: Monday, October 7, 2024: Mykonos

We will wake up this morning to the postcard-like scene of Mykonos, the classic Greek isle dotted with hundreds of whitewashed churches and thatch-roofed windmills in a harbor bobbing with fishing boats and luxurious private yachts. Booked excursions include Delos Discovery, and the "Five Senses of Mykonos". We will be in Mykonos from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. **(B/L/D)**

Day 8: Tuesday, October 8, 2024: Ephesus, Kuşadası

Our boat will dock in Kuşadası in Turkey, where we will disembark for a private (not Windstar) shore excursion to Ephesus, one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in the world. The Apostle Paul was based in Ephesus for several years. We will tour the spectacular ruins in the city founded in the 10th century B.C. and Case will lead an on-site Bible study about the church in Ephesus and Paul's ministry. The tour will also include the exhibition of the Terrace Houses. We will also tour St. John Basilica in nearby Selçuk. We will be joined by a local Turkish pastor and his wife for a traditional lunch (buffet style) in a local restaurant, followed by time to wander around the pretty village of Şirince. After the 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM excursion, we will return to the ship to prepare for the Evening in Ephesus event, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We'll walk the Marble Road to Harbor Street for our 5-course, white-glove-service dinner under the stars accompanied by a trio from the Aegean Chamber Orchestra. **(B/L/D)**

Day 9: Wednesday, October 9, 2024: Patmos

We will disembark in Patmos, where the Apostle John was exiled and wrote the book of Revelation. Our Windstar excursion from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM includes the village of Chora, where we will visit the Monastery of St. John, which dates back to 1088. We will see artefacts in the museum, then visit the Grotto of St. John, a 17th-century monastery built around the cave where John wrote the book of Revelation. The afternoon is at leisure before the ship sails at 6:00 PM. **(B/L/D)**

Day 10: Thursday, October 10, 2024: Santorini

Santorini, an island in the Cyclades, has one of the most spectacular landscapes in all of Greece. The traditional villages are built on tall cliffs and offer breathtaking views over a former volcanic crater. Our yacht will be in the harbor from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM., giving us plenty of time to enjoy one of the offered excursions, including visits to Akrotiri and Oia, Sailing the Caldera, or free time. **(B/L/D)**

Day 11: Friday, October 11, 2024: Monemvasia

Monemvasia is a small, secluded pedestrian-only port city built into a cliffside. The yacht will be docked from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Most of the group will be visiting Monemvasia Castle and Liotrivi Olive Oil Factory. This is also the day for watersports. For those not on an excursion, there's a shuttle bus to the Lower Town. The Church of Christ Elkomenos is a cathedral that dates back to the 13th century, was updated during the Venetian occupation, and still has four surviving Byzantine icons. **(B/L/D)**

Day 12: Saturday, October 12, 2024: Nafplio

Nafplio is a delightful seaside town where we can wander cobblestone streets and explore Venetian fortresses. The yacht will be docked from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Most of the group are booked on excursions to the Venetian Fortress, or the UNESCO sites of Mycenae and Epidaurus. **(B/L/D)**

Day 13: Sunday, October 13, 2024: Athens

On arrival in Athens, we will disembark and transfer to the airport for our return home. **(B/IF)**

Istanbul Extension

Day 1: Sunday, October 13, 2024: Athens, Istanbul

We will disembark from the Windstar and transfer to the airport for our direct flight to Istanbul. Our guide will be waiting for us at the airport. We will have a private transfer to the hotel, with sightseeing along the way. The evening is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 2: Monday, October 14, 2024: Istanbul

After breakfast, our guide and driver will pick us up from our hotel for a full day's tour of Istanbul, the only city in the world situated on two continents. We will begin our day by visiting the Topkapı Palace, a 15th century symbol of Ottoman splendor. Once home to Sultans, it showcases the empire's wealth. The architecture and gardens are stunning. Hagia Sophia was originally built as a Greek Orthodox Basilica, commissioned by Byzantine Emperor Constantius. The first two basilicas burnt and the current basilica was commissioned by Emperor Justinian 1 in 532. At the opening ceremony in 537, he is reported to have said, "My Lord, thank you for giving me the chance to create such a worshipping place." After spending many years as a museum, it's currently a mosque. Our tour will also include the Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome, where chariot races and the Byzantine riots took place. We will then enjoy some shopping time in the Grand Bazaar. We will end the tour with a visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchy of Orthodoxy., including the 4:30 PM Orthodox service at St George's Church. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 3: Tuesday, October 15, 2024: Istanbul

After breakfast, we will have a 3.5hr Bosphorus cruise, with a stop on the Asian side for lunch. This waterway separating Europe and Asia is lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy shopping, relaxing at the hotel, or returning to the Golden Horn area. A trip to a Turkish bath can be arranged for this afternoon. One of the afternoon options is a visit to the historic Pera Palace Hotel, where we can visit Room 101, a museum about Mustafa Ataturk. The Pera Palace was built in 1895 to host passengers on the Orient Express and is full of Belle Epoque charm. It was also a favorite of British royalty, American politicians, as well as novelist like Agatha Christie. The Agatha Restaurant is named in her honor. **(B)**

Day 4: Wednesday, October 16, 2024: Return

After an early breakfast, we will have a private transfer to the airport. **(B/IF)**

Please note this itinerary is copyrighted.

Mediterranean Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki



Mediterranean Palace (5*)
3, Salaminos & Karatassou Str.,
Thessaloniki, 54626

The 5* Mediterranean Palace is in the heart of the Ladadika district of Thessaloniki. It offers magnificent views of the Thermaikos Gulf and offers free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a heated indoor pool, spa and wellness center, restaurant, and bar.



Thessaloniki



This bustling port city is the second largest city in Greece and the location of Paul's preaching ministry to Jews and Greeks (Acts 17:1-4). Paul and Silas traveled here after being asked to leave Philippi and ministered to pagans of whom Paul said, "...turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God," (1 Thess. 1:9b). According to the Book of Acts, many Greeks believed, including many Greek leading women. Paul wrote 1st & 2nd Thessalonians to the people of this city.

History Highlights

Thessaloniki was founded in 315 BC by the Macedonian King Cassander. As a huge port city and important early trade center, Thessaloniki has long been a melting pot of cultures. Its 3,000-year-old history preserves relics of its Ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman past. Thessaloniki was one of the first early Christian centers after Paul preached here, laying the foundations for a new religion.

Agia Sophia Church

This is one of the most famous Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki. Today's church is not the first to stand on this site, as excavations found an early Christian Basilica. Agia Sophia is a very beautiful "Domed Basilica" style temple with imposing architecture, beautiful wall paintings, and elaborate mosaics.

Agios Dimitros Church

This is Thessaloniki's largest church and was built to honor the patron saint of Thessaloniki, Dimitrios. As a young man, he joined the Roman army but then converted to Christianity. Refusing to recant his belief, he was martyred in what is now the crypt. Some mosaics dating from the 7th century feature Dimitrios. Inside the large five-aisled

church, visitors will find full Greek Orthodox regalia, altar screens, lots of gold ornamentation, and devout followers lighting ceremonial candles.

Aristotle Square

This is Thessaloniki's central square, a great place to soak in the city's atmosphere while seated at a cafe. Located on the seafront, it has great views of the Thermaic Gulf and a pleasant sea breeze.

Egnatian Way (Via Egnatia)

This road was constructed by the Romans in the 2nd century BC, linking Rome with Constantinople. From the shores of The Adriatic Sea, it crossed the regions of Illyricum, Macedonia, and Thrace. It is now buried beneath the sprawl of modern Thessaloniki. Original portions can be seen from the right side of the bus as it drives up a pass on the way to Philippi. Far below the modern highway are exposed Roman remains of this once mighty road.

Old City Walls

These covered all the uppermost northern side of the city and descended the eastern and western sides down to the sea, where they continued along the seafront. The earliest wall dates back to Cassander (316 BC), with more buildings during the 3rd – 5th centuries AD, while the parts that have been better preserved belong to the Byzantine period.

Rotunda

Built around AD 306 as Roman emperor Galerius' mausoleum. In the 5th century, it was converted into a church with gorgeous mosaics of early saints. Later, the Ottomans made it a mosque, but it has reverted back to a church—yet with the minaret oddly still standing. It now functions as a cultural center with art exhibits, concerts, and occasional church services. In the square, next to Rotunda, lies the small church of Agios Georgios (St. George), well worth a visit if time permits.

Roman Forum

The small amphitheater here is the closest one can find to a site similar to what Paul would have experienced. However, this is later in date, at the end of the 2nd century. In Roman times, athletic and musical contests were held here. Today, a museum offers a fascinating collection of Hellenic period items. Though Paul and Silas pre-date the amphitheater, they likely would have been in the marketplace formerly on this same spot.

Triumphal Arch of Galerius

This was built by Roman Emperor Galerius around 305 AD to commemorate the Roman victory over Persia in 297 AD. Scenes of those battles are depicted on badly eroded bas-reliefs. Though this was once a domed monument, only the large arch remains.

White Tower

The city's most famous landmark and the only medieval defensive tower left standing along the seafront. Now a Museum of Byzantine Culture, displays explain how the walls and towers encircled the historic city. On the rooftop is a café with superb views.

Archaeological Museum



Housed here are collections from Neolithic times: sculptures from the Archaic, Classical, and Roman Eras and the Iron Age.

The open-air exhibition "Field - House - Garden -Grave", in the courtyard of the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, includes antiquities from the heyday of Thessaloniki (2nd - 4th c. AD).

The first part of the exhibition presents sarcophagi and altars from the city's cemeteries, funerary monuments placed along the streets or within privately-owned burial enclosures. The second part of the exhibition displays the representation of a rich urban house of the Imperial era (2nd-3rd c. AD). The third part exhibits honorary altars that functioned as bases for statues of prominent citizens of Thessaloniki in public spaces and buildings.

The open-air exhibition "Memory in Stone" presents stone monuments from Thessaloniki and Macedonia in general. Most of the exhibits date from the 1st to the 7th c. AD.

The best-preserved statue in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki is the statue of Augustus, the first Roman emperor (24 BC—AD 14). It reproduces a popular statuary type known as Prima Porta and depicts a handsome and idealized man at the prime of his youth.

Thessaloniki was a large city with opulent private houses, including official halls for gatherings and symposia organized by its rich inhabitants. Mosaic floors with geometric compositions or iconographic images gave those halls a sense of luxury.

Philippi



When Paul arrived in Philippi, he met Lydia, a seller of purple and the first recorded Christian convert in Europe. Unfairly imprisoned during their missionary journey, Paul and Silas praised God at midnight, and the prison doors were flung open. When the prison guard feared for his life, the two men led him and his entire household to the family of faith. It was here in Philippi that Paul planted the first church in Europe—the church to which he later wrote the book of Philippians.

History Highlights

In the ancient world, the city of Philippi was “the way through between Europe and Asia, like a gateway.” The discovery of new gold mines near the city in the 4th century BC contributed to the kingdom's wealth, and Philip established a mint there, which would eventually secure the city's recognition. Philippi became the first major stop on the Via Egnatia from Neapolis to the Adriatic Sea. In October, 42 BC, Mark Antony and Octavian confronted the assassins of Caesar, Brutus and Longinus, at the Battle of Philippi on the plain to the west of the city and emerged victorious. Today, half of the sprawling city is an active archaeological site and they are still unearthing exciting finds. Fairly rural, Philippi has not been swallowed up into a modern city like many other Biblical sites, making it an easy place to imagine what life might have been like in Paul's time.

Very few Jews lived in Philippi, so there was no synagogue. On the Sabbath, the Jews gathered on the bank of the River Zygaktes. Paul joined them by the river in AD49, the first time Jesus had been preached in Europe. He returned in AD58, AD 63, and AD 64. Later, the Philippian church helped support Paul in his ministry.

Agora and Forum

Presumably it was here that Paul preached and taught the message of faith in Jesus. Although the ruins are not tall, the stones are large and with some imagination one can see the two Roman temples and library as well as the busy agora marketplace. Numerous building sites have been mapped and identified. Lydia's shop may well have been located in the Forum.

5th Century Basilica

These are the most impressive Biblical ruins in Philippi. The early church was intended to be a domed masterpiece of architecture, but it collapsed during construction and was never finished.

Amphitheater

This was originally built by the Greeks in 4th century BC and reconstructed by the Romans in 2nd century AD. It is large and evokes imaginations of Roman events, gladiators, and festivals. Some may wish to take a vigorous climb to the top seating for an expansive view.

Lydia's Conversion Memorial

The conversion of Lydia from Thyatira in Asia Minor marked the first Christian in Europe. Due to her influence and hospitality, and other miracles locally, a church was formed. It is a tranquil spot and visitors still get baptized in the marble-clad pool here. Adjacent is a small Greek Orthodox Church that is well worth a visit.

Paul & Silas' Prison

Paul and Silas prayed for a slave girl who was set free from evil spirits, which led to the apostles being beaten and imprisoned. As they worshipped God, they were rescued—a wonderful lesson for us all to praise in hard times. Ironically, a place of such Biblical significance is just a small arched cave-like hole, seemingly too insignificant at a glance. Just above the site is the highway, with noisy traffic, but here is where God's mighty power rescued His faithful apostles.

Lion of Amphipolis



Paul and Silas were traveling the Via Egnatia Roman roadway and probably paused in the city of Amphipolis for a night of rest, while eager to press on to present the Gospel in the synagogue in Thessalonica. Little now remains of this once significant city, having been destroyed by barbarian invasions in the 6th century.

Paul and Silas probably saw this majestic lion with menacing eyes and flowing mane, as it was a focal monument in the old city. The lion was reassembled from excavated ruins and was moved to its current location, several miles from its original tomb site. It is believed to be the monument on the burial tomb of Laomedon of Mytilene, one of Alexander the Great's generals. The carved stone Lion is 17' high and 52' in total height, including the base.

Kavala (Neapolis)



Paul was in Asia Minor at the seaport of Troas when he dreamed a man stood before him and begged him to come to Macedonia. Paul and his comrades immediately set sail and landed in Kavala, the ancient port of Biblical Neapolis in 49 AD. Paul, Silas, Luke, and the others then moved on to Philippi, where they began spreading Christ’s message across the shores of mainland Europe for the first time.

History Highlights

Originally known as Trace, and later Neapolis, Kavala has been a key port city since ancient times. Neapolis was the regular landing place for those who desired to travel by the Egnatian Way, the great Roman military highway stretching some 490 miles across Macedonia, linking the Adriatic with the Aegean Sea. During Byzantine times, the Byzantine emperor Justinian I fortified the city to protect it from barbarian raids. Later, the city was named Christoupolis—city of Christ. The Turks invaded the area in 1380 and built the magnificent Aqueduct of Suleyman which towers over the town. Today, Kavala is a charming small port, still dominated by a Byzantine fortress that yields an incredible view for anyone rugged enough to climb up—or take a taxi.

Archaeological Museum of Kavala

This museum is probably the most important archaeological museum in Eastern Macedonia, boasting prehistoric finds from all over the region of Kavala, including excavations at Neapolis, Amphipolis, and other parts of Eastern Macedonia.

Kamare Aqueduct

The Kavala Aqueduct, popularly known as “arches: was built in 1550 by Suleiman the Magnificent. This imposing structure dominating the city center once brought precious water to the thirsty cisterns in the Turkish citadel above town. The present structure dates

to the 16th century but was originally part of a Byzantine barrier wall of the early 14th century, built as part of the fortifications on the Kavala Acropolis. Spanning over 300 yards with 60 arches, this massive structure features old houses built into the monument.

Byzantine Church of Agia Paraskevi

In the Panagia part of town, the three-aisled Early Christian Byzantine church of Agia Paraskevi remains. The remains are visible through the glass floor of the Halil Bey Mosque.

Veria (Berea)



Paul fled in the night from Thessaloniki to Berea (Acts 17:10) and taught in the synagogue there during his second journey. In the synagogue, he found people eager to receive the Gospel and compare it with the Hebrew Scriptures. The Bereans' daily search of the Scriptures became an example to early Christians, and the name was carried to later churches everywhere.

History Highlights

The city opened its gates to Rome after the Battle of Pydna in 168 BC and was taken by the Romans without resistance. Under Roman administration, the city became well populated, partly due to the extension of the Egnatian Way through the region of Berea to its north. The Christian community thrived in Berea long after Paul's preaching. One tradition says the "Synaxar," the Orthodox Calendar of the Saints, refers to Karpus, one of the 70 disciples, as first Bishop of the city. Much later, the Middle Ages brought great prosperity to the region, and the city was considered one of the most important in the region, with several beautiful churches, including frescoes as old as the 12th century.

Altar of St. Paul

In the modern city stands a monument in remembrance of Paul's work. The monument includes three steps removed from a salvage dig at a nearby school property. The steps were reputed to have been from the location of the ancient synagogue. The display is made of colorful mosaic tile and three panels: the Macedonian man vision, St. Paul, and the address to the Bereans.

Mt. Olympus



In Greek mythology, Mount Olympus was the dwelling of the Olympian god Zeus, king of the gods, along with his retinue of Olympian deities. In Homer's epic poems, particularly the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey," Mount Olympus features prominently as the celestial dwelling place of the Greek gods and goddesses. As Homer weaves his tales of heroism, destiny, and divine intervention, Mount Olympus emerges as the mythical realm where the Olympian deities convene to shape the fates of mortals and immortals alike. From its lofty peaks, Zeus, the king of the gods, presides over the divine assembly, orchestrating the unfolding drama of the Trojan War and the trials of Odysseus on his epic journey home.

Mount Olympus has 52 peaks and deep gorges. The highest peak, Mytikas (nose), is 9,572 feet. It is the highest peak in Greece and one of the highest peaks in Europe. Mount Olympus became a National Park in 1938 and it is also a World Biosphere Reserve.

Divani Meteora Hotel, Kalambaka



[Divani Meteora](#)

National Road Trikalon – Ioanninon
Kalambaka, 422 00

Sitting at the base of the Meteora rocks, the Divani Meteora boasts a spacious outdoor pool and spacious rooms with oak-wood furnishings, most with views of Meteora. All rooms are equipped with the latest in modern amenities including electronic key locks, air conditioning, Pay/satellite TV and minibar. The hotel also has an indoor pool (room temperature), sauna, jacuzzi, steam room and exercise room.



Kalambaka



This small town is nestled below the extraordinary Meteora rocks that once housed 24 monasteries perched in isolation, high up on the finger-like peaks. Now only six are functioning, but they proudly carry on traditions.

History Highlights

The first monks lived on these cliff tops to seek refuge from the invading Turkish army around the 11th century. These beautiful monasteries were first built in the 14th century and are one of the biggest and most important groups of monasteries in Greece. Amazingly, all the building materials had to be winched up in baskets, and until 1920, it was the sole means of getting supplies up to the monasteries.

Agios Stefanos Monastery (St. Stephan's)

St. Stephen's is the only monastery in the Meteora visible from the town below and dates back to 1400. The 15th-century refectory has a surviving fresco of the Virgin in the apse. The monastery suffered damage during World War II and during the Communist Civil War and was abandoned. In 1961, it became a nunnery and is a very welcoming place, sharing its story of faith and perseverance. St. Stephan's is one of the most accessible monasteries with fewer stairs.

Megalo Meteoro Monastery

The monastery's location offers spectacular views of the giant rocks, other monasteries, and the town of Meteora below. Numerous Bible scenes are depicted in frescoes. Please be advised that there are many stairs, and those with walking difficulties may not be able to explore the entire site.

Delphi



The town of Delphi sits on the edge of a cliff and is considered one of Greece's most important ancient archeological sites. The Ancient Greeks considered Delphi the center of the world and the holiest site, blessed by Apollo. It is steeped in legend and lore of ancient Greek gods and the art of divination. With pagan ruins surrounding the city, visitors can glimpse Paul's challenge in preaching the Gospel of Christ in Macedonia.

History Highlights

For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was revered as the center of the world. As the legend goes, Zeus dispatched two eagles from opposite ends of the earth, and they met in the sky above Delphi, marking the spot. As early as 1500 BC, Delphi was home to the famous Oracle, a priestess who spoke through utterances claimed to come from Apollo himself. Leaders and individuals of the ancient world came on pilgrimage to the Oracle of Delphi to ask Apollo's advice on politics, love, and power.

Amphitheater

Built in the 4th century BC, the theater at Delphi was located up the hill from the Temple of Apollo. Its audience enjoyed a spectacular view of the sanctuary below and the valley beyond. The theater could accommodate around 5,000 spectators who enjoyed plays, poetry readings, and musical events.

Archaeological Museum of Delphi

The extensive artifacts unearthed during excavations at the Delphi oracle are housed in this museum. It is one of the top must-see museums in Greece, mainly because of the breadth and quality of artifacts it includes. The permanent exhibition covers over a

thousand years, from the Mycenaean era to the Greco-Roman times. The "Charioteer of Delphi" is one of the best-known ancient Greek statues and one of the best-preserved examples of classical bronze casts. It depicts the driver of the chariot race when he presents his chariot and horses to the spectators in recognition of his victory.

Stadium

The ancient stadium sits high up the hill, beyond the sacred way and theater. Originally built in the 5th century BC, it could seat around 6500 spectators and was used for athletic events and music festivals. Its track is 177.55 m long (about 550 ft.).

Temple of Apollo

The temple of Apollo was first built around the 7th century BC by two legendary architects, Trophonios and Agamedes. It was destroyed and rebuilt many times over the centuries before it settled into ruins. The temple's foundations survive today along with several Doric columns made of porous stone and limestone which is fairly soft material that allowed for the temple's advanced decaying. Very little is known about the temple's interior arrangement where the oracle performed his or her prophetic rituals. It is regarded as one of the best examples of early Doric temple building anywhere in the Greek world. The Delphi Museum houses extensive artifacts from the temple and surrounding area.

Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel, Athens

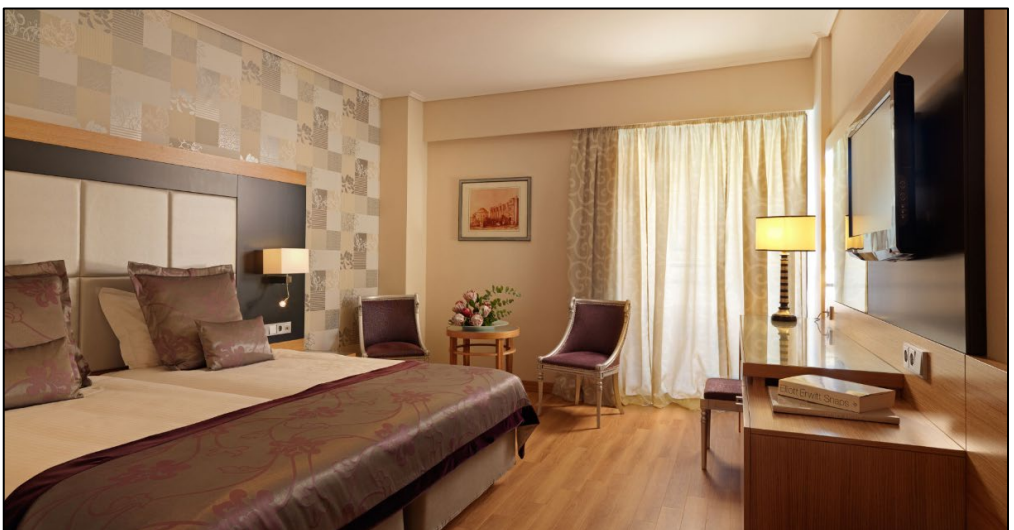


[Divani Palace Acropolis](#) (5*)

19-25 Parthenonos Str.

Athens, 11742

Fusing contemporary luxury with imitable elegance, Divani Palace Acropolis is a stunning hotel located in one of the city's most historic neighborhoods, steps away from the Acropolis and the old town of Plaka. In the basement is a section of the ancient city walls, built under Themistocles, a prominent Athenian general in Ancient Greece.



Athens



When Paul spent time in Athens, he was saddened to see that the city was full of idols. Instead of rejecting its inhabitants as heathens, he appealed to their reason and curious natures in the name of Christ. Though today much of this urban city is modernized with concrete buildings and pavement, wonderful treasures like Mars' Hill and the Parthenon—the most famous building of Ancient Greece—give testimony to its deeply-rooted classical Greek underpinnings.

History Highlights

Athens is one of the world's oldest cities, and its history spans nearly 3,500 years. The city was founded when King Theseus united several settlements into one state. Later, the people of Athens overthrew their rulers and began to organize a democracy—one of the most significant achievements of the Ancient Greeks. The 5th century BC laid the foundations of Western thought during this "Golden Age." After the Parthenon was built, art, philosophy, and drama developed significantly. Athens remained a center for learning and philosophy during its 500 years of Roman rule. The conversion of the empire to Christianity ended the city's role as the center of pagan learning, and the schools of philosophy were closed in 529 AD, marking the end of the ancient history of Athens.

Acropolis & Parthenon

The Acropolis is the name given to the Parthenon, the most famous building of Ancient Greece. The Parthenon has stood atop the Acropolis of Athens for nearly 2,500 years. It was built to give thanks to Athena, the city's patron goddess, for the saving of Athens and Greece in the Persian Wars. The building was officially called the Temple of Athena the Virgin. This impressive monument has been a church, a mosque, and even an armory.

Now it is a beacon for millions of tourists a year and one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. The Parthenon is considered the most perfect Doric temple ever built. It was lavishly decorated with marble sculptures inside and out, although most are long gone. One east end was a depiction of the birth of Athena. The west end showed Athena's battle with Poseidon for the land of Attica. Above the columns, friezes ran along all four sides of the temple, depicting various scenes of triumph. (Please note that the stone surfaces here, and especially at Mars Hill are super slippery, so please use caution when walking.)

Acropolis Museum

Learn more about the history, architecture, and restoration efforts of the Parthenon here. This modern museum has superb displays, multimedia presentations on the Parthenon and Acropolis Hill, and a lovely café. Exhibits feature objects found in the sanctuaries and settlements around the Acropolis—a highlight is the collection of theatrical masks and vases, with rows of precious statues the five Caryatids—the female figures supporting the Acropolis's Erechtheion building—symbolically leave a space for their sister, who resides in London's British Museum.

Agii Apostoli Church (Church of the Holy Apostles)

This restored 10th-century church is located in the Ancient Agora, close to the Parthenon and next to the Stoa of Attalos. If time permits, it is well worth a visit. It is built on the plan of a Greek cross—a cross with arms of equal length. Each arm finishes in a semi-circular niche. A splendidly decorated dome rests on four pillars in the central crossing of the arms. This is the oldest of the "Athenian type" of Byzantine dome in Athens.

Agios Nikólaos Ragavás Church

Located in the Plaka neighborhood, this 11th-century church still holds services today. Built in the Middle Byzantine style of the 11th century, it incorporates remains of ancient buildings and marble columns in its external walls. Today, it is a popular parish church, frequently used for lively Greek weddings on the weekends.

Mars' Hill & Areopagus

Paul visited Athens during his second missionary journey. While waiting in the city for Silas and Timothy, he observed numerous statues erected to false gods, and even to "unknown" gods. Seizing the opportunity, Paul delivered his soul-stirring sermon to the council of leaders who, like the Supreme Court, presided over religion, philosophy and morality in Athens. Paul, standing boldly in the midst of the Areopagus, said, "I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." Acts 17:22-25. A bronze plaque with the text of Paul's address pays homage to the event.

Museums

Athens boasts many fine museums. Here are three top picks: The Museum of Cycladic Art shows remarkable works from the Cycladic Islands in the Aegean, some of which date back to 3000 BC. The Byzantine Museum is home to a splendid collection of icons, ecclesiastical relics, and frescoes rescued from churches. The Benaki Museum features ceramics, carvings, costumes, and jewelry from the 3rd century BC to modern times.

Plaka, Monastiraki and Thissio

These lovely districts are the best areas in Athens to relax, stroll, and shop for souvenirs. They are all located around the base of the Acropolis hill and have pedestrianized streets, 19th-century neoclassical houses, great restaurants, and shops. As much of Athens is a modern concrete sprawl, these three districts are charming.

Temple of Hephaestus

This most complete surviving example of a Doric order temple is located below and left of the Parthenon. Construction began in 449 BC, two years before the Parthenon, and it was the first temple in Athens to be made of marble. It was built to honor the Greek gods Hephaestus and Athena Ergane. The temple was converted to the Church of St. George Akamas in the 7th century until 1834, and then it was a museum until the 1930s. It is now restored to its original Greek appearance.

Theater of Dionysos

Located adjacent to the Parthenon is this gorgeous open-air amphitheater, which now hosts concerts and theater events. It figures hugely in the evolution of Greek tragedy, as the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes were first performed here.

Wind Spirit Yacht



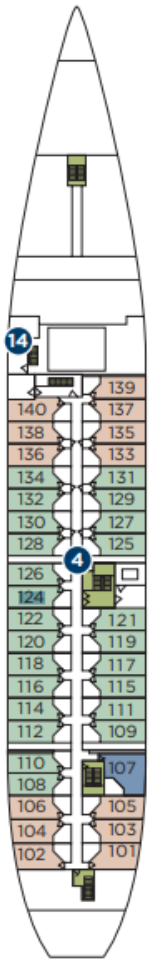
Wind Spirit is a sleek, 4-masted 360-foot sailing yacht accommodating 148 guests. With four decks and a gross tonnage of 5,736, Wind Spirit feels like your own private yacht. Wind Spirit features wide open, teak decks—quite unusual for small ships. Guests will find hidden nooks for private moments, giving them a feeling of being on a private veranda. Amenities include World Spa by Windstar, Watersports Platform, Lounge, Library, Pool, and Hot Tub.

During the cruise, you can enjoy cooking demonstrations, live music, local performances on board, market tours with the chef, navigation lessons, signature onboard barbeque, and nightly port talks

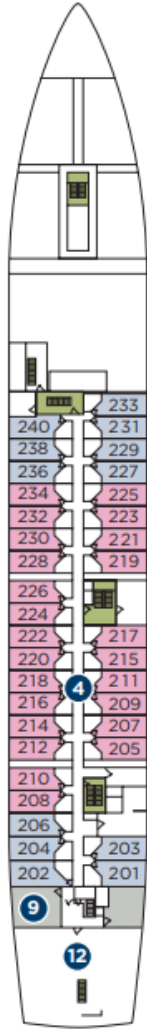
The cabin choice needs to be specified at the time of booking and is subject to availability. Categories B and BX are on Deck 1 (lower deck) and Categories A and AX are on Deck 2. All staterooms have ocean views, queen beds, flat-screen TV with DVD player, and 24-hour room service. You will have daily fresh fruit and flowers, as well as L'Occitane bath products. Staterooms are 18 square meters.

Wind Spirit offers two primary dining venues. Amphora restaurant offers gourmet, course-by-course cuisine in the evenings and Veranda restaurant offers casual buffet and full-service dining for breakfast and lunch. All dining is open seating. And, for dining under the stars, make a reservation for Candles which features steaks and skewers.

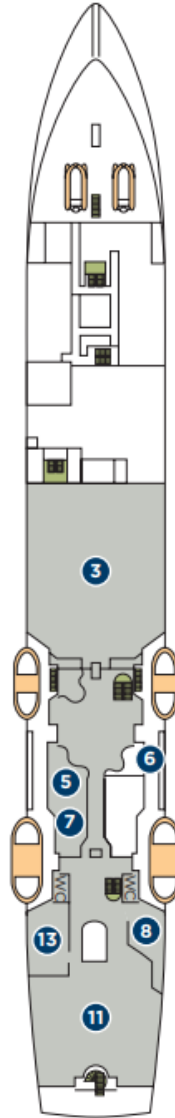
Deck Plan



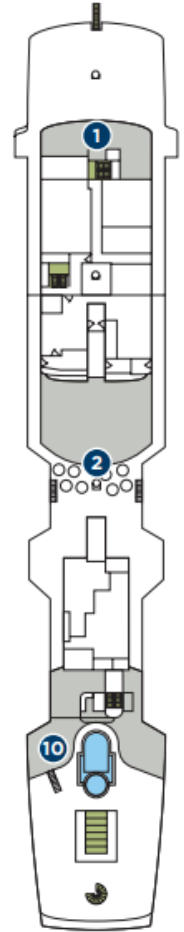
DECK ONE



DECK TWO



DECK THREE



DECK FOUR

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bridge | 7. Library | 12. Watersports Platform |
| 2. Veranda / Candles | 8. World Spa | 13. Yacht Club Café |
| 3. Amphora Restaurant | 9. Fitness Center | 14. Medical Center |
| 4. Staterooms | 10. Pool / Pool Bar / Whirlpool | |
| 5. Star Boutique | 11. Lounge | |
| 6. Reception | | |

Cabins

Cabin	Booking	Traveler 1	Traveler 2
102 B	20300301	Jeff Stone	Cindy Zimmerman
103 B	20260690	Frank Drinkhouse	Rowena Drinkhouse
105 B	20260691	Charlie Frye	Cindy Frye
106 B	20297784	Case Thorp	
114 BX	20260692	Michelle Jernigan	Patty Laubach
134 BX	20263869	Harold Armstrong	Marilyn Armstrong
205 AX	20297759	Craig Clayton	Barbara Clayton
207 AX	20297772	Paul Shiver	Beverly Shiver
217 AX	20300300	Bob Carter	Carol Carter
218 AX	20260243	David Vis	Kimberly Norris-Vis
231 A	30023958	Beth Nolen	Betsy Roberts
240 A	30026667	LT Timm	Ann Trovillion-Timm



Mykonos



Mykonos is a highly popular tourist destination island known for its exceptional beaches, glamorous vacationers, and legendary parties. Though the overall atmosphere can be a bit exuberant, the area also offers iconic whitewashed houses, winding roads, hidden churches, and 16th-century windmills for exploration. The less populated northern side of the island offers many lovely, serene beaches, as well.

History Highlights

Ionians from Athens were the first to really settle in Mykonos in the early 11th century BC. According to mythology, Mykonos was formed from the petrified bodies of giants killed by Hercules. The island took its name from the grandson of Apollo, “Mykonos.”

Church of Paraportiani

One of the most photographed churches on Mykonos, it’s a conglomeration of five churches into one. The churches around it (Aghios Sozontas, Aghii Anargyri, Aghia Anastasia, and Aghios Efstathios) comprise the whole of the church of Paraportiani. The four churches form a base for the fifth church which is placed on top with a domed roof.

“Little Venice”

One of the most scenic corners of the island, an 18th century district dominated by grand captains’ mansions with colorful balconies and stylish windows. Ships’ captains built distinguished houses directly on the seafront here, with wooden balconies hanging over the water. This is a restaurant district, with seaside cafes and a great view of the quaint windmills standing imposingly on the hillside above.

Monday, October 7: Mykonos Excursions

Wake this morning to the postcard-like scene of Mykonos, the classic Greek isle dotted with hundreds of whitewashed churches and thatch-roofed windmills, in a harbor bobbing with fishing boats and luxurious private yachts. The ship will dock in Mykonos from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Delos Discovery (9:15 AM – 1:15 PM)

Explore the tiny uninhabited island of Delos, one of the most important archaeological sites in all Greece. Start your journey with a 45-minute ferry ride to this richly historic site. Delos was the major center of the ancient Greek world and the mythical birthplace of the god Apollo and his twin sister Artemis. Your 2½-hour guided stroll includes such attractions as the Sanctuary of Apollo with its three temples dating from the 6th and 5th centuries B.C. To the west of this sanctuary lies the Sacred Lake, where Apollo was reputedly born. Standing guard over the Sacred Lake are nine replicas of the famous marble lions, which were a gift from the people of Naxos in the 7th century B.C. Other attractions include the amphitheater and the nearby theater quarter where wealthy owners built opulent houses with grand colonnaded courtyards. The island's checkered history finally led to its destruction in 88 B.C. by Mithridates, the King of Pontus. Large-scale restoration work has continued for many years and in 1990 the island was declared a World's Cultural Heritage Site, protected by UNESCO. Your guided walk concludes back at the ferry, for direct return to Mykonos. On arrival there, you are free to return to the yacht at your leisure. Please note: As there is extensive walking on this tour, comfortable shoes are recommended.

Five Senses of Mykonos (8:30 AM – 2:00 PM)

A tour of Mykonos that includes a cheese factory, winery, and an orientation tour of Mykonos town is an excellent way to experience the island's rich culture, history, and delicious local products. Start your tour with a visit to a local cheese factory. This tour will give you the opportunity to learn about the production of organic dairy products and taste some of the best Mykonian cheese. Here, you'll learn about traditional cheese-making methods and get to taste some of the delicious cheeses made on the island. You can also take a tour of the farm, which includes a visit to the organic gardens and a chance to meet the farm animals. Next, head to a local winery. Here, you'll learn about the island's wine-making traditions and sample some of the local wines. You can take a tour of the vineyard and wine cellar and learn about the different grape varieties grown on the island. Then take a walking tour of Mykonos town, which is known for its picturesque, white-washed buildings and charming narrow streets. Your tour guide will show you around the town's famous landmarks, such as the Windmills, Little Venice, and the Panagia Paraportiani Church. You'll also have the opportunity to browse local shops and cafes and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of this charming town. Don't forget to bring your camera, as there will be plenty of photo opportunities along the way! Please note: Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Ephesus, Turkey



Paul first arrived in Ephesus from Cenchrae, and labored for the faith, vowing to return again if God willed (Acts 18:19-21). Paul later wrote the book of Ephesians to the church here. In the Book of Revelation, Ephesus was one of the Seven Churches that was given a prophetic message from John when he was exiled to the Isle of Patmos, “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.” Luke, who penned the New Testament books of Luke and Acts is buried opposite the upper gate, with a Byzantine church built on the site.

History Highlights

Ephesus was colonized by the Greeks about 1000 BC and destroyed by Croesus four hundred years later, followed by defeat from the Seljuks, Goths, and the Ottomans. This once thriving center of the Ancient World had over 200,000 inhabitants in its prime. The worship of the nature goddess Diana (Artemis) and its position made it the most famous ancient metropolis of Asia Minor. The nearby Temple of Diana was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was destroyed seven times and each time rebuilt a little larger. Paul visited here on his second missionary journey and later stayed here for three years on his Third Missionary Journey.

Arcadian Way, The Harbor Street

Leading away from the theater toward the ancient port, now marshy land, is a 1,710-foot-long street. It was once lined with shops and covered archways. Now all that remains is a long line of columns. The harbor silted up, which led to the eventual demise of this once thriving port.

Great Theatre

It was built from 50 to 110 AD and could accommodate up to 25,000 spectators. This was probably the site where Demetrius the silversmith stirred up the riot against Paul (Acts 19:23-40). Imagine Paul preaching Christianity here so boldly and convincingly that the heathen silver images were not selling.

Lower Agora

Just to the southwest of the Great Theatre is The Lower Agora, or market place. Behind the Lower Agora (on the west side) is a relatively short colonnaded street with large gates at each end.

Library of Celsus

This spectacular building, the grandest in reconstructed Ephesus, is below the level of the street south of the Lower Agora. It was rebuilt between 1970 and 1978 by Austrian archaeologists working here. Originally made of three stories of colored marble, it was completed around 135 AD. Below the central niche is the grave chamber of Titus Julius Celsus Polemaenus, Governor of the province of Asia in the early 2nd century AD. In the library of Celsus there is a statue representing Sophia. The Gnostics incorrectly revered her as a “divine” being who fell and gave birth to the creator of the physical universe but helped to save the elect. She was viewed the source of “wisdom.”

Odeion

This is a small theatre seating about 1400 and is on the northern side of the Upper Agora.

Temple of Hadrian

It has four Corinthian columns and a serpent above the door, intended to keep out evil spirit. There is a partially restored fountain dedicated to the emperor Trajan. Next door are The Baths of Scholastica that date from the 2nd century but were rebuilt about 400 AD by lady Scholastica.

Terraced Houses

The Terrace Houses complex in Ephesus consists of luxurious residential villas, located on the northern slope of Bülbüldağı Hill, next to Curetes Street and opposite the Temple of Hadrian. So far, two housing complexes - Eastern and Western - have been excavated. Several wall paintings of the Terrace Houses feature drawings and graffiti which offer an insight into the everyday life of the inhabitants. The drawings mainly show gladiators, caricatures, and animals.

Tuesday, October 8: Ephesus Excursions

We will meet our tour guide at 8:00 AM when we disembark in Kuşadası. We will then drive to Ephesus and tour the ancient city, including the special Terrace Houses exhibition. Case will give us a Bible study during our time in Ephesus.

We will then visit the Basilica of St. John in Selçuk, constructed in the 6th century under Justinian 1. It is said to be the burial place of the Apostle John. We will see the octagonal baptistry on the north side of the nave.

Our group lunch is in the traditional Bizim Ev (“Our House”) café in Selçuk and we will be joined by a local Turkish pastor and his wife. There are only 50 registered Protestant churches in Turkey, in a country with over 85 million (2022).

After lunch, we will visit the delightful village of Şirince, a registered national heritage site. This picturesque village has a pedestrian center and a wonderful bazaar with fresh produce, local sweet wines, and fruits. Historically, it was a Greek Orthodox village, which British priest Edmund Cheshull confirmed on a visit in 1699. The village includes remains of the 18th-century Church of St. Demetrius and the Church of St. John the Baptist. After the population exchange with Greece in 1926, St. Dimitrius Church became a mosque.

We will return to our ship in Kuşadası by 4 PM so that we can freshen up for the evening event.

The evening transfer will take us back to Ephesus for a private event. The event will include a 5-course dinner by the library, accompanied by the Aegean Chamber Orchestra.

Patmos



John was imprisoned on the island of Patmos in the 1st century AD, by the Roman Emperor Domitian. While here for two years in captivity, John wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos is a charming, craggy island with magnificent views. The island hilltop, Chora, is the location of two very significant monasteries and pilgrimage sites.

History Highlights

According to ancient mythology, the island of Patmos was first named Litois, in honor of the Goddess Artemis, who, according to mythology, saved the island from an untimely sinking and destruction. The island of Patmos has been inhabited since 3,000 BC. During the Peloponnesian Wars, it flourished and grew. However, it later declined when the Romans conquered it and used Patmos as a place of exile for convicts. This is how John came to Patmos in 95 AC. Here, John won the inhabitants to Christianity and wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos then became a place of worship and pilgrimage for many years.

Monastery of St. John

On the top of Chora village is one of the world's best-preserved, fortified medieval monastic complexes. It has been a center of learning since the 11th. Established in 1088, the monastery and the complex soon became an intellectual center, with a rich library and a tradition of teaching. Monks ornamented the monastery with the best sculpture, carvings, and paintings. A wide staircase leads to the fortified entrance, complete with towers and buttresses. The complex consists of buildings from different periods: the main church is from the 11th century, the Chapel of the Virgin is from the 12th century, and the Chapel of the Holy Apostles dates from the 17th-century. Early manuscripts and Bible codices dating to the 5th century can be seen in the library.

Holy Monastery of the Apocalypse (Grotto of the Revelation, Cave of Apocalypse)

In 95 AD, during the Emperor Domitian's persecution of Christians, John was banished to Patmos, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.'" Rev. 1:10-11. According to tradition, John wrote the text of Revelation in the little cave, now called the Sacred Grotto. Above this is now built the Monastery of the Apocalypse. The grotto is decorated with wall paintings from the 12th century and 16th Century icons. Please note that getting down into the cave requires a lot of stairs, and it will be crowded.

Wednesday, October 9: Patmos Excursion

This UNESCO World Heritage Site is known worldwide as the sacred island where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation, Patmos is the ideal place for nature lovers with its coastline of sheer cliffs and its volcanic soil. Highlights of Patmos include the Cave of the Apocalypse and the Holy Monastery of the Apocalypse. The ship is docked from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Monastery & Cave of St. John (8:30 AM – 11:30 AM)

An island of rare beauty captivating the visitor at first glance, Patmos has a picturesque harbor dominated by the imposing Monastery of St. John standing on the hill above. Leaving Skala harbor, you will take a 10-minute drive to the impressive village of Chora. The Monastery of St. John is situated among gleaming white houses forming a startling contrast to its dark mass. Built in 1088, it has thick, high walls crowned all around with battlements and a total of eight chapels. The courtyard is laid with pebbles and decorated with arches through which one can see the intricately designed frescoes adorning the chapel entrance. The museum houses a magnificent collection of jeweled chalices, crowns and crosses, icons and religious paintings, including an original El Greco. Your tour will continue with a visit to the Grotto of St. John, a 17th century monastery built around the cave where St. John lived for two years while he wrote of the Apocalypse. Inside you can see the stone which he is said to have used as a pillow. After this memorable tour, you will embark the coach for the short ride back to the port.

Please note: Wear comfortable walking shoes and sun protection. Ladies should have their heads, shoulders and knees covered.

Santorini (Thira)



Stunning Santorini is made up of a complex of islands that are all part of an active volcanic system. Santorini was devastated by a volcanic eruption in the 16th century BC, forever shaping its rugged landscape. The whitewashed, cubiform houses of its two principal towns, Fira and Oia, cling to cliffs above an underwater caldera. When the sun sets, the reflection on the buildings and the glow of the orange and red in the cliffs is truly spectacular. Tourists line up at cafes for hours before sunset, hoping for a perfect viewing spot.

History Highlights

In the middle of 15th century BC, Santorini was blown apart by a massive volcanic eruption, sending tsunami waves crashing upon far away Crete, ending the Minoan reign. Visitors can see results of the explosion below the steep brown volcanic cliffs.

Thera

The principal island of Santorini and a major tourist destination. After arriving on the mainland, waiting cable cars whisk visitors to Thera at the top. An alternative hike up makes for a memorable cardio workout; or ride the traditional donkeys for a few Euro. Dozens of small Greek Orthodox churches are located across the island where geraniums and bougainvillea decorate traditional houses.

Thursday, October 10: Santorini Excursions

As our yacht approaches the spectacular cliffs rising from the deep azure sea, you'll understand the magic of this area, where some say the ruins of Atlantis remain hidden. Visit the village of Oia and see the iconic Santorini blue domes or take a guided tour of Bronze Age excavations at the UNESCO site of Akrotiri. Toast the day with a crisp, cold glass of local Assyrtiko wine and appreciate the magic accessible to small ships like ours. The ship is docked from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Drive to Oia & Free Time (8:15 AM – 12:15 PM)

Santorini, in the Cyclades Islands, has one of the most spectacular landscapes in all Greece. Traditional villages built on tall cliffs offer breathtaking views over a former volcanic crater, now submerged by the sea. Your island orientation begins with an ascent of Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) Mountain, for unparalleled panoramic views encompassing the whole island. Back aboard the coach, you will admire a range of inspirational views en route to the village of Oia. With its picturesque blue-domed churches, old 2-story mansions, and narrow cobblestone streets, Oia is the perfect place to fully appreciate the beauty of this remarkable island. There is no guided sightseeing during your 1¾-hour stay at Oia, so you are free to admire the picture-perfect views or perhaps browse among the tiny shops selling handmade ceramics, paintings and semi-precious jewelry. Finally, there's a 30-minute drive to the village of Fira where the tour concludes. Once there, your guide directs you to the cliff road from where you may proceed to the cable car at your leisure or drive back to Athinios port to take the local boat back to ship.

Please note: This tour involves winding roads and high altitude.

The Ancient City of Akrotiri & Oia (8:15 AM – 12:15 PM)

You will be transferred from the ship by local tender boat to Athinios port, where you will join the waiting motor coach. From here you will proceed toward the southern part of the island where you will make a quick photo stop at the ruins of an old windmill that has a panoramic view. You'll re-board the coach and continue on your short narrated journey to the Akrotiri Archaeological Site, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There you'll enjoy a guided tour of the covered excavations of this advanced Bronze Age civilization. You will be taken back in time as these amazing ruins leave you to imagine what life was like before the village was destroyed around 1650 B.C., by the eruption of the volcano. It remains a question why there were no people left in the village at the time of the eruption, as it was abandoned for reasons unknown. It is often said in a whimsical way that perhaps Akrotiri is really the lost city of Atlantis. Next head to Oia with its picturesque, blue-domed churches, old 2-story mansions, and narrow cobblestone streets. It is the perfect place to fully appreciate the beauty of this remarkable island. As you traverse its narrow-cobbled streets you will come across many tiny shops which offer an unusual

collection of handmade works of ceramic art, paintings and semi-precious jewelry. Coffee shops perched on the edge of the cliffs offer spectacular views of Fira and the volcano. Once there, your guide directs you to the cliff road from where you may proceed to the cable car at your leisure or drive back to Athinios port to take the local boat back to ship. Please note: This tour involves winding roads and high altitude.

Sailing the Caldera (8:15 AM – 12:15 PM)

Get ready to set sail on the exquisite Santorini during this scenic, relaxing ride around the volcanic islands of Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni and Thirassia. You will board a Catamaran sailing vessel for a 3.5-hour tour . Palea Kameni and Nea Kameni represent the volcano's most recent activity. Palea Kameni, or Old Burnt Island, is less than 2,000 years old, while Nea Kameni, or Young Burnt Island, began forming just 425 years ago. Your boat will drop anchor into the green sulfur waters where you will enjoy an opportunity to swim in the warm waters of the thermal spring. A delicious Greek lunch of chicken, pasta, Greek salad, fruit and beverages will be served on board while sailing. Please note: Bring your swimsuit, a towel, sunscreen, sunglasses and your camera.

Monemvasia



Monemvasia is a small, secluded, pedestrian-only port city built into a cliffside. Located on the southeastern side of Peloponnese, Monemvasia Greece was entirely carved on the backside of a sea rock in Medieval times. This huge sea rock is not visible from the mainland so that the locals could avoid enemy attacks. The only way to reach Monemvasia was by boat, while later on a paved pathway was constructed to connect the castle entrance to the mainland. The Venetians used to call Monemvasia the *Gibraltar of the East*.

Monemvasia Castle

The medieval fortress was built in 583, during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Maurice, by people seeking refuge from the Slavic and Avaric invasions of Greece. It's one of the oldest continually-inhabited fortified towns in Europe.

Agia Sophia

The Byzantine church of Agia Sofia is located on the edge of a cliff. It was built in the 12th century by Emperor Andronicus. When Monemvasia was occupied by the Venetians, it became a Catholic cathedral and during the Turkish occupation, when their walls were painted with lime, it was used as a mosque.

Church of Christ Elkomenos

The church, dedicated to "Christ in Pain," is located within the castle. It was built in the 13th century by Byzantine Emperor Andronicus.

Friday, October 11: Monemvasia Excursions

This Gibraltar-like town tied to the mainland by a single thread of causeway holds treasures that are old even by Mediterranean standards, with town walls and several churches dating to the 12th century. Climb to the upper town for an up-close look at the castle and Agia Sophia, a Byzantine church. Wander the lanes of the lower town lined with Venetian mansions, many of which have been lovingly restored. Savor the sun on a smooth pebble beach. The ship is docked from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Castle and Liotrivi Olive Oil Factory (12:30 PM – 5 PM)

Monemvasia is unique among ruined medieval cities in that it is entirely built on a rock that appears to be barren when seen from the mainland. Your tour will commence with a walk through the narrow streets at the castle, where the streets are so tiny that in many places only two people can walk side by side. While strolling along these narrow lanes you will see ruined houses and Byzantine churches and Church of Christ Elkomenos. This cathedral dates back to the 13th century, but features alterations made during the Venetian occupation of Monemvasia. Then you will visit “Liotrivi”(Olive Oil Factory), a fully restored historic mansion that previously was the home of the family Ritsos, where the world-renowned poet lived during his childhood. You will have a guided tour in the old olive mill and learn the traditional method of producing extra virgin olive oil. You will walk to the vineyards and the olive groves. In a patio area, an experienced cook will knead and bake traditional bread in a wood-oven. The bread made, along with other local products, will be served to you in an appetizer buffet under the olive trees where you will have the opportunity to also taste the famous wines of Monemvasia. Please note: Wear comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses and sunscreen. Bring a hat. Guests must be physically fit.

Nafplio



Nafplio, the first capital of the newly born Greek state between 1823 and 1834, is located in the the Eastern Peloponnese. According to mythology, the town was founded by Nafplios, the son of the god Poseidon and the daughter of Danaus (Danaida) Anymone. The town's history traces back to the prehistoric era when soldiers participated in the Argonautic expedition and the Trojan War. The town declined during the Roman times and flourished again during the Byzantine times. Frankish, Venetian, and Turkish conquerors left their mark on the town and strongly influenced its culture, architecture, and traditions over the centuries.

Palamidi Castle

This castle, built over 700 feet above sea level, was built by Venetians during their second occupation in the early 1700s. Locals say there are 99 steps to reach the fortress and you'll often see this referenced on menus. The castle includes the beautiful chapel of Agios Andreas, which Christians were forbidden to enter during Turkish occupation. The most important hero of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottomans, Theodoros Kolokotronis, was imprisoned in the castle in 1833.

Seafront

The promenade, with its many seafront cafes, is an excellent place to relax and unwind. You can view the Bourtzi Fortress, which is spectacular at sunset. It's a 20 minute walk along the Arvanitia Promenade to Arvanita Beach.

Saturday, October 12: Nafplio Excursions

This charming seaside town on the Peloponnese is one of the most romantic cities in Greece. Enjoy the medieval old town with narrow cobblestone alleys, and neoclassical mansions with bougainvillea trees adorning the balconies. Take an optional tour to the UNESCO site of Epidaurus or the UNESCO site of Mycenae, ancient ruins including the famous Lion's Gate. Stroll the Syntagma Square and take in the beauty of the Palamidi Castle with its 999 steps carved from the rocks. The view is breathtaking. The ship is docked from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Mycenae & Epidaurus (8:30 AM – 1 PM)

Leaving the quayside, you will proceed along a picturesque and twisting road on a 45-minute drive towards the site of Epidaurus. The famous Theater of Epidaurus is the best-preserved ancient Greek Theater. Located next to the sanctuary-hospital of Asclepius, the ancient Greek God of Healing, the theater's function was directly connected with this sanctuary. This theater was very highly regarded in antiquity. The Ancient Greeks seemed to know that good psychological condition benefited those suffering from mental and psychological illnesses. For this reason they encouraged patients to watch theatrical performances. Famous for its superb acoustics, the theater was built in the 4th century BC and had a capacity of about 12,000 spectators. People arrived from all over the Greek world to attend the religious events dedicated to Asclepius. The architect who designed and built the theater was one of the best architects in Greece. Due to his excellent design, the acoustics are so good that one can be sitting right at the top in the last row and still hear even a coin dropping in the middle of the stage. After your visit, your tour will continue to the ruins of Mycenae. The German archaeologist Schliemann carried out the first in-depth excavations in 1876, who was obsessed with finding the grave of Agamemnon. His diligent work exposed the famous Lion's Gate, the city's entrance, which contains some ancient nobles' shaft burial graves. A short distance away is the Beehive Tomb, so-called due to its unusual shape. Afterward, return to the pier. Please note: Wear comfortable shoes and bring sunscreen.

Venetian Fortress & Walking Tour (8:15 – 11:45 AM)

Enjoy a brief drive to the Castle of Palamidi standing proudly over Nafplio. The castle is one of the most important and best-preserved castles in Greece, an exquisite example of Venetian architecture of the 18th century. The hill at which the castle is located was named after Palamidis, the hero of Homer's Epics. It is said that, in 1686, the Venetian Commander-in-Chief Morosini envisioned the castle's construction, whose architectural design was undertaken by Governor Grimani. In 1715, just one year after its completion, it was occupied by the Turks and one century later it finally came to the possession of the Greeks. You will have photo opportunities of the magnificent views of the town below as well as the Argolis Bay. Following the fortress visit, you will return to Nafplio. It is one of Greece's most romantic and prettiest towns. The narrow streets of the old town are filled with elegant Venetian houses and gracious neoclassical mansions. During

your walking tour, marvel at the beautiful neoclassical buildings lining the port, and then on to the Kapodistriou Square and park, dedicated to the memory of the first governor of Greece. In the park with his beloved Palamidi Fortress in the background, is the statue of Kolokotronis, known as the Grand Old Man of the Morea, being the leader of the Greeks during the War of Independence. It was he who besieged the Turkish-occupied Palamidi Citadel for 15 months before it was finally surrendered back. Across the way you can see the current Town Hall building, originally the very first High School of Greece. Continuing on through the backstreets not normally meant for tourists, you come upon the old Catholic Church and the 1702 Church of Agios Spyidon, just below. The ‘worry beads’ you see everywhere in Greece have a museum in Nafplio, and you will visit the “Museum of Komboloi” to learn about their origin. Next you will proceed through the popular Syntagma Square (Constitution Square) with its beautiful buildings, primarily in neoclassical style, that create a beautiful frame around the square, and the polished marble floor reflects both sunlight and streetlights. Before returning back to the yacht, in true Greek style, you will have the opportunity to sample the favorite spirit of the Greeks, Ouzo. Time permitting, you may choose to remain in town for more time at leisure or return to the tender pick-up point and make your way back to the yacht. Please note: Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your hat and sunscreen.

Swissotel Bosphorus Hotel, Istanbul



[Swissotel Bosphorus](#) (5*)

Visnezade Mah. Acisu Sok no 19
Beşiktaş, Istanbul

Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul offers five-star luxury accommodations, an exclusive rooftop pool, a heated indoor pool, and an award-winning spa. It also has several restaurants and bars. The hotel is set in 65 acres of historical gardens on the European banks of the Bosphorus.



Istanbul



Istanbul has been at the crossroads of civilizations for millennia due to its strategic location between Europe and Asia. Istanbul served as the capital of the Byzantine Empire (as Constantinople) and then the Ottoman Empire.

Hippodrome

Hippodrome of Constantinople, located in the Sultanahmet area of Istanbul, was a public arena mainly for chariot races. The word hippodrome comes from the Greek hippos (horse) and dromos (way). The Hippodrome of Constantinople was also home to gladiatorial games, official ceremonies, celebrations, and protests.

Grand Bazaar

The World's oldest shopping mall, the Grand Bazaar has more than 4,000 merchants. It began as a small vaulted warehouse during the reign of Mehmet the Conqueror in 1461, and is now a vast network of 64 narrow lanes, filled with artisans at work, antiques, jewelry, carpets, fabrics, and jewels.

The Spice Market

This 350-year-old market hall sells fragrant and colorful spices, dried fruit, cheeses, and roasted nuts. They also sell a wide range of Turkish delight, known as lokum. In its heyday, it was the last stop for the camel caravans that traveled the Silk Road from China, India, and Persia.

Pera Palas

Pera Palas was the first modern hotel in Istanbul to have electricity in the late Ottoman period and later it was the first to install an electric elevator. The small museum in Room

101 is where Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the father of Modern Turkey used to stay and hold important diplomatic meetings. Agatha Christie, author of “Murder on the Orient Express”, always stayed in Room 411. The room retains its original antique furniture and mementos about the author. Other famous guests include Queen Elizabeth II, Alfred Hitchcock, Greta Garbo and more.

Church of St Savior in Chora

This church was originally built during the Palaelogos Dynasty in the 4th century. The current church dates back to the 11th and the adornments were completed in the 14th century. The church contains elaborate mosaics of topics like the Nativity.

Taksim Square and Istikal Street

This is the gateway to the pedestrianized İstiklal Street and the heart of Istanbul's New District. Contemporary boutiques and cutting-edge cultural centers are housed in its grand 19th-century buildings, and an antique tram traverses its length alongside crowds of pedestrians making their way to the bustling cafes, bistros, and bars for which Beyoğlu is known.

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Istanbul

During the reign of Emperor Constantine over Constantinople, its religious capital became the Fener Patriarchate or the Greek/Ecumenical Patriarchate. Although Christianity may have been taken over during the fall of Constantinople, Sultan Mehmed II ordered for the restoration of the Patriarchate. It still holds significance up to this day, being the recognized global headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Church. A visit to the Fener Patriarchate will let you see artifacts and relics of religious importance. Dedicated to Saint George, it is open every day but strict screening of visitors takes place.

Basilica Cistern

This subterranean structure was commissioned by Emperor Justinian and built in 532. The largest surviving Byzantine cistern in İstanbul, it was constructed using 336 columns, many of which were salvaged from ruined temples and feature fine carved capitals.

Galata Tower

The cylindrical Galata Tower stands sentry over the approach to 'new' İstanbul. Constructed in 1348, it was the tallest structure in the city for centuries, and it still dominates the skyline north of the Golden Horn.

All Saints Moda Church

This tiny chapel on a leafy side street in Moda was built in 1878 as an Anglican church serving a British community who settled in the area following the Crimean War. Today its Protestant congregation worships in Turkish, but outside summer the church has open hours each week for visits and quiet reflection. In addition to the standard stained-glass scenes, look for the one in which İstanbul-based artist Hera Büyüktaşçıyan has etched the names of members of the Whittall family, prominent British residents of Moda in the 19th century who donated generously to the church's construction.

Topkapı Palace



Topkapı Palace was home to all the Ottoman sultans until the reign of Abdulmecid I (1839-1860), a period of nearly four centuries. The Imperial Gate leads into the First Court, which is known as the Court of the Janissaries or the Parade Court. The Middle Gate (Ortakapı or Bab-üs Selâm) leads to the palace's Second Court, used for the business of running the empire. The most important collections in the palace are in the Third Court. The Fourth Courtyard was the sultan's private domain where he spent his days. Entry to this courtyard was strictly regulated and off-limits to outsiders.

The Hagia Eirene / Aya Irini, found inside the First Court of the palace complex, was the first Christian church to be built in Constantinople and dates back to the 6th century. It was used as an armory during the Turkish period. There's an 8th-century mosaic of a black cross against a gold background. It's now mostly used as a concert hall for classical music concerts.

The Harem entrance is beneath the Tower of Justice in the Second Court, and requires an additional ticket. This was where the imperial family lived and every detail of their lives was governed by tradition, obligation, and ceremony. "Harem" means "forbidden" or "Private". The Sultan was allowed to have four legitimate wives.

Hagia Sophia



The original church at the current site of the Hagia Sophia was built beside the Great Palace of Constantinople. A majority of the current structure of Hagia Sophia was built under emperor Justinian I after the church was destroyed in 532 C.E. It was first known as Magna Ecclesia (meaning Great Church) because of its significantly large dimensions. It is over 14 centuries old, consecrated first in 360 C.E. by Bishop Eudoxius of Antioch during the reign of Constantius I.

All parts of the great Byzantine Empire had a part to play in the building of the church. The green marble came from Egypt, the yellow stone from Syria, and the black stone from the Bosphorus region. During the time of its construction, the Hagia Sophia was destroyed twice: first during the riots of C.E. 404, and then again during 532 C.E. during the Nika Uprising. The columns from the Temple of Artemis were used to boost and embellish the interior. It was transformed into a mosque in 1453 under the Ottomans and then into a museum in 1935 under the Republic of Turkey. The Hagia Sophia remained a museum until 2020 as one of the most famous and iconic travel destinations in the world. Today, it has been re-designated as a mosque in Istanbul.

There is a 10th-century mosaic on the lunette of the doorway leading from the southwest vestibule to the inner narthex. It shows the Virgin Mary holding the Christ child, flanked by Emperor Justinian (on her left) offering her Hagia Sophia and Emperor Constantine (to her right) handing her Constantinople.

In the inner narthex is one of the Aya Sofya's finest mosaics in the lunette above the doorway. The glittering gold tesserae of this 9th century mosaic depicts an enthroned Christ with Emperor Leo IV bowing at his feet.

Blue Mosque



The Sultanahmet Mosque (*Sultanahmet Camii*) was built between 1609 and 1617 and is also known as the Blue Mosque because of the blue Iznik tiles used to decorate its interior walls. Sultan Ahmet I commissioned the construction. The idea was to build a monument that would not only rival but surpass the magnificent Hagia Sophia.

Legend says that the Blue Mosque has six minarets due to a misunderstanding. The sultan decreed that the minarets should be gold (*altın minaret*), but the architect thought he said six minarets (*altı minaret*). An easy mistake to make! This caused some controversy, as the only other mosque with six minarets at that time was the Prophet's mosque in Mecca – a problem the sultan overcame by ordering a seventh to be added in Mecca.



ΠΑΥΛΟΣ

ἸΔΡΥΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ
ΤΗΣ Ἑλλάδος

ἄΝΔΡΕΣ ἈΘΗΝΑΙΟΙ
κατὰ πάντα ὥς δεῖ
σὶ δαιμονεστέρους
ὑμᾶς θεωρῶ. διε-
ρχόμεν γὰρ καὶ
ἀναθεωρῶν
τὰ σεβάσματα
ὑμῶν εὗρον
καὶ βωμὸν ἐν
ᾧ ἐπετέτευκτο
πτο, ἄγνωστον
θεῶ. ὅν ἄγνο-
οῦντες εὐσε-
βεῖτε τούτου

Biblical References

Passages from Acts

Acts 9:1-19

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Acts 16: 1-40

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

¹Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. ²The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

⁶Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

¹¹From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹²From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district^[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰They brought

them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

³⁵When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

³⁷But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

Acts 17: 1-33

In Thessalonica

¹When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. ⁴Some of the Jews were

persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵ But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.^[a] ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." ⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

In Berea

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

¹³ But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. ¹⁴ The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. ¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

In Athens

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’^[b] As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’^[c]

²⁹ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” ³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Acts 18: 18-28

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos

¹⁸ Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. ¹⁹ They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. ²¹ But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

²³ After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴ Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor^[d] and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

²⁷ When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸ For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 19: 1-41

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^[a] you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues^[a] and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

¹¹ God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. ¹⁸ Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. ¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.^[a] ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

²¹ After all this had happened, Paul decided^[a] to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.”

²² He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

The Riot in Ephesus

²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. ²⁵ He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. ²⁶ And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. ²⁷ There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

²⁸ When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. ³⁰ Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. ³¹ Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

³² The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. ³³ The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. ³⁴ But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

³⁵ The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? ³⁶ Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. ³⁷ You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. ³⁸ If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. ³⁹ If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. ⁴⁰ As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.” ⁴¹ After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly

Acts 20: 1-6

Through Macedonia and Greece

20 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. ² He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, ³ where he stayed

three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. ⁴He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. ⁶But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days



Ephesians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus,^[a] the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he^[a] predestined us for adoption to sonship^[a] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **8** that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, **9** he^[a] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, **10** to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen,^[a] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **12** in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. **13** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16** I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Made Alive in Christ

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the

spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^a and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

God’s Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it^[a] says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”^[b]

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Instructions for Christian Living

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”^[a]; Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5 ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.^[a] ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find

out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Instructions for Christian Households

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”^[c] ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”^[d]

⁴ Fathers,^[b] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Final Greetings

²¹ Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

²³ Peace to the brothers and sisters,^[s] and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.^[d]

Philippians

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons^[a]:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,^[b] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard^[c] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^[d] ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know



that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Life Worthy of the Gospel

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit,^[a] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and

trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”¹⁴ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

No Confidence in the Flesh

3 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes

from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Following Paul's Example

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Final Exhortations

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Thanks for Their Gifts

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

²¹ Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. ²² All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.^[a]

1 Thessalonians

1 Paul, Silas^[a] and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

²We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters^[b] loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica

2 You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶ in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.^[b]

3 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

Timothy's Encouraging Report

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Living to Please God

4 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body^[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^[b] The Lord will

punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

⁹ Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Believers Who Have Died

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Final Instructions

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened,

help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.2



2 Thessalonians

1 Paul, Silas^[a] and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters,^[b] and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

⁵ All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶ God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰ on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.^[c]

The Man of Lawlessness

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in

accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Stand Firm

¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits^[b] to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings^[c] we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Request for Prayer

3 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Warning Against Idleness

⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching^[a] you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

¹⁴Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Final Greetings

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

¹⁷I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Passages from Revelation

Revelation 1: 9-11

Prologue

1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Greetings and Doxology

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits^[a] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”^[b]
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[c]
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

John’s Vision of Christ

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the

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sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels^[a] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 2: 1-11

2 “To the angel^[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ²I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

To the Church in Smyrna

⁸“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

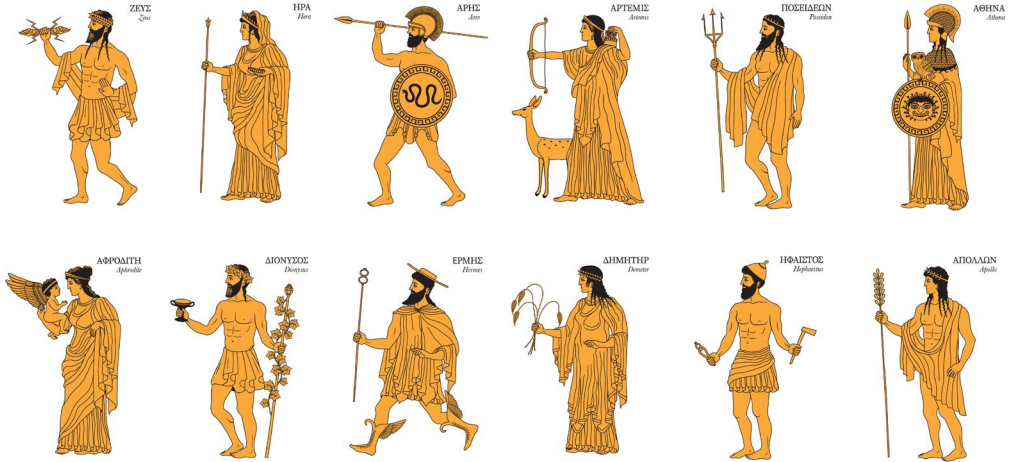
These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. ⁹I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

¹¹Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.



Background Information

Greek Gods



Zeus - The King of the Gods

He was the overall ruler of Mount Olympus and the king of all the Olympian gods of Greece. He was the lord and controller of the weather, that is, god of the sky, lightning and thunder, law and order, as well as justice. He was the youngest child of the Titan deities Cronus and Rhea and a brother to Poseidon, Hera, Demeter, Hades, and Hestia. His symbols included the thunderbolt, eagle, lion, scepter, oak tree, and scales.

Poseidon - God of the Sea

He is often thought of as the most second powerful God after Zeus. In charge of all water bodies and their associated natural calamities, Poseidon's influence also affected the seas and oceans, rivers and lakes, storms and hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes, as well as horses. He was a brother to both Zeus and Hades and was the middle son of Cronus and Rhea. His symbols included the horse, bull, trident, and dolphin.

Hera - Queen of the Gods

She was the queen goddess of Mt. Olympus, the primary abode of the gods of Greece. She was the goddess of women and childbirth, marriage, and family. She was both a sister and wife to Zeus, the king of the gods. She was the youngest daughter of Cronus and Rhea. Her symbols included the peacock, cow, and cuckoo. Being the goddess and overseer of marriage, she tormented any women who had extramarital affairs with Zeus, together with their children.

Athena - The Goddess of Wisdom

She was the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, reason, intelligence, science, literature, handicrafts, as well as defense and strategic warfare. She was fathered by Zeus with the Oceanid Metis, being her mother. Athena is said to have emerged out of her father's head a fully-grown woman in full armor and ready for battle. Her symbols included the owl and the olive tree.

Ares - The God of War

Ares was the god of violence, bloodshed, war, masculinity, and manly virtues. He was born of Zeus and Hera. All the other gods despised Ares. His symbols included the boar, the serpent, the dog, and the vulture, as well as the spear and shield.

Artemis - The Goddess of the Hunt

Artemis was the goddess of the jungle, hunting, archery, purity and virginity, childbirth, protection, plagues, and the moon. She was the daughter of Zeus and Leto and also a twin sister to Apollo. Her symbols included the moon, horse, deer, hound, snake, the cypress tree, she-bear, as well as bow and arrow.

Apollo - The God of the Sun

Apollo is quite a complex figure in Greek Mythology. He was the god of light, the sun, prophecy and philosophy, truth and inspiration, the arts, poetry and music, medicine, healing, and the plague. He was the son of Zeus and Leto, as well as the twin brother of Artemis. His symbols included the sun, swan, lyre, and mouse.

Aphrodite - The Goddess of Love

She was the goddess of love, passion, desire, pleasure, beauty, procreation, and the fertility of the human body. She was the daughter of the Oceanid Dione and Zeus. Her symbols included the dove, bird, swan, bee, myrtle, apple, and rose.

Demeter - The Goddess of Fertility

Demeter was the goddess of the earth's fertility and productivity, harvest, agriculture, the environment, seasons, and nature. She was thus believed to preside over grains, the harvesting season, and, generally, the fertility of the earth. Demeter was the lover of both Zeus and Poseidon, and the middle daughter born to Cronus and Rhea. Her symbols included the poppy, wheat, cornucopia, pig, and torch.

Hermes - The Messenger

Hermes was originally described as a trickster like a character who deceived, perhaps a little like Loki from Norse mythology. Over time, he became associated as a God of travelers and traders but is most commonly thought of as the messenger between Gods and Men.

Hephaestus - Blacksmith God

Hephaestus was the lame son born of Hera, who at one point was cast out of Olympus. Married to Aphrodite, he is credited with creating the Gods fabulous weapons and equipment.

Dionysus - The God of Wine

He was the god of wine and strong drinks, the grapevine, fertility, festivity, ecstasy, madness, and resurrection. Zeus fathered him, and the mortal Theban princess, Semele, was her mother. Dionysus was married to the Cretan princess Ariadne. Among Olympian gods, he was the youngest and the only one to have been borne by a mortal mother. His symbols included the grapevine, ivy, cup, tiger, leopard, panther, dolphin, goat, and pinecone.

Greek Orthodox Church

A typical service of the Greek Orthodox Church shares many features in various congregations around the world and with historical Greek Orthodoxy. If an Evangelical Christian attended one of their churches, he or she would notice differences between Protestant and Orthodox services both on the surface and at a deeper level.

Basic Tenets of the Greek Orthodox Church

Firstly, the governing body of the GOC believes that authority comes from the scriptures and from the “Holy Tradition, of which Holy Scripture is a part.”

This tradition includes “the writings, teachings, and acts of the apostles, saints, martyrs, and fathers of the Church,” not to mention some of their rituals and traditions. The Ecumenical Councils, past and present, share in this authority thanks to their “collective wisdom and experience through the ages.”

The Greek Orthodox church believes in salvation by grace alone, although they use the word “deification” instead of salvation. They do not mean that believers become equal to God but that they come to resemble him.

Donald Fairbairn explains that “to the Orthodox, the primary means by which the Holy Spirit works to give grace and to deify people are the church’s sacraments and human effort.”

Those efforts are motivated by the love of Jesus, but in the Orthodox church, religious elements remain important, not merely as a means of worship but as part of their transformation.

Grace is imparted to those who do good works and keep the sacraments which, to Greek Orthodox believers, is grace “actualized.” They include “baptism, penance, and the Eucharist.” These physical acts are more than symbolic but, in fact, form part of the mechanism of salvation in their own right.

Salvation — in the Protestant understanding — comes by believing, and grace follows, even for one such as the thief on the cross who was unable to receive communion or baptism.

Nothing a Christian does in his life or which a priest does for a person can add to that; good works and taking part in sacraments are expressions of faith in that reality which encourage the body and promote unity.

To read more visit www.christianity.com/church/what-is-the-greek-orthodox-church.html

St. Paul Timeline

By Janet Meyer Everts

Birth & Education

- c. A.D. 6 Born a Roman citizen to Jewish parents in Tarsus (in modern eastern Turkey)
- c. 20–30 Studies Torah in Jerusalem with Gamaliel; becomes a Pharisee
- c. 30–33 Persecutes followers of Jesus of Nazareth in Jerusalem and Judea

Conversion

- c. 33–36 Converted on the way to Damascus; spends three years in Arabia; returns to Damascus to preach Jesus as Messiah
- c. 36 Flees Damascus because of persecution; visits Jerusalem and meets with the apostles
- 36–44 Preaches in Tarsus and surrounding region
- 44–46 Invited by Barnabas to teach in Antioch
- 46 With Barnabas visits Jerusalem to bring a famine relief offering

Mission Trips

- 47–48 First missionary journey with Barnabas, to Cyprus and Galatia
- 49 At the Council of Jerusalem, Paul argues successfully that Gentile Christians need not follow Jewish law; returns to Antioch; confronts Peter over question of Jewish law
- 49–52 Second missionary journey with Silas, through Asia Minor and Greece; settles in Corinth; writes letters to Thessalonians
- 52 Visits Jerusalem and Antioch briefly; begins third missionary journey
- 52–55 Stays in Ephesus; writes the letters to Galatians and Corinthians
- 55–57 Travels through Greece and possibly Illyricum (modern Yugoslavia); writes letter to Romans

Arrest & Death

- 57–59 Returns to Jerusalem and arrested; imprisoned at Caesarea
- 59–60 Appears before Festus and appeals to Caesar; voyage to Rome
- 60–62 Under house arrest at Rome; writes letters to Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon
- 62–64 Released; journeys to Spain?; writes letters to Timothy and Titus
- 64 Returns to Rome; martyred during persecution

Maps of Paul's Journeys in Greece





Paul's Inner Circle

Paul Priscilla and Aquila (died c. 80?) *Tri-city tentmakers*

What the Roman emperor Claudius meant for evil turned out for good for Priscilla and Aquila. They were living in Rome in 49 when Claudius expelled all the Jews because of a riot over a certain “Chrestus,” probably an allusion to Jewish arguments over Christ. Jewish Christians like Priscilla and Aquila were also forced to leave.

So the couple moved to Corinth, where they set up their tentmaking business. When Paul arrived, Priscilla and Aquila opened their home to him and invited him to work with them. The trio later worked and ministered together in Ephesus, which may be where Priscilla and Aquila “risked their necks” for Paul, possibly when he “fought with beasts at Ephesus.” Priscilla is sometimes pictured with two lions who refuse to attack her, lending credence to this tradition.

When Claudius died in 55, Priscilla and Aquila returned to Rome and again hosted a church in their home, to whom Paul sent greetings in his letter to the Romans. A tradition of the sixth century claims that the Roman church “Prisca” on the Aventine Hill stands over their original house-church.

Silas (died c. 75?) *co-author of three New Testament books?*

Silas is first mentioned at the Council of Jerusalem (49). As “one of the leading men among the brethren,” he was chosen as diplomatic envoy to the Antioch church to announce the council’s decisions (specifically, the requirements for non-Jews to join The Way).

For some reason, he remained in Antioch, so that when Paul was looking for replacements for Barnabas and Mark, who had broken with him, Silas was available. On their three-year journey, he preached, was stoned, and was jailed with Paul. They made their way, with Timothy and Luke, through Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth. Silas found his niche in Corinth and remained there, preaching and teaching, after Paul departed for Ephesus. He may have helped compose Paul’s letters to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:1, 2 Thess. 2:1).

Also called Silvanus, Silas later joined Peter in Rome and may have served as Peter’s secretary and co-authored 1 Peter (1 Peter 5:12). Legend has him returning to Corinth, where he became the city’s first bishop. He reportedly died in northern Greece.

Luke (died c. 90?) *Paul’s biographer*

“Only Luke is with me.” So wrote Paul late in life from a Roman prison, just one evidence of their close relationship.

Early tradition suggests that Luke was born a Greek in Antioch and became a physician before being converted and joining Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Troas on Paul's second missionary journey (early 50s). Luke was later shipwrecked with Paul on Malta and jailed with Paul in Rome.

He went to Greece around the time of Paul's death and from there wrote his two-volume history of Jesus and the early church. The second volume, *The Acts of the Apostles*, is mostly about Paul's missionary journeys, and in four passages, Luke includes himself in the story, using the pronoun "we" to narrate various events.

One second-century prologue to the Gospel of Luke claims:

"Having neither wife nor child, [Luke] served the Lord without distraction. He fell asleep in Boeotia, at the age of 84, full of the Holy Spirit."

Constantine the Great transported Luke's remains to Constantinople in 356, where they are said to be preserved in the Church of the Apostles.

Timothy (died 97) *Trusted confidant*

Despite his youth, Timothy quickly gained Paul's confidence and served as his trusted companion and emissary for 17 years.

Timothy was born in Lystra in Asia Minor to a Greek father and a Jewish mother, Eunice. He, his mother, and grandmother probably became Christians when Paul and Barnabas preached in Lystra during their first missionary journey. When Paul returned a year or so later, he invited Timothy to join him and Silas.

Somehow, he managed to stay out of harm's way—he was not jailed with Paul and Silas in Philippi, and he avoided the riot in Thessalonica. But when Paul needed an envoy to return to Thessalonica to encourage the new believers there, he sent young Timothy. Later, Paul sent Timothy as emissary to Corinth, where he preached for some time.

Paul called Timothy his "beloved and faithful child in the Lord." When Paul was imprisoned in Rome, it's Timothy he asked to "come before winter" to comfort him.

Eusebius, the fourth century historian, says that after Paul's death, Timothy became the first bishop of Ephesus, probably at around age 40. He outlived Paul by 30 years, and according to one tradition, was present at the death of the Virgin Mary, whose tomb is said to be near Ephesus.

This tradition also says that because he protested festivities honoring Artemis, he was stoned to death in 97. His relics were brought to Constantinople in 356.

Barnabas (died 61) *Advocate for the despised*

“Barnabas” was actually his nickname, given him by the apostles. It meant “Son of Encouragement,” and it was most appropriate.

He was actually born Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus. He was probably one of many Jews who migrated back to Jerusalem, where he became one of the earliest converts to Christianity. He sold a field shortly afterwards and gave the money to the Jerusalem church.

Unlike most Christians, Barnabas believed Paul’s conversion story, and he smoothed the way for the former persecutor to be accepted by the Jerusalem church.

Barnabas then went to pastor the growing church in Antioch, and Paul returned to Tarsus. Barnabas later invited Paul to come and co-pastor the Antioch church.

In 48, Barnabas set off with his cousin Mark and Paul to evangelize cities in Asia Minor. Though Mark deserted the party early on, Barnabas and Paul preached, performed miracles, and endured persecution together.

One early tradition, recorded by Clement of Alexandria, says Barnabas worked briefly with Jesus, being one of the 70 sent out to evangelize Palestine. Another tradition says he preached in Alexandria and Rome after leaving Paul, founded the church on Cyprus, and was finally stoned and then burned to death in about 61 in Syria. Though three early church works claim his name—The *Epistle of Barnabas*, the *Gospel of Barnabas*, and the *Acts of Barnabas*—none are considered to be written by him.

John Mark (died c. 80) *First Gospel writer*

Was Mark one of the first people in history to be raised in a Christian home? His mother’s home in Jerusalem, where Mark was likely born and raised, was a gathering place for early Christians; it was the house to which Peter fled after he miraculously escaped from prison. A Byzantine tradition says the house was also used for the Last Supper, and the Church of John Mark in Jerusalem is said to mark the site.

Sometime after Pentecost, Mark moved to Antioch, and when the church there commissioned Paul and Barnabas to carry the gospel to Asia Minor, Mark was invited to assist them. For some reason, at Perga, Mark left the mission and returned to Jerusalem—a move that eroded Paul’s confidence in Mark.

When plans were laid for the next missionary journey, Paul argued vehemently with Barnabas against taking Mark again. The disagreement was so sharp, the group split up, and Mark went with Barnabas to Cyprus.

Later, Mark and Paul must have resolved their rift, for Paul calls Mark his “fellow-worker” and tells the Colossians: “If [Mark] comes to you, welcome him.”

Mark eventually made his way to Rome, where he became a companion to Peter—indeed, Peter calls him “my son Mark.” Early Christian writers Papias and Irenaeus say Mark “handed down to us in writing the things that Peter had proclaimed” about Jesus. This Gospel of Mark was the first published account of the life of Jesus.

Church historian Eusebius says Mark eventually went to Alexandria to become its first bishop. Tradition claims Mark was martyred there; in the ninth century, his relics were carried off as war booty to Venice, where they are said to rest in the Cathedral of St. Mark.

Titus (died 96) *Paul’s troubleshooter*

Titus probably gets the Pauline service award with 20 years as Paul’s co-worker.

Titus was born a Gentile, and when he became a Christian he did not get circumcised. When Titus accompanied Paul on a visit to Jerusalem, some Jewish Christians insisted Paul’s companion be circumcised according to Jewish law. As Paul put it, he “did not yield submission even for a moment,” and Titus remained uncircumcised. Titus thus served as a powerful symbol of justification by grace, not by law.

Titus served with Paul during his extended stay in Ephesus as a “partner and fellow-worker,” and from there Titus tackled his toughest assignment: to combat grave immorality in the Corinthian church and mediate their reconciliation with Paul.

Titus put his pastoral skills to work and reported back to a nervously-waiting Paul that Paul’s severe third Corinthian letter (lost or possibly contained in 2 Corinthians 10–13) had led to their repentance.

Titus was later appointed the first bishop of the troubled church at Crete, where Paul wrote him about the qualities of a good bishop. Eusebius reports that Titus died there in 96 and was buried in the ancient capital, Gortyna. His head was supposedly removed in 823 by Saracens and later enshrined at St. Mark’s Cathedral, Venice.

By Mary Ann Jeffreys

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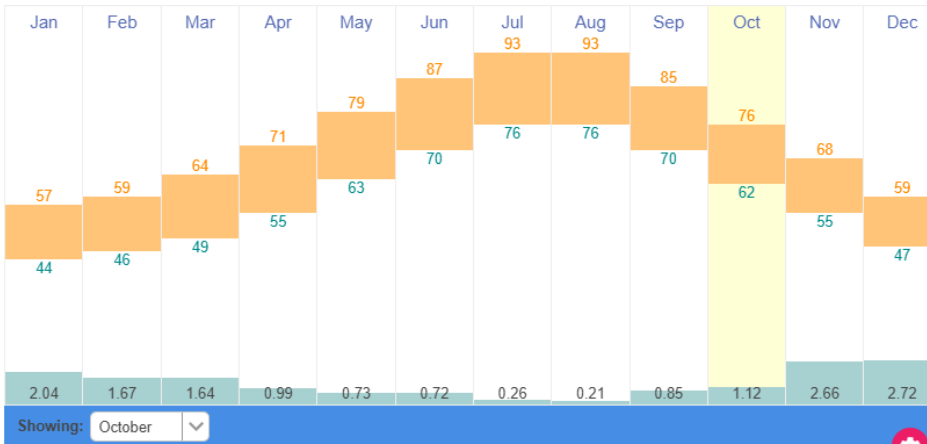
Mary Ann Jeffreys is editorial coordinator for *Christian History*.



Practical Information

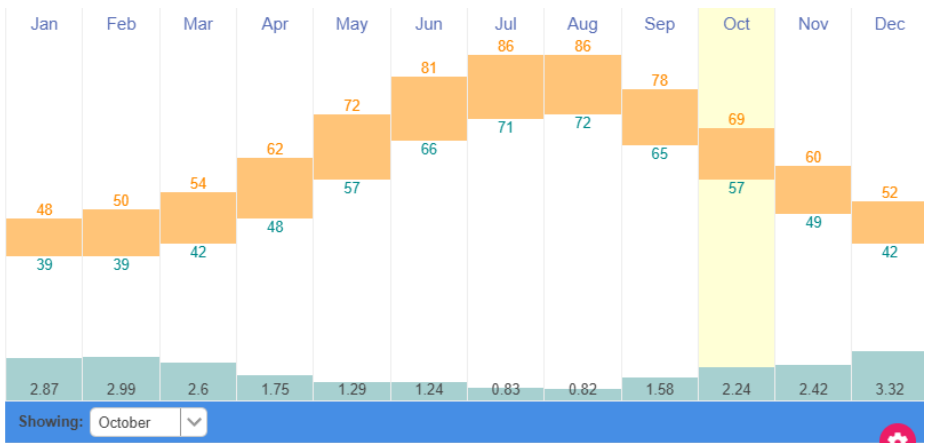
Climate

Greece and Turkey have a Mediterranean climate with plenty of sunshine, mild temperatures, and limited rainfall. As with most regions with so much coastland, there is great variation in the climate. In summer, the dry, hot days are cooled by seasonal winds called the “Meltemi,” while mountainous regions are generally cooler. The winters are mild in lowland areas, with minimal snow and ice, while mountains are usually snow-covered.



October Climate & Weather Averages in Athens

High Temp: 76 °F	Precipitation: 1.12"	Wind: 8 mph
Low Temp: 62 °F	Humidity: 61%	Pressure: 30.04 "Hg
Mean Temp: 69 °F	Dew Point: 54 °F	Visibility: 7 mi



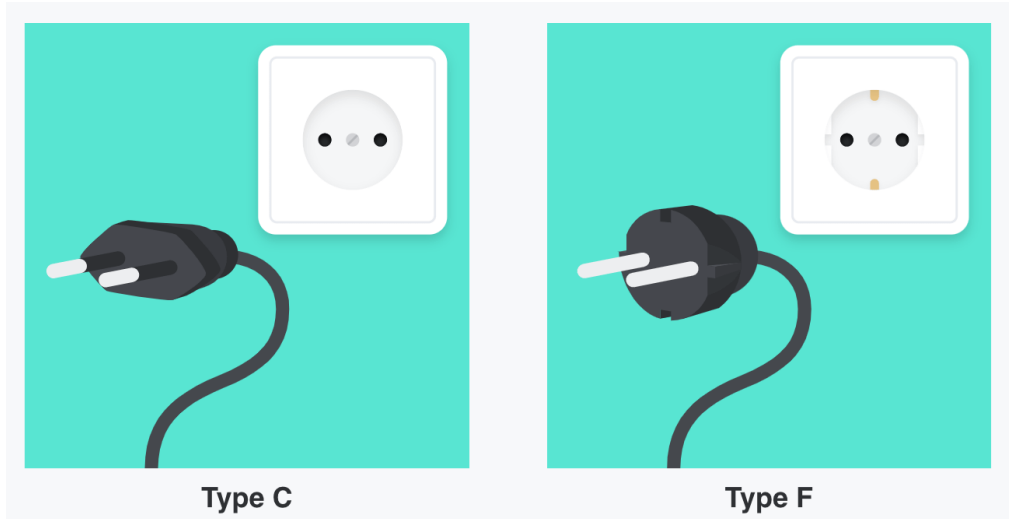
October Climate & Weather Averages in Istanbul

High Temp: 69 °F	Precipitation: 2.24"	Wind: 17 mph
Low Temp: 57 °F	Humidity: 74%	Pressure: 30.08 "Hg
Mean Temp: 63 °F	Dew Point: 54 °F	Visibility: 6 mi

Electricity

In Greece and Turkey, power sockets are of type C and F. The standard voltage is 230 V, and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

The voltage in the USA is 110V, and the standard frequency is 120 Hz, so most appliances, particularly curling irons and other heat-up appliances, won't work in Greece and Turkey. It's better to purchase hair straighteners or curling irons once you arrive in the country.



The hotels all have hair dryers, so you don't need to bring one. Many hotels are equipped with irons. Check each hotel's amenities on the Internet prior to departure.

On the cruise

Voltage is standard 110/220 on all Windstar ships. Special converters are needed using the Europlug (two round pins) standard. Guests will need to bring their own travel adaptors as they are not available on board. For your convenience, there is a hair dryer in each stateroom or suite. There are only 110v US plugs on *Wind Spirit*.

Greek Language Basics

Hello - Γειά σου (*YAH-soo*)

Good Morning - Καλημέρα (*kab-lee-MER-ab*)

Good Evening – Καλησπέρα (*kab-lee-SPER-ab*)

Goodbye – Γειά σου (*YAH-soo*)

Please/You're welcome: Παρακαλώ (*para-kab-LOE*)

Thank you - Ευχαριστώ (*eff-kha-ri-STOE*)

Do you speak English? – Μιλάτε Αγγλικά? (*mee-la-te ag-lee-ka*)

I do not understand – Δεν καταλαβαίνω (Then Kah-tah-lah-VEH-noh)

Yes – Ναι (*neh*)

No: όχι (*OH-bee*)

How much does that cost? – Πόσο κάνει αυτό (*POH-sob KAH-nee af-TOH*)?

Where is the lavatory? – Πού είναι η τουαλέτα (*Pob-EE-nay ee tua-LEH-tab*)?

Where is the post office? – Μιλάτε αγγλικά (*Mee-LAH-teh ag-li-KAH*)?

I need a doctor. - Χρειάζομαι ένα γιατρό (*bree-a-zo-me yee-atro*)

Where is the...? – Που είναι... (*pwee-neh*)

The bill, please – Τον λογαριασμό παρακαλώ (*ton lo-ga-ria-smo pa-ra-ka-lo*)

May I please have...? - Θα μπορούσα να έχω... (*tha mpo-ru-sa na e-ho*)

Turkish Language Basics

Turkish has a phonetic alphabet, so it's simple to pronounce. Some modern words come from French, e.g. taksi, radyo.

There are a few extra letters in the alphabet: **ç** = ch, **ş** = sh, **ö** is like ur in curd, **ü** is like oo in boot, **c** = j, **i** is like the i in cousin, **ğ** lengthens the vowel before.

Hello - Merhaba

Good Morning – Günaydin

Good Evening – İyi akşamlar

Goodbye – Hoşçakal! (said by the person leaving)

Please/You're welcome: Lütfen / Birşey değil

Thank you - Teşekkür ederim

Do you speak English? – İngilizce biliyor musunuz?

I do not understand – Sizi anlamıyorum

Yes – Evet **No:** Hayır

How much does that cost? – Ne kadar?

Where is the lavatory? – Banyo nerede?

Where is the post office? – Postane nerede?

I need a doctor. – Bir Doktora ihtiyacım var

Where is the...? –nerede?

The bill, please – Hesap lütfen

May I please have...? -alabilir miyim?

Currency

Greece uses Euros and Turkey uses Turkish Lira. Using an ATM is the best way to get cash in foreign currency at the best exchange rates. A fee of about \$3-\$5 per transaction will be charged. Check with your bank for locations of ATMs that will accept your bankcard and for fees your bank may charge (you'll probably be charged a fee by both your bank and the foreign ATM's bank). Also, check with your bank since some international ATMs only accept 4-digit PIN numbers (you may need to change your PIN to 4 digits if it isn't already).

Taking a well-known credit card such as Visa or MasterCard is a good idea. Again, check with your bank for your PIN. Although many credit card companies are adding a 2% surcharge for international transactions, Chase Bank and Capital One are not doing so at this time.

Estimated current value of Euro: 1 Euro ≈ \$1.11

EUR / USD					
Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com					
Exchange rates from 02/09/2024					
EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD
1	» 1.11	15	» 16.61	45	» 49.82
2	» 2.21	20	» 22.14	50	» 55.36
3	» 3.32	25	» 27.68	100	» 110.71
4	» 4.43	30	» 33.21	250	» 276.79
5	» 5.54	35	» 38.75	500	» 553.57
10	» 11.07	40	» 44.29	1,000	» 1,107.15

USD / EUR					
Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com					
Exchange rates from 02/09/2024					
USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR
1	» 0.90	15	» 13.55	45	» 40.64
2	» 1.81	20	» 18.06	50	» 45.16
3	» 2.71	25	» 22.58	100	» 90.32
4	» 3.61	30	» 27.10	250	» 225.81
5	» 4.52	35	» 31.61	500	» 451.61
10	» 9.03	40	» 36.13	1,000	» 903.22

Estimated current value of Turkish Lira: 1 TRY ≈ \$0.03

TRY / USD					
Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com					
Exchange rates from 02/09/2024					
TRY	USD	TRY	USD	TRY	USD
10	» 0.30	150	» 4.43	450	» 13.28
20	» 0.59	200	» 5.90	500	» 14.75
30	» 0.89	250	» 7.38	1,000	» 29.50
40	» 1.18	300	» 8.85	2,500	» 73.75
50	» 1.48	350	» 10.33	5,000	» 147.51
100	» 2.95	400	» 11.80	10,000	» 295.02

USD / TRY					
Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com					
Exchange rates from 02/09/2024					
USD	TRY	USD	TRY	USD	TRY
1	» 33.90	15	» 508.44	45	» 1,525.32
2	» 67.79	20	» 677.92	50	» 1,694.80
3	» 101.69	25	» 847.40	100	» 3,389.60
4	» 135.58	30	» 1,016.88	250	» 8,474.00
5	» 169.48	35	» 1,186.36	500	» 16,948.01
10	» 338.96	40	» 1,355.84	1,000	» 33,896.01

Fun Facts about Greece

- No one in Greece can choose to not vote. Voting is required by law for every citizen who is 18 or older.
- About 7% of all the marble produced in the world comes from Greece
- Thousands of English words come from the Greek language, sometimes via the Roman adaptation into Latin and then to English. Common English words from Greek include “academy,” “apology,” “marathon,” “siren,” “alphabet,” and “typhoon.”
- Greece has more than 2,000 islands, of which approximately 170 are populated. Greece’s largest island is Crete (3,189 sq. miles) (8,260 sq. km.).
- The Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.) between Athens and the Peloponnesian League led by Sparta left ancient Greece in ruins and marked the end of the golden age of Greece
- Greece is the leading producer of sea sponges.
- Greece has more archaeological museums than any other country in the world.
- In Greece, people celebrate the “name day” of the saint that bears their name rather than their own birthday.
- Greece enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine—or 3,000 sunny hours—a year.
- Greek has been spoken for more than 3,000 years, making it one of the oldest languages in Europe.
- The ancient Greeks are often called the inventors of mathematics because they were the first to make it a theoretical discipline. The work of Greek mathematicians such as Pythagoras, Euclid, Archimedes, and Apollonius lie at the basis of modern mathematics.
- Greece has two major political parties: the Socialists (Panhellenic Socialist Movements or PASOK) and the Democrats (the New Democracy Party). Both were founded in 1974 after Greece’s military dictatorship collapsed.
- Greek workers get at least one month of paid vacation every year.
- The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses.
- Greece’s currency, the drachma, was 2,650 years old and Europe’s oldest currency. The drachma was replaced with the Euro in 2002.
- Athens most recently hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 2004.
- The Greeks baked a flatbread called plakous in mud ovens, which contributed to the development of pizza.
- About 10% of a Greek worker’s pay is taken for taxes and another 10% for national health care. The government provides free hospitals and other medical services.
- 80% of Greece is made up of mountains.

Fun Facts about Turkey

- Ankara is the capital of Turkey, although Istanbul is the largest city
- Turkey is located on two continents: 3% is in Europe and 97% is in Asia.
- The Seven Churches of Revelation are all located in Turkey
- The Turks introduced tulips to the Netherlands and the government plants thousands of tulips in Istanbul every year.
- Istanbul's original name was Byzantium. In 324, it was renamed "Constantinople," and in 1930, it became Istanbul.
- The Cappadocia region, known for its "Fairy Chimney" caves was one of the earliest Christian settlements.
- Turkey supplies around 75% of the world's hazelnuts, grown on the Black Sea coast.
- There are over 30 ethnic languages in Turkey. Although Turkish is the official language, more than 30 other languages are regularly spoken in the country, including Arabic, Kurmanji and Zazaki, among others.
- The first ever female combat pilot in the world is from Turkey. Her name is Sabiha Gökçen. She was the adopted daughter of the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kamal Atatürk. The Istanbul airport is named after her.
- The Trojan war took place in Turkey. Today, the ancient city is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site and a copy of the wooden horse stands in the main town.
- The most valuable silk carpet in the world is in Melvana Museum in Konya-Turkey.
- The biggest and oldest Mall in the world is Grand Bazar (Kapalıçarşı) in İstanbul. It has 64 streets, 4000 shops and attracts around 400,000 visitors every day.
- Turkey is the only Muslim country in the world to be both secular and democratic.
- Built 7 meters beneath the surface, Sancaklar Mosque is the world's first underground mosque. It is constructed in Turkey's Buyukcekmece district in Istanbul.
- Julius Ceasar proclaimed his celebrated words, "Veni, Vidi, Vici" (I came, I saw, I conquered) in Turkey when he defeated the Pontus, a formidable kingdom in the Black Sea region of Turkey.
- Yağlı Güreş (Oil Wrestling) is the National Sport of Turkey. Wrestlers (known as pehlivan) douse themselves with olive oil and wear a type of hand-stitched shorts called a kisbet.
- The Turkish alphabet is phonetic, so words are pronounced in the same way they are read.
- Money was 'born' in Turkey. The first coins ever made were created by the Lydians, in what is now Turkey.
- While camels are not native to Turkey, they have been present in the country for around 2,600 years. Turkey is home to both one-humped and Bactrian camels.
- St. Peter's Church in Antioch is believed to be the world's oldest place of Christian worship.
- The Fez is a red color hat with a black tassel. The Fez name came from Morocco, where the hat originated. You may get arrested for wearing the Fez in Turkey.



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