

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of two people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking, carrying a white bag. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom middle, a person in a plaid shirt and light pants is walking, carrying a bag. In the bottom right, a person is walking, holding a blue and white checkered umbrella. The shadows of the pedestrians are cast onto the white stripes of the crossing, indicating a bright, sunny day.

# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Who Was Paul?”**

**I THESSALONIANS 1:1**

*But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

**Acts 20:24**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

**Romans 1:16**

*and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,*

**Romans 15:20**

*as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.*

**Philippians 1:20**

“When Paul prays for Christians to grow strong in the faith, he does so ‘for the glory and praise of God’ (Phil. 1:9-11). When he thinks of the coming of the Lord, he says that ‘he will be glorified among his holy ones and be marveled at among all those who have believed’ (2 Thess. 1:10)...



**Tom Schreiner,  
*Paul: An Apostle of  
God's Glory in Christ***

“...When he considered God’s merciful grace in calling him as the chief of sinners to salvation (1 Tim. 1:12-16), he breaks into praise, saying, ‘Now to the king of the ages, incorruptible, invisible, to the only God, be honor and glory for the ages, amen’ (1 Tim. 1:17)...



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“... When he considers his call to bring about the obedience of faith among the nations, he says that this is done ‘for the sake of his name’ (Rom. 1:5).

When he concludes his greatest letter and returns to the theme of bringing about the obedience of faith among the nations (Rom. 16:25-26),...



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“... he again breaks into prayer: ‘To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to him be the glory for the ages, amen’ (Rom. 16:27). The passion of Paul’s life, the foundation and capstone of his vision, and the animating motive of the mission was the supremacy of God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.”



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*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
do all to the glory of God.*

**I Corinthians 10:31**

- Born into the Jewish community of the Roman Empire in Tarsus
- Tarsus was a philosophically elite city; called a “university city”
- Paul was a Roman citizen and descended from the tribe of Benjamin (Romans 11:1)

## **The Roman Empire and Tarsus**

*And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of  
my own age among my people,  
so extremely zealous was I for the traditions  
of my fathers.*

**Galatians 1:14**

- A strict Pharisee (Acts 26:5)
- His mentor, Gamaliel, who was taught by one of the most famous rabbis in Jesus' day, Hillel. Gamaliel helped defend the apostles (Acts 5:34).

## **The Roman Empire and Tarsus**

*<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day,  
of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,  
a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law,  
a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;  
as to righteousness under the law, blameless.*

**Philippians 3:5-6**

*For I am the least of the apostles,  
unworthy to be called an apostle,  
because I persecuted the church of God.*

**I Corinthians 15:9**



*54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.*

*55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him...*

**Acts 7:54-58; 8:1-3**

*...<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of his execution.*

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

*<sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.*

**Acts 7:54-8:3**

# Paul's Conversion (Acts 9)

# **Paul's Writings and Missionary Journeys**

- Acts 13-14 (A.D. 47-48)
- Stops along the way - Antioch, Seleucia, Cyprus, Paphos, Perga, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
- about 1,235 miles
- Highlights – going to the local synagogues to preach the Gospel, persecution, stoned and left for dead, taking the Gospel to the Gentiles, met with Christians in Jerusalem to discuss circumcision, met Peter and James

## **Missionary Journey #1**

- Acts 15:36-18:22 (A.D. 49-52)
- Stops along the way - Cyprus, Antioch, Cilicia, Derbe, Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Mythia, Bithynia, Troas, Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Cenchrea, Ephesus, Caesarea, Antioch, and Jerusalem
- about 2,700 miles

## **Missionary Journey #2**

- Highlights – “falling out” over the usefulness of John and one missionary team became 2 missionary teams: Barnabas and John Mark and then Paul and Silas, also met Timothy, Lydia, and Aquila and Priscilla

## **Missionary Journey #2**

- Acts 18:23-20, 38 (A.D. 52-56)
- Stops along the way - Antioch, Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Greece, Philippi, Troas, Coos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre, Ptolemais, and Caesarea
- about 2,500 miles
- Highlights – stayed in Asia Minor, Eutychus died falling out of a window while Paul was preaching and then raised from the dead

## **Missionary Journey #3**



*18 And when they came to him, he said to them:  
“You yourselves know how I lived among you the  
whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,  
19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and  
with trials that happened to me through the plots of  
the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you  
anything that was profitable, and teaching you in  
public and from house to house,...*

**Acts 20:18-24**

*...<sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I...*

**Acts 20:18-24**

*...may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

**Acts 20:18-24**

“What made Paul such an effective missionary is that he wrote his letters out of deeply held and thoroughly thought-through convictions.

These convictions anchored him and his churches as they passed through storms in which false teaching and...



**Tom Schreiner,  
*Paul: An Apostle of  
God's Glory in Christ***

“...immoral behavior threatened the churches’ survival. Paul made a lasting impact precisely because he addressed the specific circumstances in the churches from a worldview that was powerfully coherent.”

A photograph of Tom Schreiner, a man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and orange tie. He is shown from the chest up, gesturing with his hands as if speaking or presenting. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

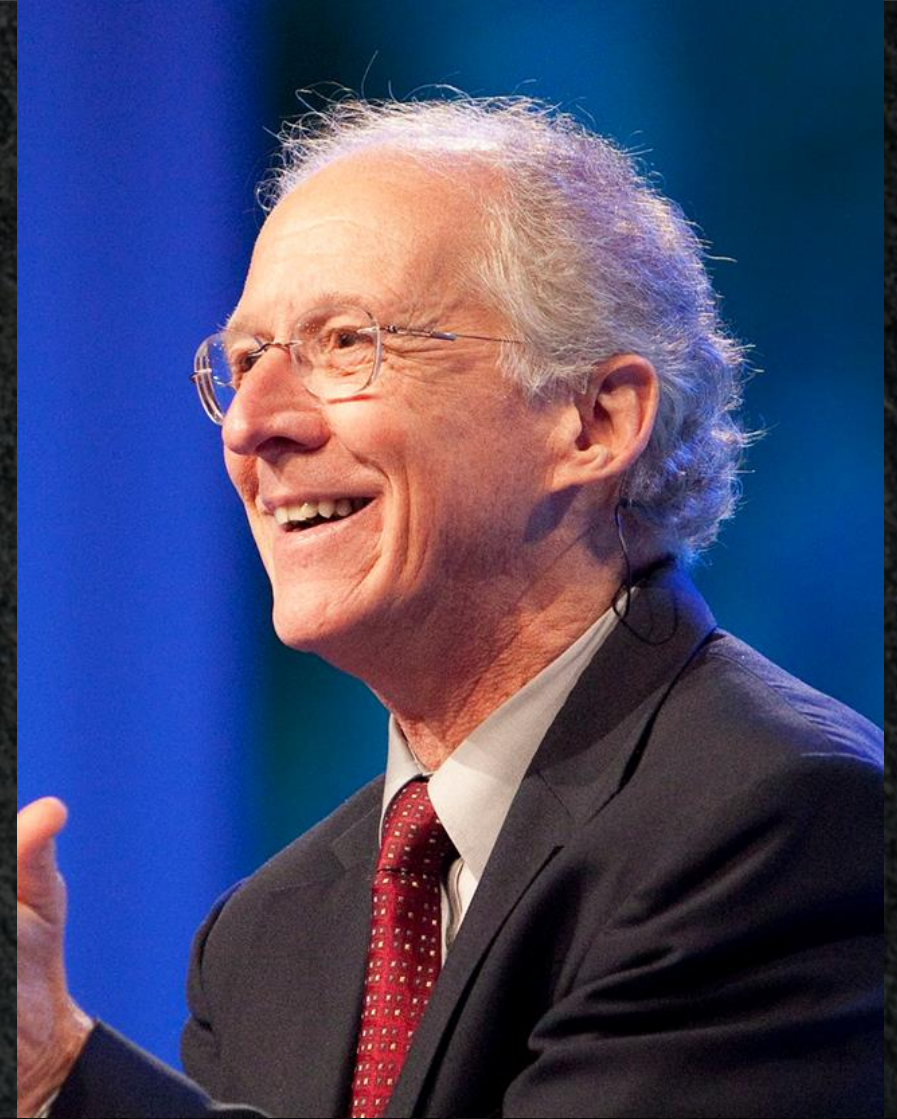
**Tom Schreiner,  
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- Righteousness by faith (Romans 1:16; Galatians 3:11)
- Our universal need (Romans 3:22-23)
- Way of salvation (Romans 4-5)
- Freedom from sin (Romans 6:2, 4)
- Freedom from death (Romans 8:15, 31-39)

## **The Gospel According to Paul**

# **Paul's Sufferings (II Corinthians 11)**

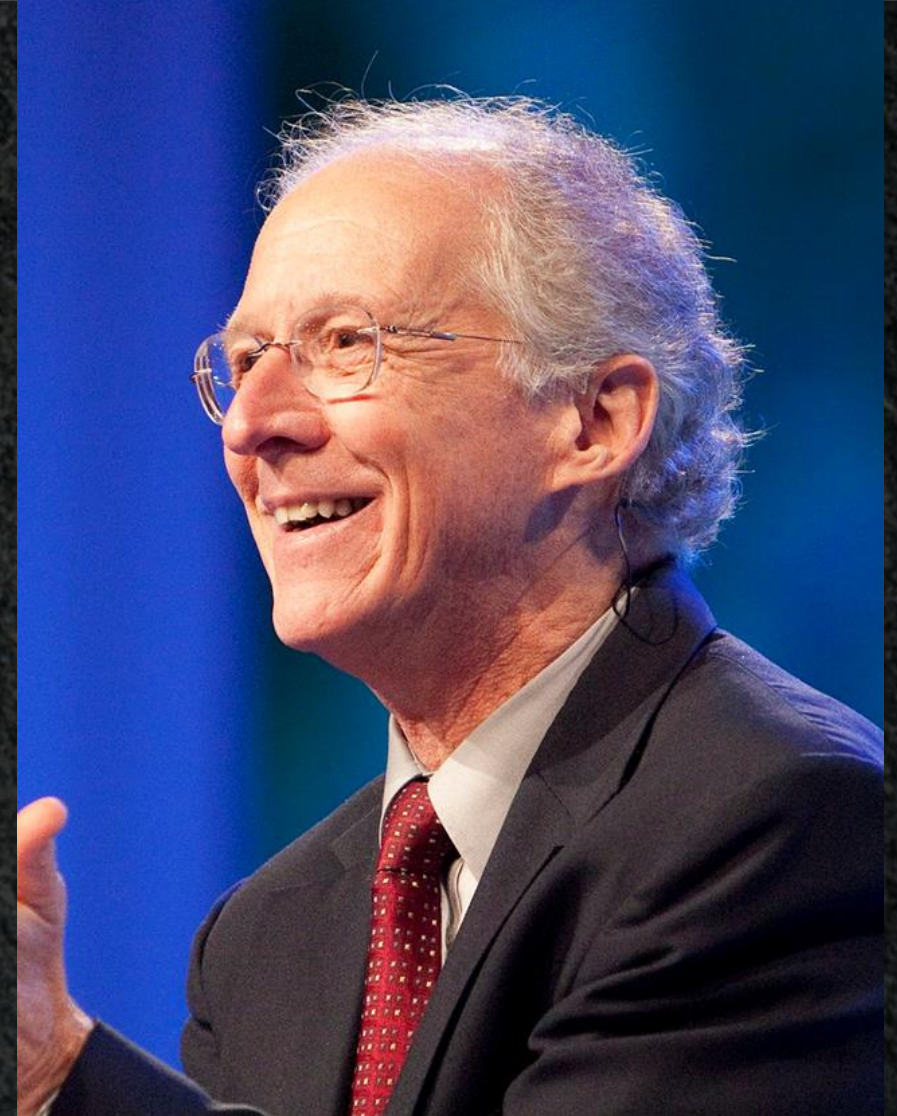
“I am drawn to people who suffer without murmuring. Especially when they believe in God but never get angry with him or criticize him. It seems to me that not murmuring is one of the rarest traits in the world. And when it is combined with a deep faith in God—who could...



**John Piper , *Why I Love the Apostle Paul***



“... alter our painful circumstances but doesn't—it has a beautiful God-trusting, God-honoring quality that makes it all the more attractive. Paul was like that.”



**John Piper , *Why I Love the Apostle Paul***

“The pain Paul endured was the means by which the message of the gospel was extended to the nations. Suffering was not a side effect of the Pauline mission; rather it was at the very center of his apostolic evangelism...Paul’s sufferings provide...



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“...evidence of the truth of his gospel. Indeed, his sufferings are a corollary of the sufferings of Jesus.”

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“Such suffering highlights the weakness of the messenger and points hearers to God as the all-sufficient one. God’s work in and through a weak and suffering Paul indicates that the power comes from God rather than Paul...Suffering also validates the integrity...



**Tom Schreiner,  
*Paul: An Apostle of  
God’s Glory in Christ***

“...of Paul as a messenger, for his willingness to undergo pain indicates that he does not proclaim the gospel as a way to get rich or to promote his reputation on earth.”

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- Romans – 35
- Corinthians – 4
- Ephesians – 1
- Colossians – 9
- Timothy – 7
- Titus and Philemon - 3

**Paul's Network of Friends (59 total?)**

# Paul's Final Days



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*<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of  
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous  
judge, will award to me on that day,  
and not only to me but also to all who have loved  
his appearing.*

**II Timothy 4:7-8**