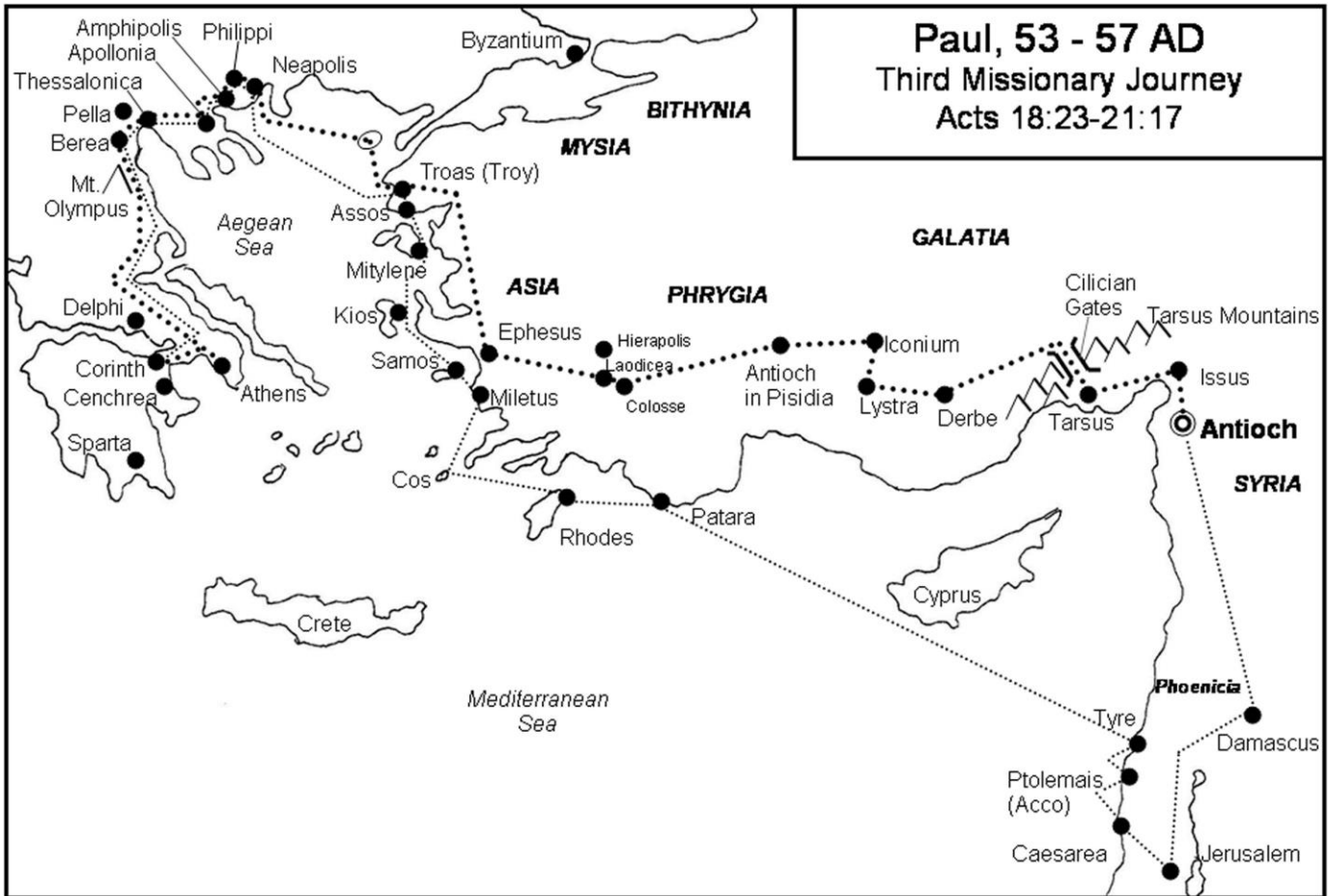


2 Corinthians 9



8:16-24 – Paul is sending “the brothers” (9:3), Titus and two other men, back to Corinth from Macedonia (one might possibly be Luke; the other is likely a Gentile from one of the churches who could be Tychicus (Colossians 4:7-9, Tychicus was from Asia (Acts 20:4, one of the men who accompanied Paul from Corinth-Macedonia-Caesarea-Jerusalem). Tychicus was with Paul in his first imprisonment in Rome (Ep. 6:21) and carried the prison epistles from Rome to Asia. Tychicus was then stayed on in Colosse as a minister. Paul later planned to send Tychicus to relieve Titus on the isle of Crete (Titus 3:12). Then during Paul’s final days of his second imprisonment Tychicus was sent to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:9, 21). The Jerusalem riot on the Temple Mount in Acts 21 was caused because the Gentile Trophimus from Ephesus, one of Tychicus’ friends, was assumed to have gone past the Gentile wall of separation into the Jewish area on the Temple Mount. Acts 21:29; In 2 Timothy 4:20 Trophimus is sick in Miletus which is just south of Ephesus where Paul had sent Tychicus in 4:9)

9:4 – Some Macedonian men might come along with Paul to Corinth.

9:5-6 – Titus, Luke and the other brother are to prepare the Corinthians and their gift so that the Corinthians do not feel any pressure to give to impress when the Macedonians arrive.

“grudgingly given” – “grudgingly” means “selfishness, greed.” This would be a donation forced from someone who wanted to keep more than their fair share for themselves.

9:6 – Sowing

9:7 – “give what he has decided in his heart to give”

“**decided**” – “*proaireo*” means to determine and decide beforehand. Using logic and reason instead of emotions, peer-pressure or situational appearances. Ezra 2:68-69 where each gave from their own ability.

“**heart**” – not emotions, but the seat of the soul which includes character, conviction, knowledge and understanding. Not mere emotionalism. And, not mysticism.

“**not reluctantly**” – Not from internal pressure, for example, they gave from guilt or to buy God’s favor.

“**not under compulsion**” – External pressure, for example, because they gave under a law or legalistic code. Or, they gave to be seen by men. Or, to manipulate God to action.

“**cheerful giver**” - means “glad, cheerful, joyful” indicating a desire and willingness and eagerness to do. This can only happen if there is knowledge, understanding and a righteous character. An example is the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:4, “they urgently pleaded (begged) with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.”

Jesus on giving: Matthew 6:1-5.

The formula works, but only if you are giving for the right reason. And, manipulation or to work out a spiritual equation for prosperity is the WRONG reason.

9:8 – “Grace abound” once again puts this in the category of a mature response from spiritual growth.

9:9 – Proverb – God has scattered everything you need, but only the spiritually mature who fear God and know his Truth and his ways will be able to function at a level where these things will be gathered and enjoyed by the righteous forever.

9:10 – God is supplying all of us with seed for sowing (giving, ministering, serving) and bread for eating (self, needs, provisions).