

# The Doctrine of the Church



The History, Growth, and Character of the  
Various New Testament Churches

## *1 Corinthians 10:11*

- *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."*
- Here, Paul refers to Old Testament events. But we may with Scriptural justification apply these same words to the events recorded for us in the New Testament.

# The church in Jerusalem

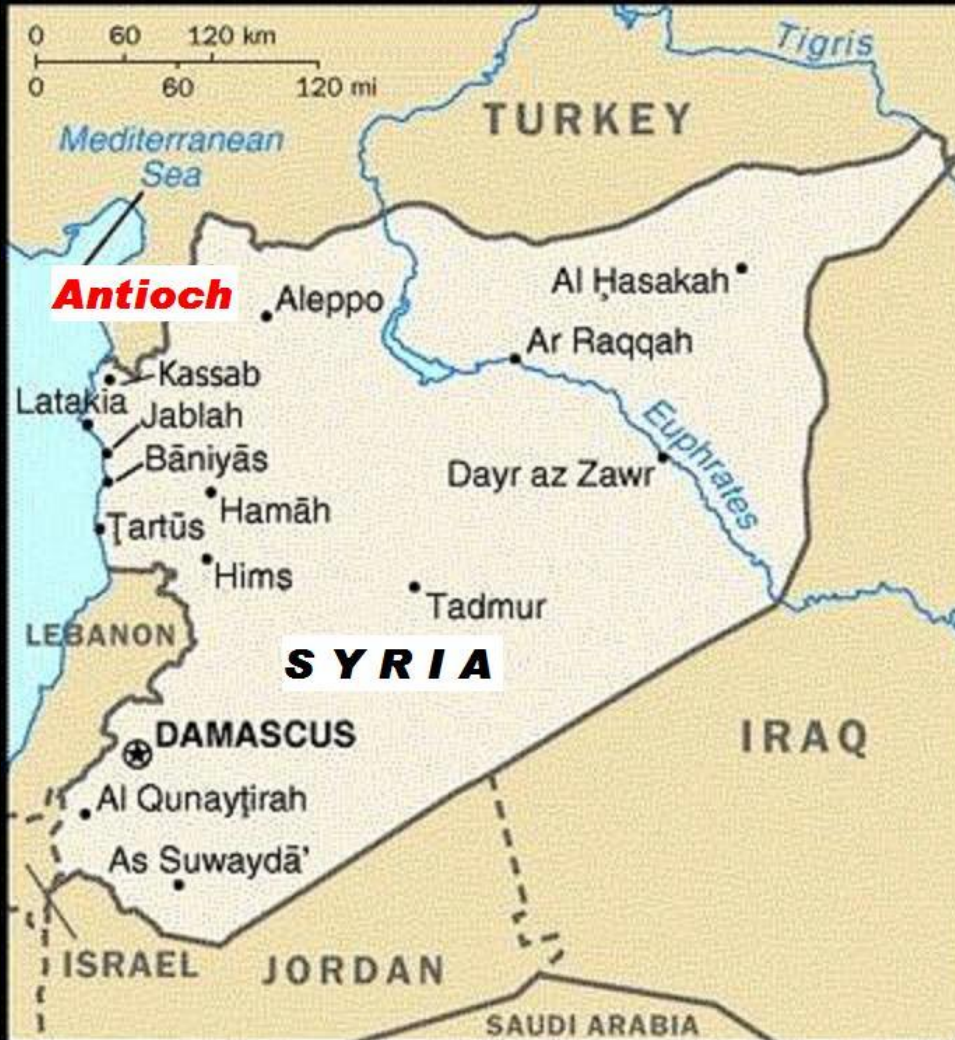


- Began at Pentecost (Acts 2:47) with at least 3120 (Acts 2:41)
- Was pastored by James, the half-brother of Christ (Acts 15:13)
- Performed many wonders and signs (Acts 2:43; 5:12-16)
- Had all things in common (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32-35)
- Was in one accord (Acts 2:46)
- Spent a good deal of time in prayer (Acts 2:42; 3:1; 4:24; 12:5-17)
- Witnessed at every opportunity (Acts 3:12; 4:5; 5:42; 4:33)
- Radiated Jesus (Acts 4:13; 6:15)
- Was kept pure by God (had standards) (Acts 5:1-11; 8:18-24)
- Grew constantly (Acts 2:47; 5:14; 4:4; 12:24)

- Endured persecution (Acts 4:1-3; 4:21; 5:17-41; 7:54-60; 8:1-3; 12:1-4)
- Appointed deacons (Acts 6:1-7)
- Practiced baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41, 46)
- Sent forth missionaries (Acts 8:5, 14; 11:22; 13:1-3; 15:22)
- Held the important meeting on circumcision (Acts 15)
- Was Spirit-led (Acts 2:1-18; 4:31; 13:2-4; 15:28)
- Preached the word (Acts 2:16-36; 3:13-26; 5:42; 6:4; 7:1-53)
- Contended for the faith (Acts 15:1-21)
- Apparently later compromised with the Judaizers (Acts 21:18-25)



# The church in Antioch of Syria



- Was founded during that persecution period which followed the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 11:19)
- Experienced a great growth (Acts 11:21)
- The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to "check it out" (Acts 11:22)
- He became the first pastor (Acts 11:23)
- Added many to the church at this time (Acts 11:24)
- Barnabas then called Saul as associate pastor (Acts 11:25)
- Here both would work for a year (Acts 11:26)

- Was where believers were first called Christians (Acts 11:26)
- Took up a large love offering for the needy believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:30)
- Was the home church of the first two Christian missionaries (Paul and Barnabas) (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26)
- Later became their headquarters, both after their first missionary trip (Acts 14:26) and following the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:35)
- Silas was from this church (Acts 15:34)
- Was where Paul set Peter straight on matters of legalism (Gal. 2:11)



# The church in Antioch of Pisidia



- Was begun by Paul during his first missionary trip (Acts 13:14)
- Was where he preached his first recorded sermon (Acts 13:16)
- Was formed from the converts coming out of this meeting (Acts 13:43)
- Paul turned from the Jews (Acts 13:46)
- Paul relates his heavenly calling as a light to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47)

# The church in Lystra



- Was organized during Paul's first missionary trip (Acts 14:6)
- Was where he healed the impotent man (Acts 14:10)
- This led to his being almost worshiped (Acts 14:11)
- Paul was stoned (Acts 14:19; 2 Tim. 3:11)
- Was where Paul picked up Timothy during his second missionary trip (Acts 16:1-3)



# The church in Derbe



*(Acts 14:21-22)*

*“And when they had preached the gospel to that city (Derbe), and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, {had taught many: Gr. had made many disciples} Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*



# The church in Iconium



- Paul led many to Christ here during his first trip (Acts 14:2)
- He also worked great signs and wonders (Acts 14:3)
- He was driven out by the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles (Acts 14:5)



# The church in Philippi



- Paul organized a church in the home of a woman convert named Lydia (Acts 16:15-40)
- A demon-possessed girl was his next convert (Acts 16:18)
- She was followed by the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:33)
- Paul later wrote a letter to this church (Phil. 1:1)
- Timothy ministered to this church (Phil. 2:19)
- Had sent Epaphroditus to minister to Paul while the apostle was in prison (Phil. 2:25)
- Was in danger of legalism (Phil. 3:1-3)
- Paul writes and asks "true yokefellow" to help two quarreling church women named Euodias and Syntyche (Phil. 4:1-3)
- Helped to supply the material needs of Paul (Phil. 4:15-18)



# The church in Thessalonica



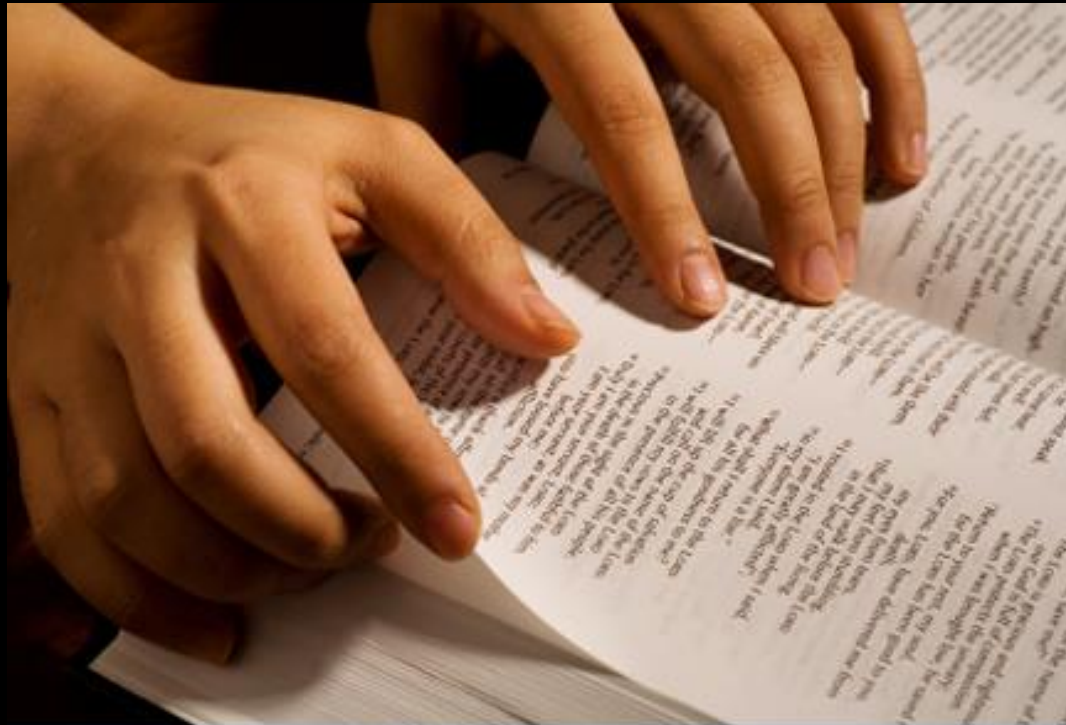
- Was founded during Paul's second missionary trip (Acts 17:1)
- Witnessed a great harvest of souls (Acts 17:4)
- Paul is accused of turning the world upside down (Acts 17:6)
- In spite of their zeal, they were not good Bible students (Acts 17:6)
- Later Paul wrote two letters to this church (1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1)
- The believers had a reputation for witnessing (1 Thess. 1:8)
- They were persecuted by the unbelieving Jews because of their faith (1 Thess. 2:14)
- Timothy ministered to this church (1 Thess. 3:1-2)
- Had some lazy members (2 Thess. 3:10)
- Had some busybodies (2 Thess. 3:11)
- Had some disobedient members (2 Thess. 3:14-15)



# The church in Berea



This church was commended for its  
knowledge of and love for the Word of God  
(Acts 17:11)



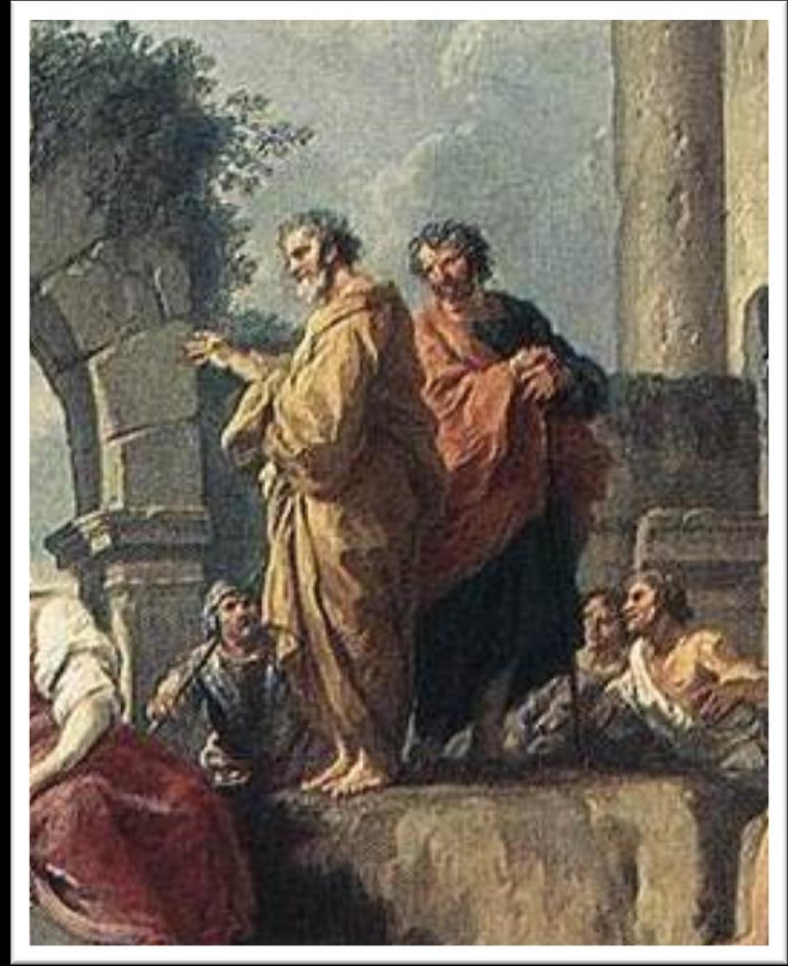
*Search Scriptures*



# The church in Athens



It is not certain whether a local assembly came into being after Paul's sermon on Mars Hill, but if so, a convert named Dionysius probably led the church.  
(Acts 17:34)



# The church in Corinth



- Was founded during Paul's second trip (Acts 18:1)
- Aquila and Priscilla aided in this (Acts 18:2)
- The chief ruler of the Jewish synagogue, a man named Crispus, was one of Paul's first converts (Acts 18:8)
- His successor, Sosthenes, was also later evidently saved (compare Acts 18:17 with 1 Cor. 1:1)
- Paul stayed eighteen months (Acts 18:11)
- Paul wrote several letters of correction to this church (1 Cor. 5:9; 2 Cor. 10:9, 10), two of which are included in the New Testament (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1)



# Experienced almost total confusion in matters relating to:

- Baptism (1 Cor. 1:12-17)
- Earthly wisdom (1 Cor. 1:26)
- Carnality and strife (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
- Judging others unfairly (1 Cor. 4:7)
- Immorality (1 Cor. 5:1)
- Taking other believers to court (1 Cor. 6:1-4)
- Marriage (1 Cor. 7:1)
- Christian liberty (1 Cor. 8-9)
- The Lord's Table (1 Cor. 11:17-34)
- Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14)
- The doctrine of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15)
- Tithing (1 Cor. 16)

**Christianity is now tragically  
below the New Testament  
standard. Worldliness is an  
accepted part of our way of  
life. We have  
lost the art of worship.  
We are not producing  
saints!**

Was later pastored by Apollos  
who was disciplined by Paul  
(1 Cor. 3:6)



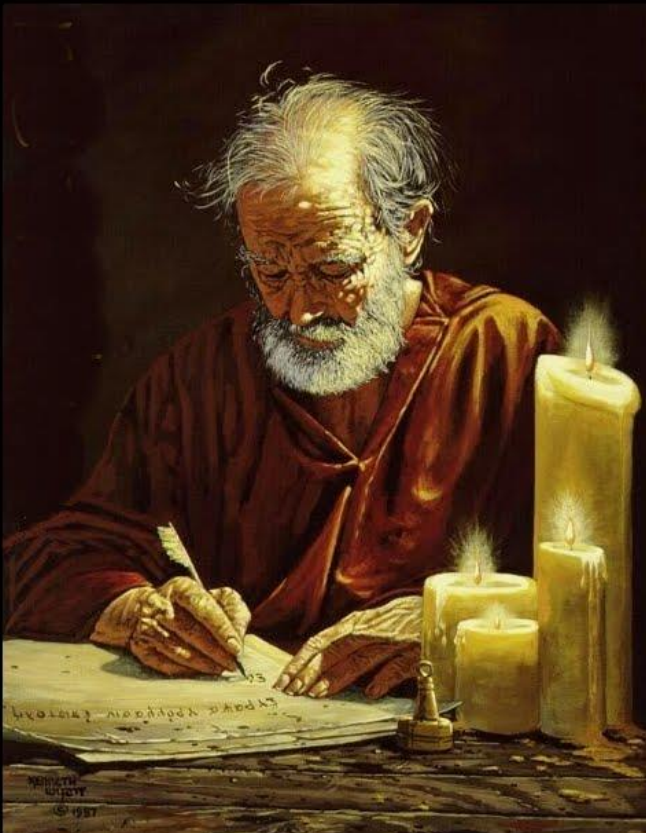
# The church in Ephesus



- Was founded during Paul's second trip (Acts 18:19)
- May pastored by Apollos, Timothy, and the Apostle John.
- Paul wrought many miracles there and saw much fruit (Acts 19:11-41)
- Books of witchcraft, sorcery and magic were burned.
- The magnificence of the false goddess Diana was greatly diminished.
- Paul went soul-winning door-to-door (Acts 20:17-21)

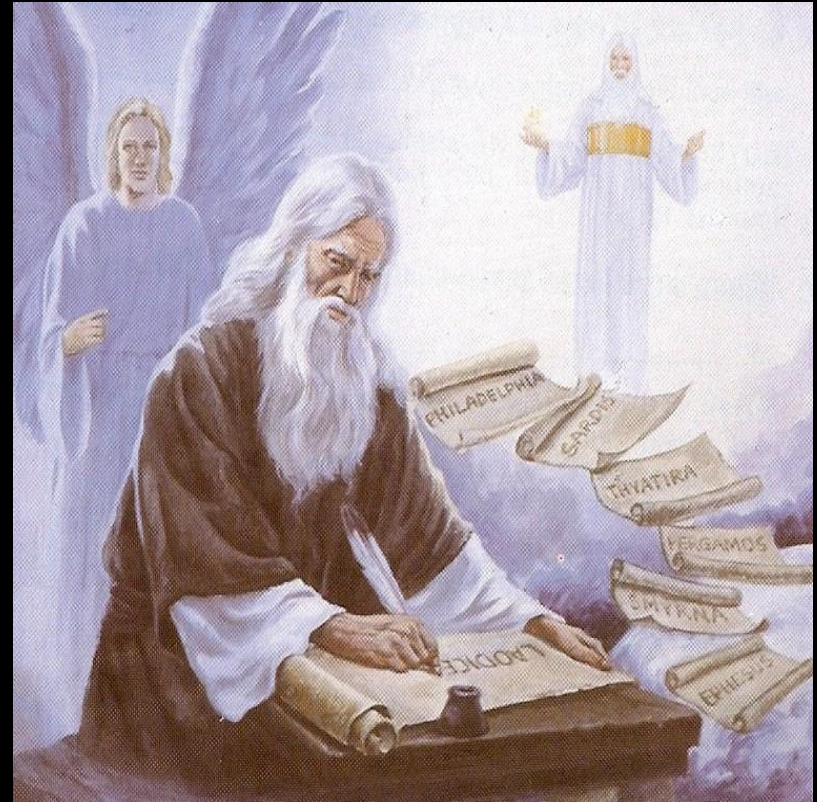


- Was the only Christian church ever to receive letters from two New Testament writers. Paul wrote Ephesians to them (Eph. 1:1), and John the apostle would later direct a portion of Revelation to them (Rev. 2:1-7). According to John's letter, this church:





- Worked hard and possessed patience.
- Had high church standards.
- Suffered for Christ.
- Had left their first love.
- Needed to remember, repent, and return to Christ, else their be removed.
- Hated the deeds of the licentious Nicolaitans.



# The church in Troas





Here Paul raised up  
Eutychus, a believer  
who had gone asleep  
during Paul's sermon  
and had fallen down  
from the third loft of the  
building  
(Acts 20:7-12)





# The church in Rome



- The origin and founder of this church is unknown.
- Priscilla and Aquila labored there and a local church met in their home (Rom. 16:3-5)
- Had a good testimony throughout all the land (Rom. 1:8)
- Paul mentions more personal friends here than in any other New Testament book he wrote.
- The names of some twenty-six individuals may be counted in Romans 16



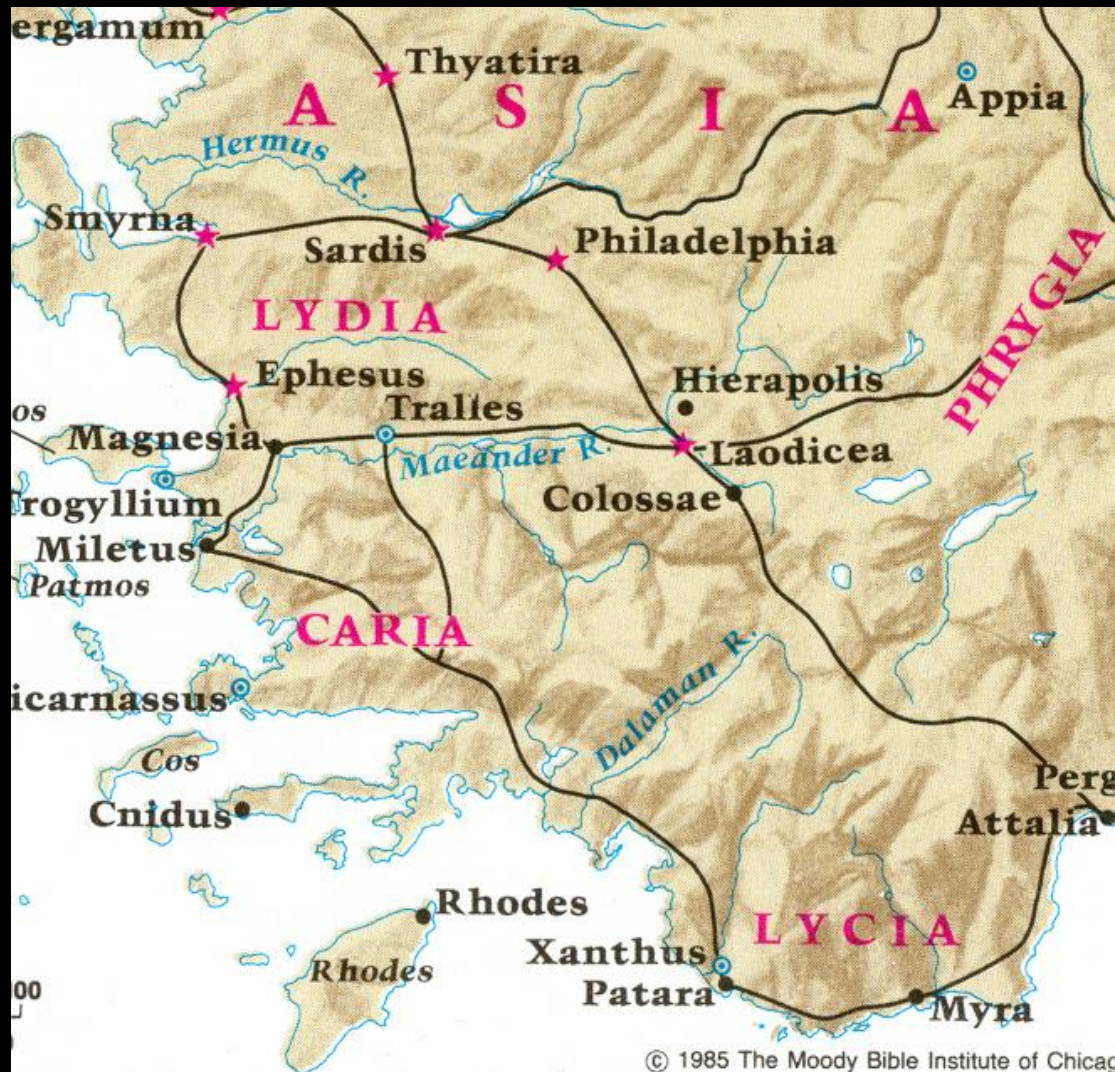
# The church's in Galatia



- Various local churches in Galatia were organized by Paul during his first trip.
- Had all apparently fallen victim to the legalistic Judaizers, who would continually challenged Paul's gospel of grace (Gal. 1:6-9)
- The New Testament epistle Galatians was written to these churches (Gal. 3:1)

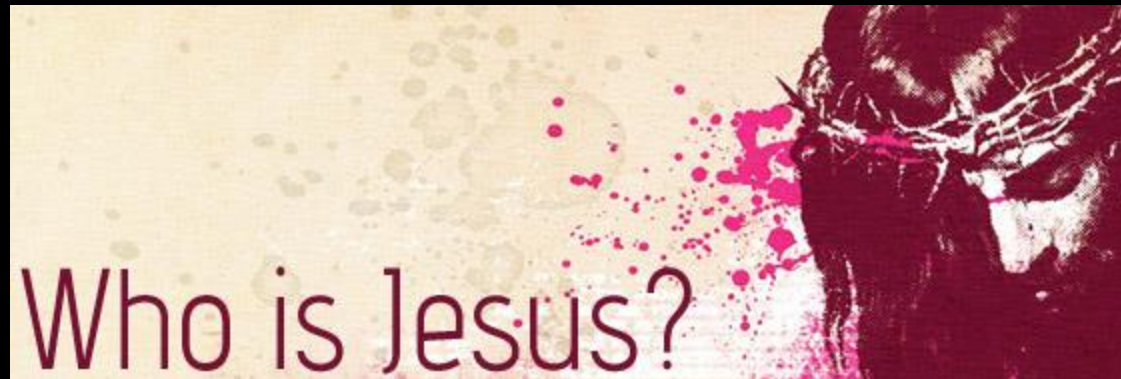


# The church in Colosse

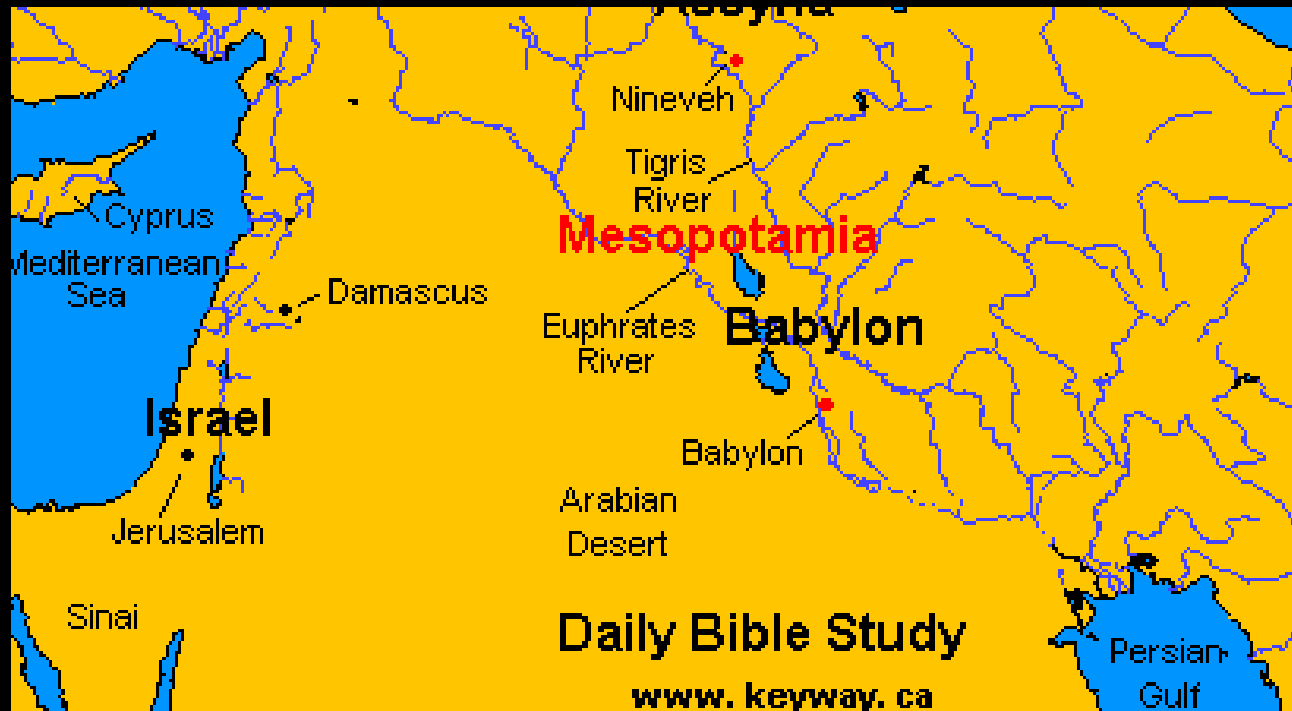




- Was founded by Epaphras during Paul's third trip (Col. 2:1; 1:7, 12-13)
- Philemon and Onesimus attended this church (Col. 4:9; Philemon 1:1-2)
- Main theme of Colossians is the person and work of Jesus Christ and the believers position in Christ.
- Paul commanded the Colossian epistle to be read to the Laodicean church and the one he wrote them to be read to the Colossian church (Col. 4:16)



# The church in Babylon (1 Peter 5:13)





- Was filled with suffering believers (1 Pet. 1:6)
- Some of this suffering was due to sin (1 Pet. 4:15-17)



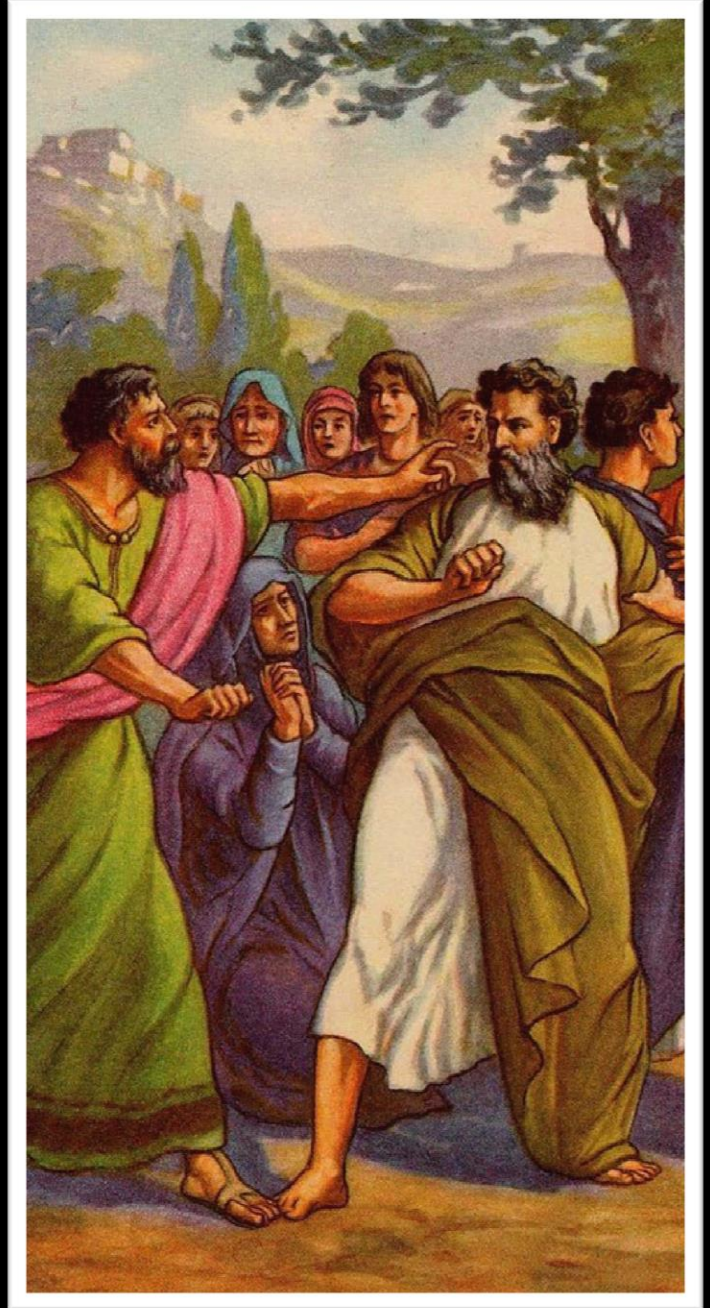
*“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.”*

# The church in Smyrna

(Rev. 2:8-11)



- Had suffered much for Christ.
- Had been slandered by those from the synagogue of Satan.
- Satan had imprisoned some of them.





# The church in Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17)





- Was located in the very center of satanic worship.
- Had nevertheless remained loyal to Christ in spite of martyrdom.
- Members were, however, tolerating some in the church who were guilty of sexual sins.
- They were also tolerating those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.



# The church in Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)



- Had performed many good deeds.
- But they permitted a false prophetess named Jezebel to teach that sexual sin was not a serious matter.



# The church in Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)





- Had a reputation that they were alive, but they were spiritually dead.
- Was to strengthen that which was ready to die.



# The church in Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)

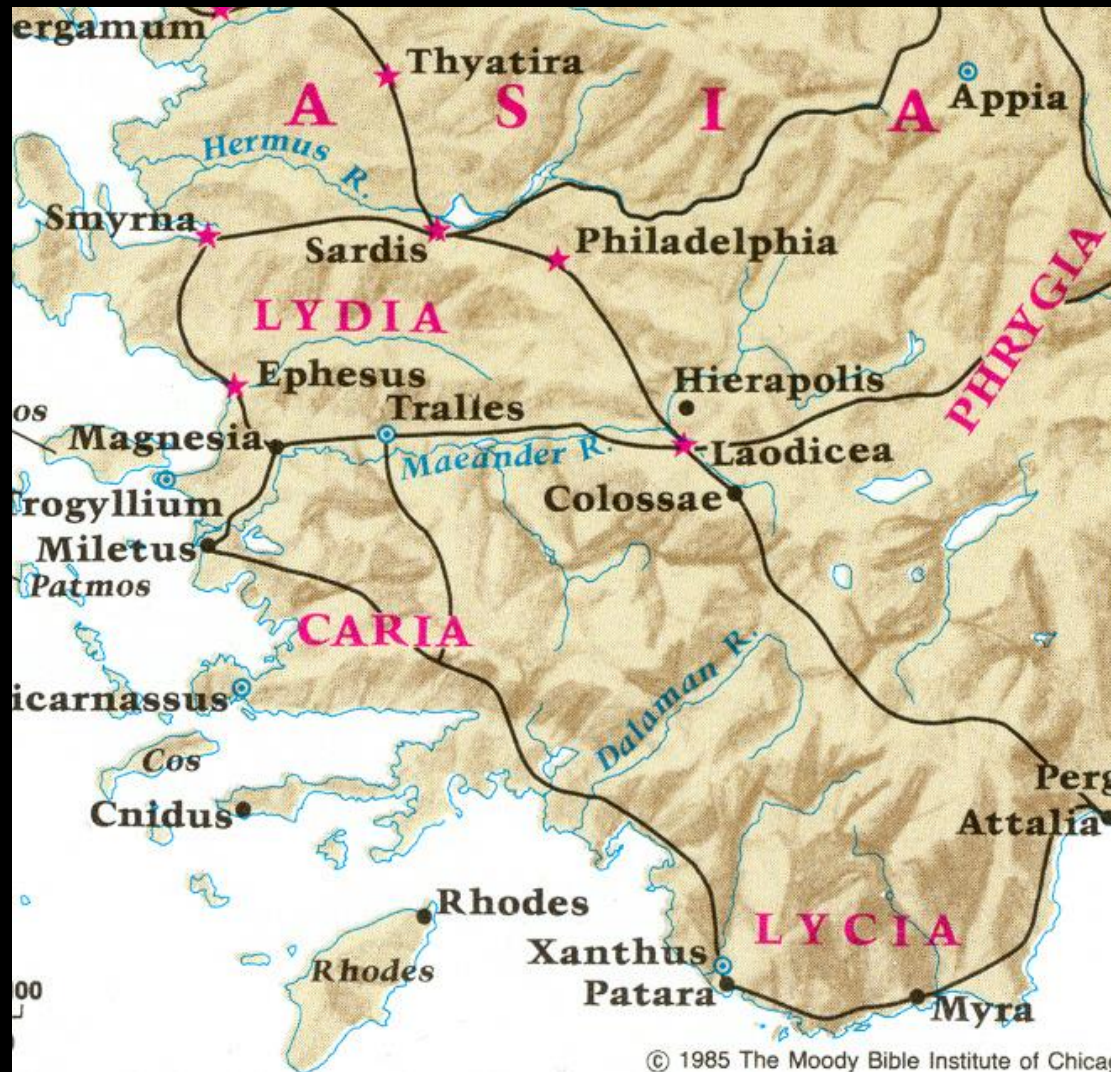


- Small in number but they were spiritually strong.
- Faithfull to the Lord during server persecution.





# The church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-20)





- One the worst church's mentioned in the New Testament.
- Believers were neither hot nor cold.
- Bragged about their wealth, claiming they had need of nothing, but in reality were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- God admonished them to totally repent and allow him to reenter and once again fellowship with them.



The character of the local church is  
the sum-total of the character of  
its members.



Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the  
whole lump?

(Bible)



Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

(Bible)