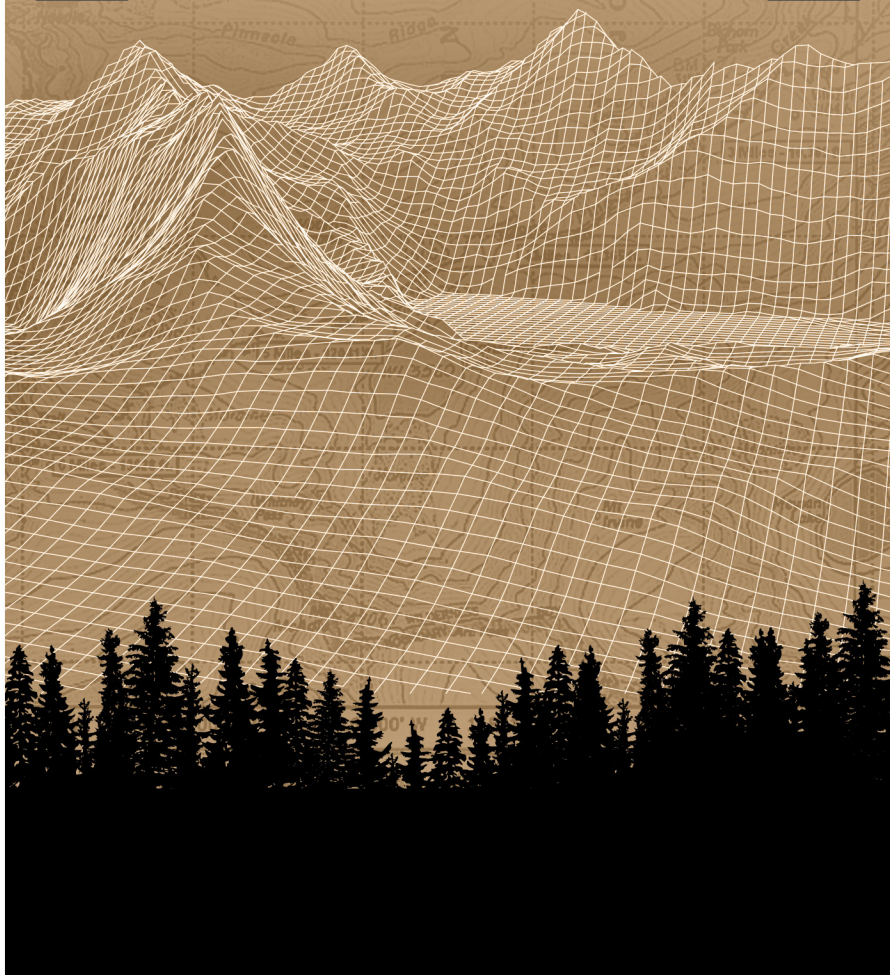
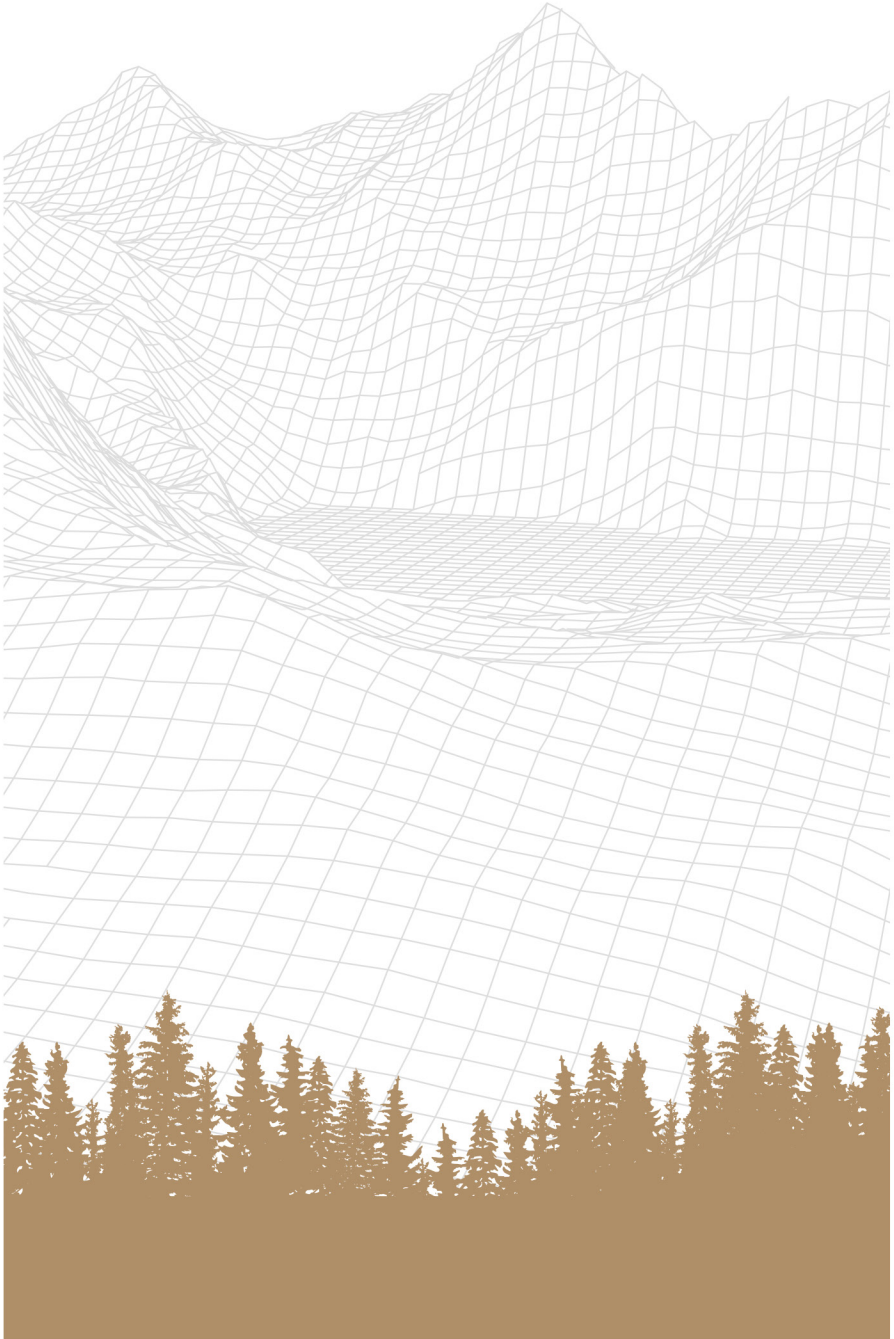


SEGMENT 7



CAN HE USE ME?





PERSECUTION

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS: PAUL ENCOURAGING THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA

1. Read Acts 7:59-8:3. Here we meet Saul (soon to be the Apostle Paul). What do we learn about him from this short glimpse? What was the positive result for the church?

2. Read Acts 9:1-22, 31. What was the result of Paul's conversion from killing Christians to proving Jesus was Messiah?



GENTILES

1 CORINTHIANS: PAUL TO THE TURBULENT CHURCH IN CORINTH

2 CORINTHIANS: PAUL ENCOURAGING THE CHURCH IN CORINTH TO BE COMFORTED BY CHRIST

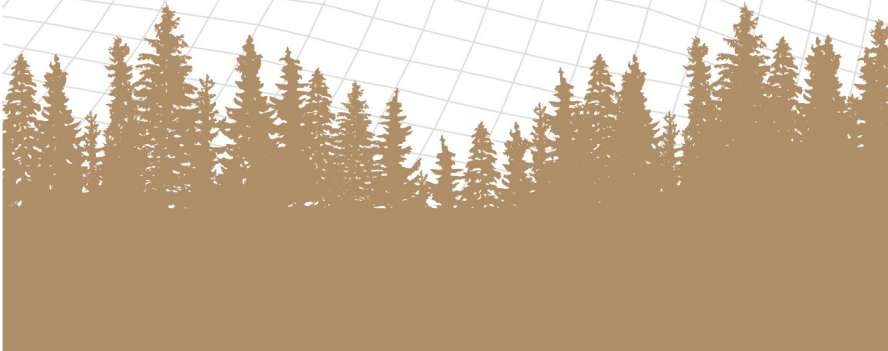
GALATIANS: JESUS CAME TO SET US FREE

3. As a result of the persecution, Christians were scattered all over the known world. Paul planted churches all the way from Jerusalem to Rome.

To get a sense of how fast and how far the church spread, Google search the Mediterranean Sea for a map of that part of the world today. What are your thoughts about this expansion which took place not much more than 10-15 years after Jesus' death and resurrection?

4. Take a look at this chart of the estimated timeline of Paul's life. (145).

Age	Events of Paul's Life
0	Born in Tarsus, A.D. 10 (Acts 22:3)
20	Crucifixion of Jesus A.D. 29-30
24	Stoning of Stephen/Damascus Road (Paul's Salvation), Silent years A.D. 37-46
36	First Missionary Journey A.D. 46-47
38	Jerusalem Conference A.D. 48-49 (Acts 15)
40	Second Missionary Journey A.D. 50-52, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
43	Third Missionary Journey A.D. 53-57
47	Trip to Jerusalem with Offering, 2 Corinthians, Romans
47	Arrest and Imprisonment (2 yrs) A.D. 57-59, Trip to Rome as prisoner
50	First Roman Imprisonment A.D. 60-62, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
54	Released from prison A.D. 63-65, 1 Timothy, Titus
57	Final imprisonment and martyrdom A.D. 66-67, 2 Timothy





SPREAD

ROMANS: PAUL'S EXPLANATION OF CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

EPHESIANS: WISDOM AND PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR CHRISTIANS LIVING IN THE WORLD

PHILIPPIANS: ENCOURAGEMENT TO REJOICE, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES

COLOSSIANS: CHRIST FREED US FROM THE LAW

5. Paul wrote several letters to new churches that were growing as the church spread outside of Jewish territory. Read the verses below to discover some of the basic beliefs that Paul needed to explain to the new Gentile believers who had no background in the things of God?

- a. What happens to believers who die before Jesus returns - **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
- b. What really justifies a person - **Galatians 2:16, 5:2-6**
- c. Gentiles are no different than Jews when it comes to being God's chosen people - **Colossians 3:11-12**



LETTERS

PHILEMON: A PLEA FOR A BROTHER IN CHRIST

1 TIMOTHY: HOW TO MINISTER IN THE CHURCH

TITUS: ADVICE ON LEADERSHIP

2 TIMOTHY: THE LAST LETTER OF PAUL

JAMES: PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN

1 & 2 PETER: PERSEVERANCE IN THE TRUTH

JUDE: WARNING ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS

1 JOHN: HOW TO WALK AS JESUS WALKED

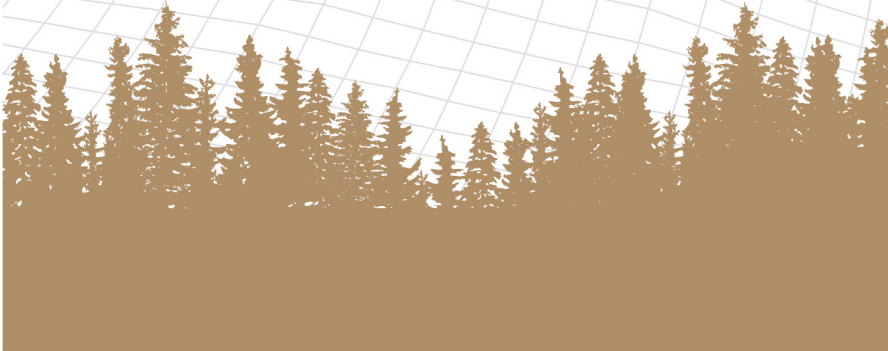
2 JOHN: WALK IN TRUTH AND LOVE

3 JOHN: ENCOURAGEMENT TO GAIUS

6. Paul also wrote letters to other leaders, and other leaders wrote their own letters. (See the list above). Read Philemon 15-20. Philemon was a slave owner, whose slave, Onesimus became a believer and then ran away. What was Paul's request to him? How difficult would it have been in that culture to embrace these new Christian values? When do you find it difficult to embrace Christian values in our culture?

7. Paul wrote to Timothy, a young leader in the church about a new purpose in life. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. What does Paul say about himself? What was his new purpose in life?

8. In 2 Timothy 4, Paul instructs Timothy on his new purpose in life. These words could apply to us. Read these words aloud, and put your own name in blanks. How does this affect your sense of your purpose in life?



In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you, _____, this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. But you, _____, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

9. As John writes his first letter to the churches, 1 John, he spells out 7 things we are encouraged to do as believers. Read each reference and jot down what we should do:

- a. 1:6-7 -
- b. 1:8-9 -
- c. 2:4 -
- d. 2:6 -
- e. 2:9-10 -
- f. 2:15 -
- g. 2:22 -

10. In these early days of the church, there were false teachers who circulated and got connected into these new young churches. There are many warnings about them in these letters. False teaching brings up the challenge of knowing how to balance love and a commitment to the truth. Jude, another half-brother of Jesus, wrote about it as well as John. **Read Jude 4.** What is the breach of truth he describes? How does he suggest they balance that with love in verse 20-22? **Read 2 John 1-3.** How does he describe this balance? How does

John suggest they balance love and truth in verses 7,10,11? Do you think this is necessary today?

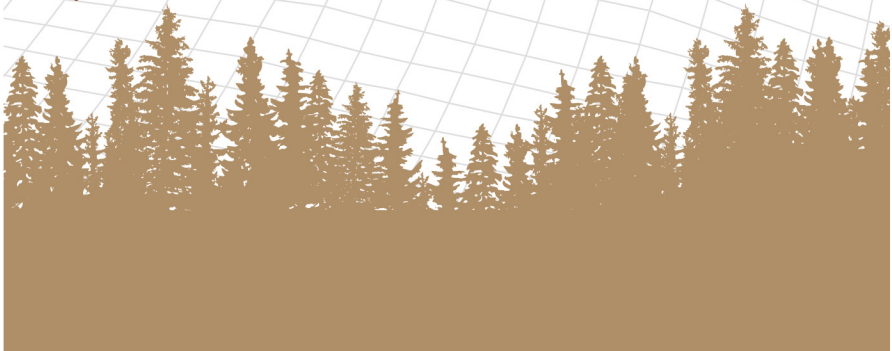


REVELATION

REVELATION: PROPHECY ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD AND THE NEW EARTH

11. In the book of Revelation, the church is pictured as the bride of Jesus. Read Revelation 19:6-9. How does this picture bring a sense of celebration? Expectation? Urgency?

12. How has this course prepared and motivated you to be able to tell your part of the story, your part of The Epic Adventure?



SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: 1 Timothy 1

S – Scripture – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O – Observation – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A – Application – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P – Prayer – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.



