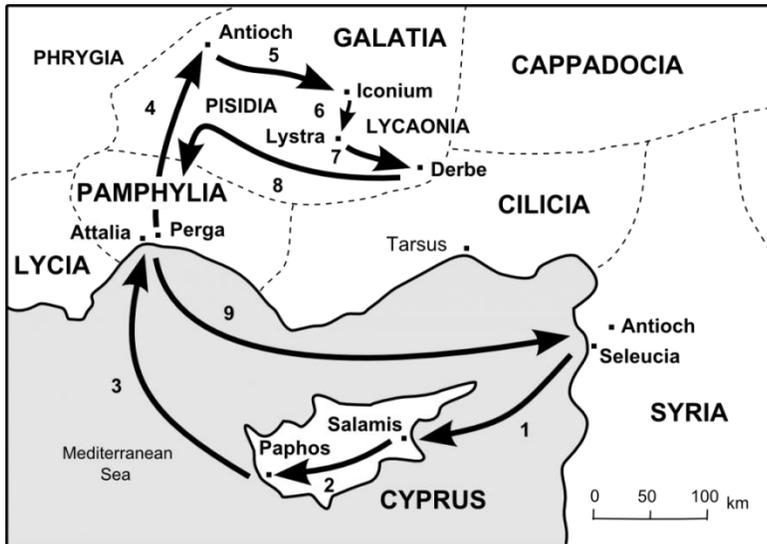


# Reading Through the New Testament

## Acts 13-15: Paul's First Missionary Journey



Itinerary: City/ Region / Province / Verses

Antioch	(Syria)	13:1-3
Seleucia	(Syria)	13:4
Salamis	(Cyprus)	13:5
Paphos	(Cyprus)	13:6-12
Perga	(Lycia, Pamphilia)	13:13
Antioch	(Galatia, Pisidia)	13:14-52
Iconium	(Galatia)	14:1-6
Lystra	(Galatia, Lycaonia)	14:8-19
Derbe	(Galatia, Lycaonia)	14:20-21
---return trip---		
Lystra	(Galatia, Lycaonia)	14:21-23
Iconium	(Galatia)	14:21-23
Antioch	(Galatia, Pisidia)	14:24
Perga	(Lycia, Pamphilia)	14:24-25
Attalia	(Lycia)	14:25
Antioch	(Syria)	14:26-28

47-48 A.D. Missionary Team: Paul, Barnabas, (John Mark)

Traveled to regions in modern day Turkey, approximately 1,400 miles round trip

### I. Taking the Gospel to the World: (13:1-3; 14:8-17)

1. Paul launched his missionary travels from the church in Antioch. Whose leading and guidance did they follow? What did the church do before sending the missionaries away?

2. What are some ways churches today can be deliberate about seeking the Lord's guidance and direction for our ministries? What activity should be a vital part of everything we do?

3. One of the things we learn from the example of this congregation, in Antioch, is that early Christians did not wait around for the unbelieving world to come to them. They took the gospel to the world. What will happen if Christians retreat behind the walls of our churches, and never reach out to the world around us? What are some ways we can take the gospel to our world?

4. Paul followed the same general pattern in most of the places he visited. First, he found the local synagogue and spoke to the people there about Jesus as the Messiah (13:5, 14, 42-43, 14:1). Then he went to the marketplace, or anywhere he could find an audience, and spoke to the Gentiles. Those who believed formed a Christian church in that community. Why was this a good strategy? How did most of the people in the synagogues usually respond?

5. Paul's ministry, especially the early period, was accompanied by miraculous signs. Healing a crippled man in Lystra, and other miracles, offered proof that he was a true apostle and the message he preached was from God. How did the people of Lystra misunderstand this miracle? Who did they mistake Paul and Barnabas for?

6. Some people might enjoy being treated like a god, but how did Paul and Barnabas respond? What does this teach us about humility? Ministers of the gospel should never seek to draw attention to themselves, but to whom should direct the focus?

7. The challenge, preaching to the Gentiles, was getting them to turn from worthless idols to the living God. It seems amazing that as much as Greek and Roman society prided itself for wisdom, it was full of rampant idolatry. What does that tell us about the human race (see Romans 1:22-23)? Has the human race really changed all that much, in the past 2,000 years?

8. The world may close its eyes to God, but according to verse 17, how does the Lord continue to declare His goodness, mercy, and power? (see also Psalm 19:1-3)

## **II. Returning Home: (14:18-28)**

9. Paul and Barnabas managed to restrain the crowd from offering sacrifices in their honor, but it wasn't long before opposition followed them to the city of Lystra, swaying the people against the missionaries. What did they do to Paul? When the going gets tough, some people call it quits. Was that the case for Paul? Did this brush with death cause him to change his mind about missionary work?

10. It is not always easy to follow Christ. The Lord never promised us an easy road. What encouragement did Paul give to the new believers in these churches, in verse 22? When the troubles of life seem overwhelming, where do we need to fix our eyes? (John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

11. These new congregations would need leaders, and so what did the missionaries do, in verse 23, before returning home? What does the word "elder" communicate about character church leaders should have? How were leaders chosen?

12. It is noteworthy that the term "elder" is nearly always used in the plural, throughout the New Testament. Paul appointed multiple elders in every congregation, giving us the principle of shared leadership within the local church. What are some of the reasons this might be a better approach than putting one person in charge? (see Romans 12:6-8)