

Paul

CUTTING
EDGE **B_s
m**

NEVER WROTE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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FINDING OUR ROOTS

The Apostle Paul gave us half of the New Testament, but barely anything about himself. You might think that problem is solved in Acts, but it's not.

There are two major thorns in the flesh of scholars trying to put together a chronology of Paul's life: the date assigned to the crucifixion of Christ and the time of Paul's ministry in Corinth. I date the crucifixion to 33 AD, in agreement with Dr. Harold Hoehner.

As far as Paul's Corinth mission goes, Acts 18:12 indicates that he was there during the administration of Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia (lower Greece). Archaeology informs us that Gallio was proconsul for one year, beginning in the summer of 51 AD—so Paul must have been there in 51 or 52 AD.

Even with these two chronological pegs, dating some of the other events in Paul's life is only educated guesswork. Nonetheless, let's give it a shot. Galatians 2:1 mentions 14 years before Paul's second Jerusalem visit. When did those 14 years begin—after his first Jerusalem visit or after his conversion? Acts gives us the answer. Paul's second Jerusalem visit was for famine relief (Acts 11:30; Gal 2:1). It occurred prior to the Jerusalem Council scene in Acts 15, which was part of his third journey. Thus, we need to place Paul's second journey (Acts 11:30; Gal 2:1) between his first visit (Gal 1:18) and third visit (Acts 15)—14 years *from his conversion* fits this time frame. This also indicates that Paul likely wrote Galatians before the Jerusalem Council scene in Acts 15.

The end of Paul's life is also a bit dicey, but we can draw some pretty sound conclusions about it. It seems reasonable to conclude that if Paul died during his Roman imprisonment (Acts 28) that Luke would have told us about it. Thus, Paul was likely freed. He then probably ministered for another five years before being arrested again and martyred in 68 AD. Paul's life wasn't easy, but the difference he made changed the course of history. **B_s
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Sources:

D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2d ed.; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).

Harold W. Hoehner, *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977).

Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology* (Rev. ed.; Peabody: Hendrickson, 1998).

Paul's Life Based on His Letters and Acts

This timeline is the first of its kind. It is informed by Tanner's own studies and the works of several New Testament scholars, each of whom hold a slightly different view.

		SUMMER 34/35 - SPRING 48 <i>Formative Period</i>												APRIL 48 - MAY 57 <i>Missionary Period</i>					MAY 57 - SPRING 68 <i>Imprisonment Period</i>				
Overview	Highlights	Damascus	Tarsus and nearby regions including Syria						Ministry at Antioch			1 st Missionary Journey	Antioch	2 nd Missionary Journey	Antioch	3 rd Missionary Journey	Arrest: Jerusalem & Caesarea	To Rome	1 st Roman Imprisonment	Period of Release: Further Ministry	2 nd Roman Imprisonment		
		Damascus road experience Summer 37: 1 st Jerusalem visit							Spring 43: Barnabus brings Paul to Antioch Autumn 47: 2 nd Jerusalem visit			Cyprus & Galatia	Jerusalem Council, 3 rd Jerusalem visit	Syria, Cilicia, Galatia, Phrygia, Troas, Macedonia, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus	Acts 18:22	Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Corinth, then to Caesarea 4 th Jerusalem visit	Stood before Felix, Festus, & Herod Agrippa II					Spring 68: Martyred in Rome	
Acts		Acts 9:1-25, 26-30; 22:5-11; 26:12-18	Acts 9:30; compare Gal 1:21-24						Acts 11:25-30, 12:25			Acts 13:1-14:25	Acts 14:26-15:35	Acts 15:36-18:21	Acts 18:22	Acts 18:23-21:16	Acts 21:17-26:32	Acts 27:1-28:15	Acts 28:16-31				
Writings												Autumn 49: Galatians		Summer 51: First and Second Thessalonians		Spring 56: 1 Corinthians Fall 56: 2 Corinthians Winter 56/57: Romans			Spring 62: Phil Autumn 62: 1 Tim Eph. Col & Phlm 60-61	Summer 66: Titus Autumn 67: 2 Timothy			
		33 34	35 36 37	38 39 40 41 42 43	44 45 46 47 48	49	50	51 52	53	54 55 56 57	58 59	60	61 62	63 64 65 66 67	68	69 70							
		Jesus' crucifixion	Herod Agrippa I struck dead Acts 12						Claudius' expulsion of Jews from Rome Acts 18:2			Gallio as Proconsul of Achaia Acts 18:2		James martyred in Jerusalem		Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome		Roman armies destroy Jerusalem & temple					