

8. Paul's Missionary Strategy

Course Code: PTS-BTH208

Program: Undergraduate, 2nd Year, 1st Semester

Discipline: Missiology / New Testament Theology

1. Course Overview

- 1) This course explores the missionary life and strategy of the Apostle Paul, aiming to understand the principles behind the early church's expansion.
 - 2) Paul was not only a gospel preacher but a deliberate and strategic missionary. His approach serves as a model for modern missions and church planting.
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2. Course Objectives

- 1) To trace Paul's missionary journeys in their historical and geographical context.
 - 2) To analyze Paul's methods and principles of gospel proclamation.
 - 3) To study key elements of Paul's mission model such as urban centered missions, team ministry, and tentmaking.
 - 4) To provide a biblical foundation for contemporary mission strategies and practices.
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3. Main Contents

1) Background of Paul's Mission

- (1) Jewish heritage and Hellenistic education
- (2) Damascus road conversion and divine calling
- (3) Commissioning by the church in Antioch

2) Overview of the Three Missionary Journeys

- (1) 1st Journey (Acts 13-14): Cyprus and Galatian region

(2) 2nd Journey(Acts 15:36–18:22): Macedonia, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth

(3) 3rd Journey (Acts 18:23–21:14): Long-term ministry in Ephesus, establishment in Asia Minor

3) Strategic Elements of Paul's Mission

(1) Urban-Centered Strategy:

Targeted major Roman cities (e.g., Ephesus, Corinth, Rome)

(2) Team Ministry:

Collaborated with Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Luke, and others

(3) Tentmaking Mission:

Maintained independence through self-support

(4) Synagogue-First Approach:

Preached to Jews first, then Gentiles

(5) Church Planting & Discipleship:

Established churches and trained leaders, followed up through ✉ letters

4) Spiritual Principles in Paul's Missions

(1) Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6–10)

(2) Gospel amid suffering and trials (2 Corinthians 11)

(3) Christ-centered message (Romans 1:16)

5) Modern Applications

(1) Biblical model for church planting

(2) Principles of indigenous church autonomy and sustainability

(3) Strategic and theological frameworks for missions today

4. Key Bible Passages

1) Acts 13–28

2) 1 & 2 Corinthians

3) Romans 15:18–24

4) 1 Thessalonians 1:5–8

5. Recommended Reading

- 1) Roland Allen, Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?
 - 2) Eckhard Schnabel, Paul the Missionary
 - 3) David Bosch, Transforming Mission
 - 4) N.T. Wright, Paul: A Biography
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6. Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Attendance & Participation: 20%
- 2) Mission Strategy Analysis Paper: 30%
- 3) Presentations & Group Discussions: 20%
- 4) Final Essay Exam (Paul's Strategy and Modern Applications): 30%