

Join Professor Bart D. Ehrman
to Discover

THE WORLD OF ST. PAUL
IN THE SETTING OF LATE ANTIQUITY
Civilizations and Faiths in Transition

June 2 – 13, 2019



Dear Friends,

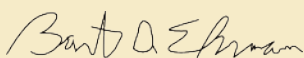
Christianity may have remained an obscure sect of Judaism if a Jew named Paul had not carried the new faith to the greatest cities of the Roman Empire. Paul may not have been the sole founder of Christianity, but he was its best known promoter, as he took his Gospel message to important urban centers of what are now Greece and Turkey, in the heart of the Roman Empire.

This was when the empire was at its height, between the reigns of Augustus and Trajan, dominating almost two million square miles, from Hadrian's Wall in northern England to the Caspian Sea in Asia. Roman law and Roman culture, to a great extent based on the culture of ancient Greece, knew no rival. Eventually, Rome declined and its empire disappeared. But much of the Greco-Roman legacy – the law, literature, and architecture, was preserved for eternity, in no small way thanks to the triumph of Christianity.

I am excited to be lecturing on this tour focused on Paul and his legacy. Our journey is designed to explore sites that are richly associated with some of the most dramatic moments in the history of the rise of Christianity set in the context of the Greco-Roman culture of St. Paul's life and times. We will begin in Thessaloniki, the biblical Thessalonica, where St. Paul founded a Christian community in the mid- first century AD; ancient Philippi, an important stop in St. Paul's apostolic mission; Athens, where in AD 51 St. Paul preached on "the unknown God;" and Corinth, where St. Paul spent 18 months. From the lovely island of Samos, we will visit fabled Ephesus, one of the world's greatest ancient sites, where we will walk the same street St. Paul walked, and step inside the very amphitheater where he spoke. We will also explore the holy island of Patmos where St. John the Divine was exiled in AD 95, and where he received his vision of the Apocalypse.

I hope you can join me on this fascinating journey that traces the path of St. Paul and explores the emergence of Christianity around the ancient world of the Aegean Sea.

Kind regards,



Prof. Bart D. Ehrman
James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



View of the Acropolis from the Areopagus hill where St. Paul preached

EXPERT GUEST LECTURER



Bart D. Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 1988. Professor Ehrman has published extensively in the fields of New Testament and Early Christianity, having written or edited thirty-one books, including six New York Times Bestsellers: *Misquoting Jesus*; *God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer our Most Important Question – Why We Suffer*; *Jesus Interrupted*; *Forged: Why the Bible's Authors are Not Who We Think They Are*; *How Jesus Became God*; and *The Triumph of Christianity*. His Introduction to the New Testament has been the most widely used textbook in colleges and universities for over twenty years. He has recorded eight lecture courses for The Great Courses (The Teaching Company). More than two million copies of his books and courses have been sold, and his books have been translated into twenty-seven languages.

Professor Ehrman's work has been featured in the New Yorker, Time, Newsweek, the New York Times, the Washington Post and other print media. He has appeared on NBC's Dateline, CNN, The History Channel, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, the BBC, Fresh Air, other major NPR shows, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, the Colbert Report, and other top media outlets.

A widely sought after lecturer, and winner of numerous university awards and grants, Professor Ehrman is the recipient of the 2009 J. W. Pope "Spirit of Inquiry" Teaching Award, the 1993 UNC Undergraduate Student Teaching Award, the 1994 Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement, and the Bowman and Gordon Gray Award for excellence in teaching.



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Walk the same streets St. Paul walked in Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus, Athens and Corinth.

Visit the venerable Monastery of St. John the Divine on the holy island of Patmos.

Travel with and learn from Prof. Bart D. Ehrman, one of the world's foremost authorities on early Christianity.

ITINERARY

Sunday, June 2

DEPART THE USA

Fly from the U.S. to Thessaloniki, Greece.

Monday, June 3

THESSALONIKI, Greece

Arrive in Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece and the capital of the region of Macedonia. Upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel Macedonia Palace. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

Tuesday, June 4

THESSALONIKI

Founded in 316 BC and named after the half-sister of Alexander the Great, Thessaloniki, the biblical Thessalonica, commands a beautiful position at the head of a spacious bay. St. Paul founded a Christian community here in AD 49-50 and directed two of his epistles to the Thessalonians. Thessaloniki was also an important center of Jewish learning. The city is renowned for its monuments dating from late antiquity, and for its early Christian churches, which we will visit in the morning, including the Vlatadon Monastery, where St. Paul preached; the church of Aghios Georgios, built on a Roman rotunda; the church of Aghia Sophia, believed to be older than its namesake in Istanbul; the

Cathedral of Aghios Demetrios, the guardian of the city; and the church of Holy Apostles, with its striking 14th-century mosaics. In the afternoon, visit the splendid Museum of Byzantine Culture, and spend time at leisure to explore this vibrant city on your own.

Meals: B

Wednesday, June 5

THESSALONIKI/PHILIPPI/KAVALA/ THESSALONIKI

Drive in the morning to Philippi, founded in the 4th century BC by Phillip II, the father Alexander the Great. It is believed that here St. Paul delivered his first sermon on European soil and baptized his first convert, St. Lydia (AD 49).

He addressed one of his epistles to the people of Philippi. After exploring the ancient city, including the remains of several early basilicas, drive to nearby Kavala, the ancient port town of Neapolis, where St. Paul landed in AD 49. Enjoy lunch and time at leisure in picturesque Kavala, which is built on two hills facing the harbor.

Meals: B, L

Thursday, June 6

THESSALONIKI/SAMOS

Fly from Thessaloniki to Samos, the lush Greek island located near the coast of Turkey. One of the wealthiest islands of antiquity, Samos was also a renowned center of learning. Spend the next four nights at the lovely Hotel Doryssa Seaside Resort.

Meals: B, L, D



Kavala, the ancient port town of Neapolis where St. Paul landed in AD 49.



Temple of Hadrian, Ephesus



Mosaic of St. Demetrios, Thessaloniki

Friday, June 7

SAMOS/EPHESUS/SAMOS

Sail in the morning the short channel across to Turkey's port of Kusadasi, and from there continue to nearby Ephesus, one of the most prominent cities of antiquity, now a magnificent archaeological site. Founded by Greeks around 1100 BC, Ephesus flourished between 600 BC and AD 500, becoming one of the largest and wealthiest cities in the Roman Empire, and an early center of Christianity from the AD 50s. St. Paul lived here from AD 52-54. Our exploration of the site will include the Street of Kuretes, the same street St. Paul walked during his stay, the theater, which held 24,000 people and the site where the famous riot against him took place, the many monuments that line the street, the Church of the Councils and the house of the Virgin Mary. Return to Samos in the afternoon.

Meals: B, L, D

Saturday, June 8

SAMOS

One of the wealthiest and most powerful city-states of ancient Greece, Samos achieved the pinnacle of its brilliance in the 6th century BC, when its energetic merchants had pioneered trade routes stretching from Egypt to Spain, and when magnificent public works were undertaken. Samos was also an intellectual powerhouse. Pythagoras, philosopher, mathematician and discoverer of the geometric theorem that bears his name was a native son, Aesop wrote his fables here, and many artists,

writers and philosophers from throughout Greece were drawn to the island. Tour in the morning Samos's most important monuments, including the remains of the Heraion, the enormous shrine dedicated to the Mother Goddess; the Tunnel of Eupalinos, one of the greatest engineering feats of antiquity; the monastery of Panaghia Spyliani; and the Archaeological Museum in Vathy. Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Meals: B

Sunday, June 9

SAMOS/PATMOS/SAMOS

Sail for the day to Patmos, the island where St. John the Divine ("Theologos" in Greek) was exiled to from Ephesus in AD 95 by the Roman Emperor Domitian, and the place where he received the vision of the Apocalypse (Revelation), which is now the last book of the New Testament. According to tradition, St. John received the vision in a cave, which we will visit after we land on this holy island. A little further up the road is the imposing fortress-like Monastery of St. John, built in 1088 on top of a ridge. The monastery consists of several chapels, in addition to the church of St. John, that are rich in ecclesiastical treasures. Outstanding is the Library. Below the monastery spreads charming Chora, Patmos's main town, with its characteristic architecture. Enjoy lunch in Patmos before returning to Samos and the hotel.

Meals: B, L, D.

Monday, June 10

SAMOS/ATHENS

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Athens. Upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel Plaza, located on Constitution Square, the center of the city, and within walking distance from many of its attractions.

Meals: B

Tuesday, June 11

ATHENS

One of the world's most venerable cities, Athens is the capital of Greece and Europe's oldest city. Its monuments and the treasures in its museums are reminders of the city's glorious past. Start in the morning by visiting the hill of the Areopagus, the place where the Assembly of the Athenians met, and the place where St. Paul preached his celebrated sermon "on the Unknown God." Continue to the Acropolis to visit its monuments, including the incomparable Parthenon, built in the 5th century BC. In the afternoon, tour the Agora, the heart of public life of ancient Athens. Here, Socrates conversed with his fellow citizens questioning their assumptions, and St. Paul preached Christianity to Athenians.

Meals: B

Wednesday, June 12

ATHENS/CORINTH/ATHENS

Leave Athens in the morning for Old Corinth, one of the most prominent and powerful cities of ancient Greece. During the Roman period, Corinth achieved the point of its greatest prosperity and wealth. It is estimated that the

city had a population of 300,000. St. Paul spent 18 months here (AD 51-52) practicing his trade as a tentmaker (Acts XVIII), and challenging the luxurious lifestyle of the Corinthians. Visit the site and the Museum. Also, see the Corinth Canal, the narrow waterway that separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland. After lunch in Corinth, return to Athens in the afternoon. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner.
Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, June 13
ATHENS/USA

Transfer to the airport for the flight home.
Meals: B

TRAVEL WITH A SMALL GROUP

When you travel with Thalassa Journeys, you will travel with a small group of like minded travelers. Each of our programs normally consists of 18-22 persons. Traveling with a small group fosters a genuine sense of camaraderie, intimacy and exclusivity. The small size also allows for privileged access to places, less crowding at the sites and restaurants, and more meaningful discussions and interaction with the accompanying expert guest lecturer and local guide.

ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys was established by the principals and managers of Travel Dynamics, the company that 50 years ago pioneered the concept of educational travel for America's educational and cultural institutions. The belief that travel is primarily a learning experience forms the core principle of Thalassa Journeys. We bring an unrivaled depth of experience to make your journey with us meaningful, unique and seamless. We will take you not only to marvelous places, but we will also bridge the past with the present, illuminate the ancient sites we explore – what they were, how they came to be, and why they matter to us – make them come alive, and enrich your mind and inspire your senses. We are steeped in the culture of our destinations and know the secret places often overlooked by the guidebooks. We welcome you to the ever fascinating world of Thalassa Journeys.



Rotunda of Galerius, Thessaloniki



The Monastery of St. John the Divine in Patmos dominates the town of Chora



The ancient theater of Ephesus where the Ephesians rioted against St. Paul

RATE

\$5,490 per person, double occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$690

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Three nights in Thessaloniki at the Hotel Macedonia Palace; four nights in Samos at the Hotel Doryssa Seaside Resort; three nights in Athens at the Hotel Plaza.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels
- Five lunches and five dinners as indicated in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers in Greece and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by private motor coach and professional English speaking guide.
- All entrance fees to the sites described in the itinerary.
- Program of lectures and discussions by Prof. Bart D. Ehrman.
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- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
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REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$_____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold_____ place(s) on ***The World of St. Paul in the Setting of Late Antiquity, June 2-13, 2019.*** I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Please make check payable to and mail with this registration form to:

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DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

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TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

E-MAIL

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.
CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and Wellesley College, Wellesley College Alumnae Association and their agents, employees and officials act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

Join Professor Bart D. Ehrman on a Journey exploring The World of St. Paul in Late Antiquity



Mosaic depicting St. Paul preaching

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