

the greatest God given gifts, and this gift comes through Jesus Christ our Lord. Back to the word “things” found twenty-eight times in this book of PHILIPPIANS. What kind of “things” occupy your mind? Here in PHILIPPIANS 2:21 Paul told what occupied his mind, and what occupied the mind of Timothy when he wrote: *For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.* Meditate on this scripture for a while as you take inventory of the kind of “things” that occupy your mind. In the world we live in today we are actually encouraged to “do your own thing.” This is contrary to seeking ...*the things which are Jesus Christ's.* The teaching here reveals the mind set of the full overcomer who is after ...*the things which are Jesus Christ's.* Thus the Holy Ghost inspired the Apostle Paul to write in one verse, seven SPIRITUAL PERFECTION -- SPIRITUAL COMPLETION “things” to occupy the full overcoming mind: PHILIPPIANS 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* Occupy your mind with true, honest, just, pure, lovely “things” of good report, such as are found in thoughts concerning ...*the things which are Jesus Christ's,*... and when it is all said and done you will have, by God’s grace, God’s best! PHILIPPIANS 3:20 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

Paul’s Final Journey’s

We have spent sixty some pages of notes since Paul was released from Nero’s prison at Rome, and still haven’t gotten to the point where Paul left Italy. But I think we now better appreciate what was occupying Paul’s heart, and mind, and it wasn’t the things here on earth. In this Sunday School class we have often referenced the fact that Paul was waiting for Timothy to once again join him so they could travel together. HEBREWS 13:23 is our scriptural proof of this: *Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.* We have also noted previously a couple of other scriptures where Paul mentioned his intentions to travel again once he was set free. One of these verses was PHILEMON 1:22 *But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.* We see here that Paul was trusting the Lord to set him free from the bonds of Rome shortly after writing this letter to Philemon. Again in PHILIPPIANS 2:23 and 24 we find Paul expressing the expectation of a soon release from prison stating this of Timothy and himself: *Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.* Paul was a man of faith, and full of the Holy Ghost, and no doubt Paul believed the Lord that he would be set free, and get the opportunity he wrote about above to visit once again old acquaintances. The time has now come for this journey.

Here is the problem we are now confronted with in determining Paul’s itinerary. We only have his scriptural record of 1 & 2 TIMOTHY, and TITUS as our guide to where he went. We will examine excerpts from these epistles going forward, but realize there are some broad gaps in Paul’s last five years not covered in these epistles, or by any other writers of scripture, such as Luke, who had documented Paul’s travel’s previously in the book of ACTS. It seems that Luke did stay with Paul throughout the rest of Paul’s life, but he didn’t leave us a record of where Paul went, and who he saw. Conyebear and Howson’s well researched chronological table on Paul’s life have him being released from prison at Rome sometime in the Spring of 63 A.D., well before the famous fire in Rome in July 64 A.D. {Review pages 1213, 1214, 1220, and 1221 of these notes.} They also show Paul writing his next epistle, 1 TIMOTHY, in the summer of 67 A.D. with TITUS being penned three to six months later, and 2 TIMOTHY being written just before Paul was executed, supposedly some time in the late Spring of 68 A.D. Since Paul didn’t write the date he sent these letters, there is really no way to know for sure the exact time these letters were written. Many over the years have attempted to prove, and disprove the dates of these so called Pastoral epistles, so in your own research you will find different

dates given these epistles. I have decided to latch on to Conyebear and Howson's dates for these last three epistles, however there is plenty of "wobble room" allowed for here too. All of this means that there was about a four year gap in time between the writing of HEBREWS, and 1 TIMOTHY. Within this four year gap there is also plenty of room for unrecorded travel on the part of the Apostle Paul, and those who journeyed with him.

Obviously we can not with any scriptural assurance tell in total where Paul went these next four years. Historical records are of little help in this regard also only adding circumstantial evidence, which we will call speculation. When we get into these last epistles of Paul, 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and 2 TIMOTHY we can better nail down where he had traveled. As for his unrecorded travel the biggest question remains if Paul ever got to Spain. We have indicated in the past that Paul may have visited Spain. {See again page 1241 of these notes.} Recall that Paul wrote in his ROMANS epistle ROMANS 15:24 *Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company. ...28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.* Did this now happen? Perhaps. Conyebear and Howson give Paul two years in his life after being released from prison in Rome for him to journey out to Spain, and back with no real evidence to back this up. Nor can we assuredly say Paul went to Spain, but the possibility remains that he indeed did. Recall back in ACTS 13:1 & 2 that there were certain teachers found in Antioch, Syria at the same time Paul and Barnabas were teaching there. {See also ACTS 11:26.} One teacher found there was Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch. Some commentators have Manaen being a foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and some call him "the son of King Herod's nurse." History does record two of Herod's sons being banished to Rhone, a region in Southern France not too far from Spain. What does this have to do with the Apostle Paul? Perhaps Paul knew of some exiled Jews sent to Spain with whom he later wished to visit. At this point only the Lord knows why Paul intended to go to Spain, or if he actually did.

So let's quickly give a possible accounting of Paul's journeys these next four years before we cover the facts of where we know he went found in 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and 2 TIMOTHY. Let's assume that Timothy did join up with Paul there in Italy as Paul noted in HEBREWS 13:23 *Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.* It then seems most probably that Paul and Timothy then traveled to Philippi as noted in PHILIPPIANS 2:24 *But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.* And then on to Colosse where Paul would spend some time with Philemon, and perhaps once again also get to see Onesimus: PHILEMON 1:22 *But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.* This journey would occupy nine months to a year of Paul's time. Along the way perhaps he visited some of the other churches he had established. The next Spring when sea travel was once again safe, Paul could have caught a ship out west to Spain, avoiding going through Rome, or the region of Italy again, for recall in 64 A.D. Nero really stepped up his persecution of Christians. Conyebear and Howson give the possibility of Paul remaining in the region round about Spain for as long as two years.

Add to that thought this little piece of history. In PHILIPPIANS 4:3 we read of a guy named Clement. History records that Clement later became a bishop at Rome, and wrote a letter to Corinth, stating that the Apostle Paul had preached the gospel "in the east and in the west," and that he further had "instructed the whole world," (that is the whole world of the Roman Empire), "in righteousness, before his martyrdom." The whole world of Paul's day would include the region of Spain, which he had before stated that he wanted to visit in ROMANS 15:24 & 28, quoted above. Obviously we don't know whether or not Paul ever got to Spain, for the scripture doesn't record such a fact. However 2 TIMOTHY 4:21 mentions four previously unmentioned Saints, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia. Claudia was from out west. Claudia was the daughter of a British King named Cogidunus. Cogidunus was given certain territories in the south-east of Britain as a reward for his loyalty to Rome. It is thought that King Cogidunus probably sent his daughter Claudia to Rome for an education, and as a further pledge of his loyalty towards Rome. History also records that Pudens was a Roman knight. In Rome Pudens and Claudia got married, and somewhere along the way became Christians, possibly as a

result of Paul's ministry, either directly or indirectly. Recall the statements in PHILIPPIANS that show some of the results of Paul's ministry. PHILIPPIANS 1:12 *But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;... .* PHILIPPIANS 4:22 *All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.* Perhaps Knight Pudens and Claudia were part of those Saints Paul was mentioning. They certainly were in 2 TIMOTHY 4:21.

Here's another thought perhaps related to Paul's traveling out west to Spain, if indeed he did. There is some notable differences in Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus when compared to his previous eleven epistles. One so called scholar found 170 words that Paul used in these last three epistles, that weren't previously used by Paul. Had Paul learned some new language? In traveling to new lands one does learn some new things, such as local customs, and local sayings. Brother Copley in his study books even points out some new thoughts that Paul brings out in 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and 2 TIMOTHY not mentioned in his earlier letters.

To my way of thinking, wouldn't we suppose if Paul did go to Spain, that he would have in the very least tried to establish a church there, or maybe several? And wouldn't we have heard about it if he did? Perhaps, yet there remains a lot of other things we know very little about also. So if Paul did get to Spain, and establish a church or two out there, it seems that they were short lived, at least as far as we know. Another possibility is that Paul got out to Spain, but like in ACTS 16:6 was forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Spain. Here again really only the Lord knows the answers to these kind of questions. Recall back in 1 KINGS 19 that Elijah thought he was the only one left who hadn't bowed the knee unto Baal, and in verse 18 the Lord informed Elijah that there were seven thousand others left in Israel who hadn't bowed the knee either. The point of even mentioning all of this is to show us that there are some things the Lord doesn't want us to know, ...yet, so they have been deliberately left out of scripture so that we don't loose focus on what is really important. Paul's journey to Spain, if it happened, is not something that would benefit us, or it would have been recorded in scripture.

Titus and Timothy

There are several avenues to pursue as we begin to examine some thoughts from 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, and 2 TIMOTHY. Perhaps on top of the list we should consider the importance of these two men, Timothy and Titus, to Paul's own heart, and his gospel ministry. Both of these men had become Church Apostle's just like Paul and Barnabas. This means that they both knew Paul's gospel message, and were graduate teachers, and preachers, and evangelists, full of the Holy Ghost, who were gifted to spread Paul's gospel message. Paul wrote them both instructions on what to preach, and what to teach, and what doctrine to exhort, and how to speak, and how to present themselves as likeminded Apostles. On top of the list Paul reminded them to constantly be looking up; looking for Jesus soon appearing; to have the same upward focus that Paul had as he too continued pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; a thought which we recently spent so much time expounding in these Sunday School classes. Here is a little of how Paul expressed his constant heavenly focus in his last three epistles. 1 TIMOTHY 6:13 *I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ...7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall**