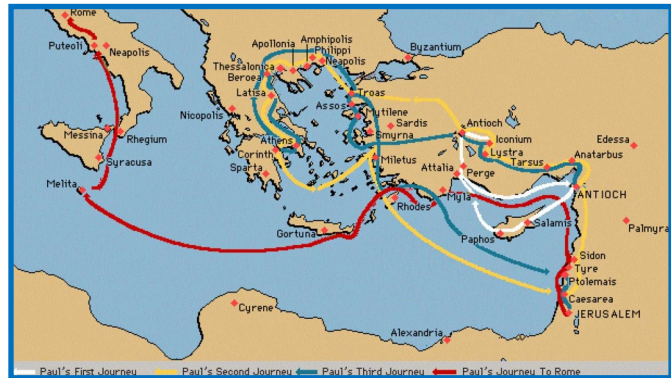
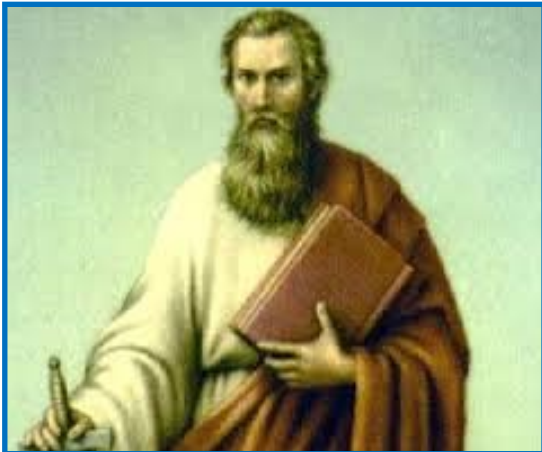


Saint Paul



Saint Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Canon of the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century.

St. Paul was originally known as Saul, and he was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee. He even presided over the persecutions of the early Christians and was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

However, Saul experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity while on the road to Damascus. He was duly baptized and took the name Paul.

Paul travelled the world, first to Arabia then back to Damascus. He also visited Jerusalem to see St. Peter, the first pope and pay homage to him. During these travels, he preached ceaselessly, often drawing criticism and anger from those who rebuffed his message.

Jews, in particular, hated his preaching as they saw him convert people to Christianity from Judaism.

Paul's mission was to establish churches throughout Asia Minor and beyond. He established several churches and after doing this he remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes.

The letters that have survived have become part of the Bible. It is believed that Paul wrote other letters, which were lost even before the Bible was established by the Church. Paul's writings are important because they provide good advice for how Christians should live.

Paul travelled extensively throughout much of Europe, and in spite of being imprisoned and shipwrecked, he continued to spread the Christian message.

In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome for a second time and this time he was beheaded on the orders of Emperor Nero.

Paul is among the most famous, intelligent and influential of the apostles. He is the patron saint of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle-makers, and tent makers. His feast day is on June 29 when he is honoured with Saint Peter.