

An aerial photograph of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, featuring the city skyline, a large parking lot, a multi-lane highway, and the Ohio River with a bridge. The text "FOREVER FRIENDS" is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow font with a dark blue outline.

FOREVER FRIENDS

BUSY

MODILITY

TECHNOLOGY

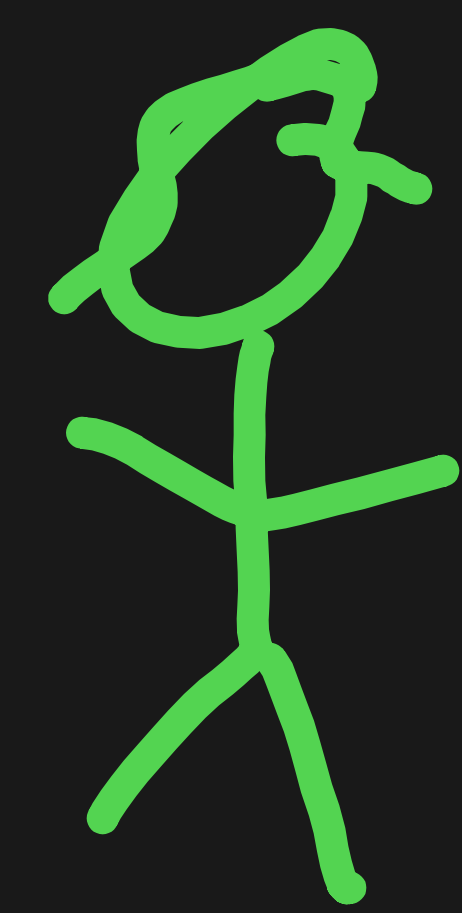
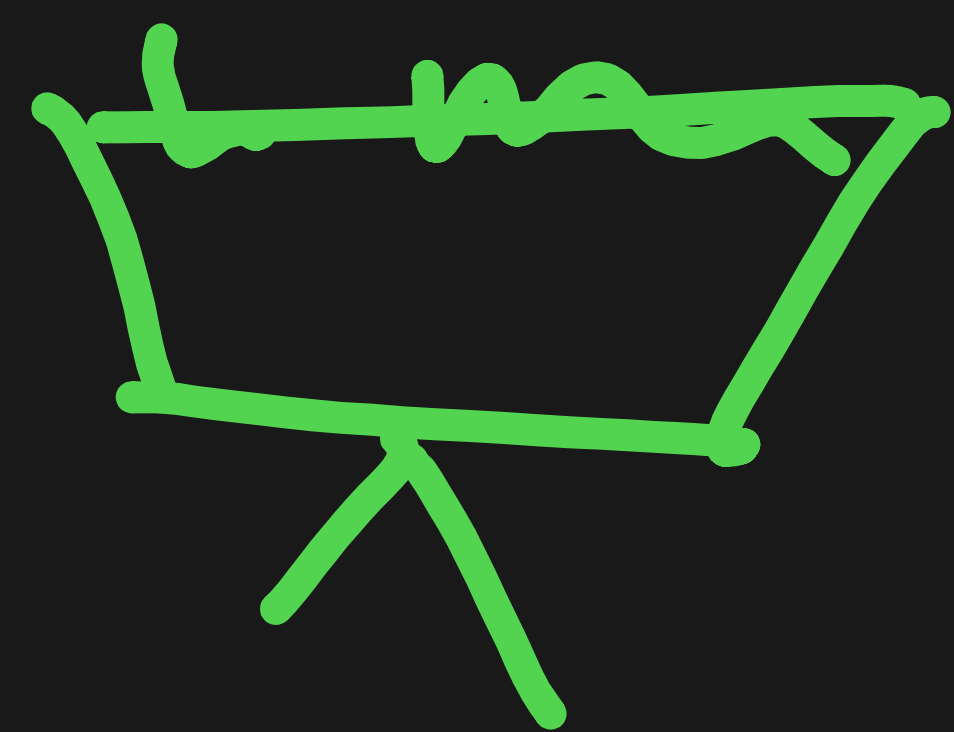
POLARIZATION



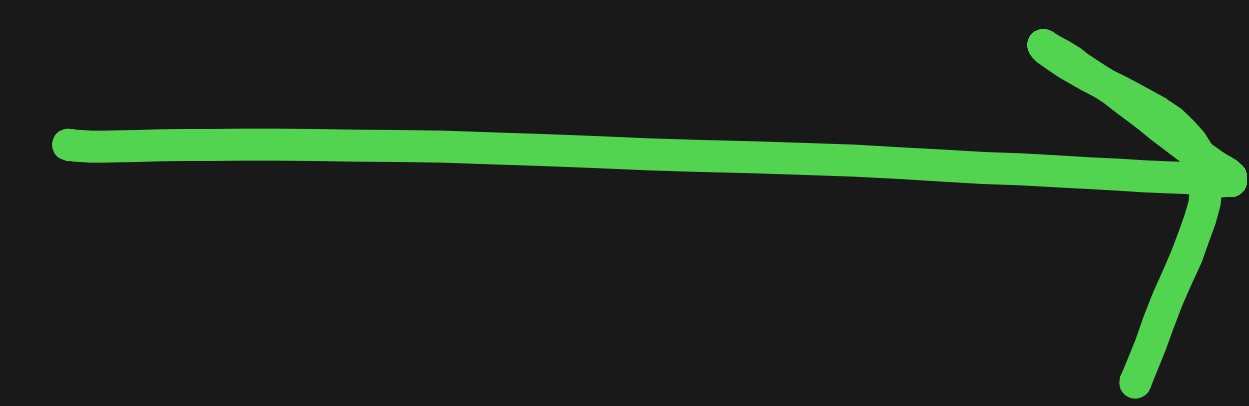
John 15:11-14

I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.

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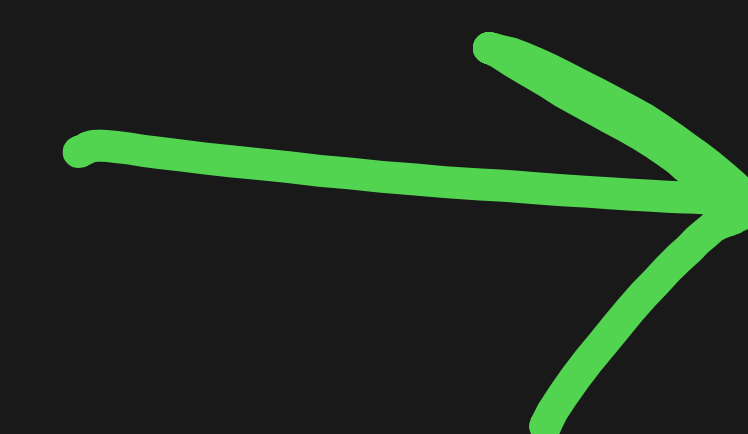
G-4BC



AD27

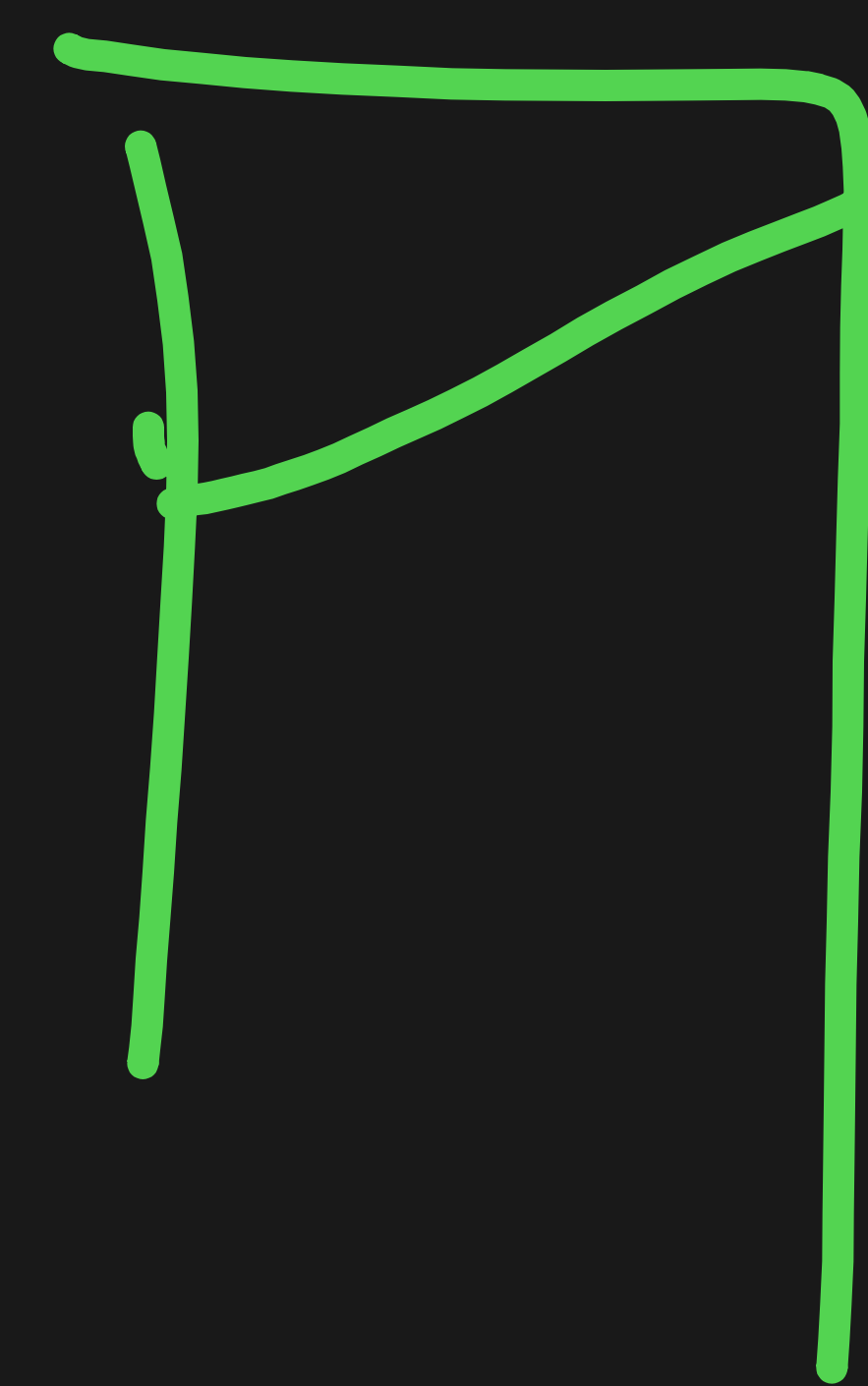


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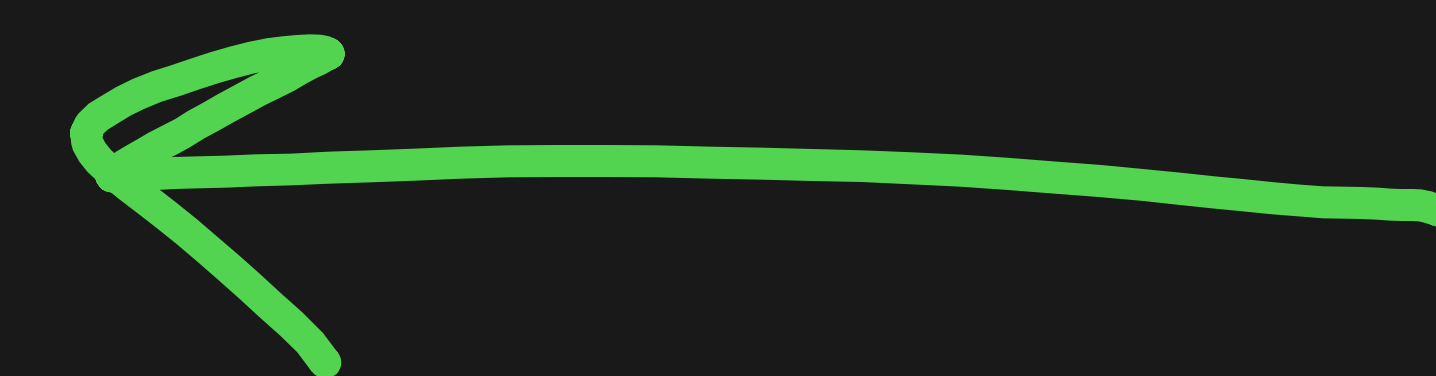
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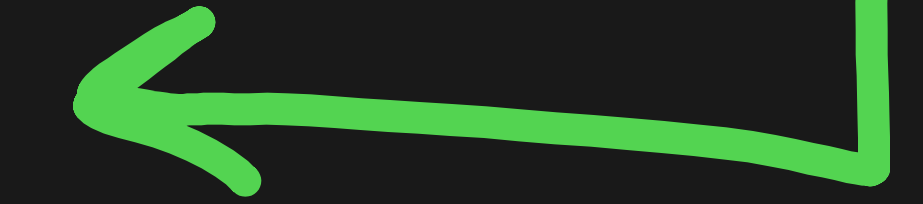
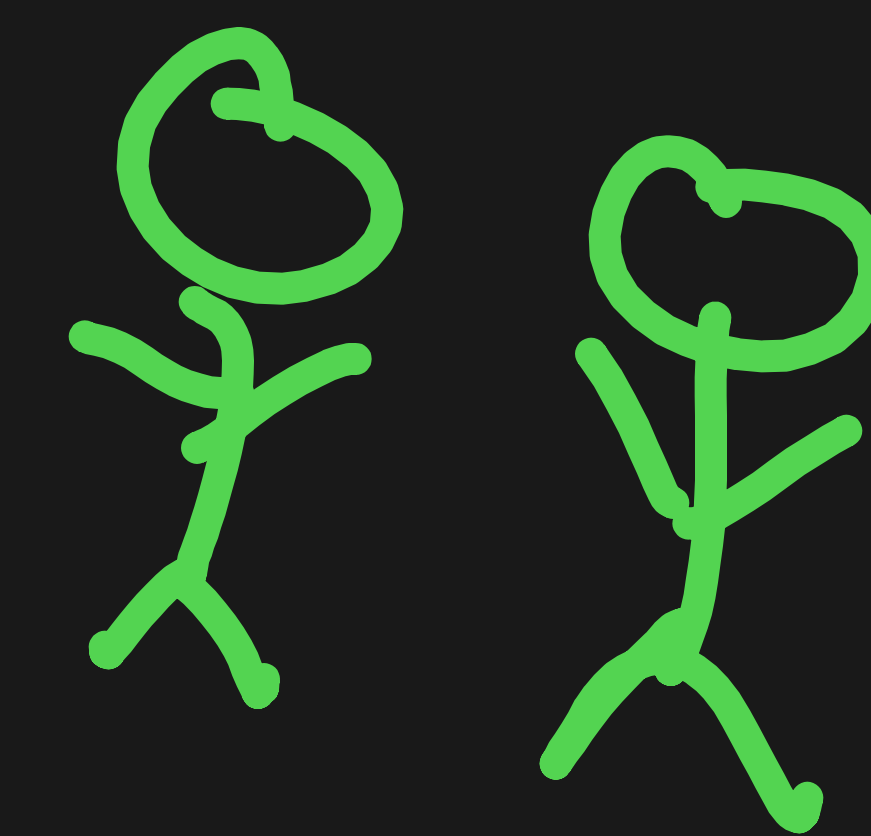
LOAD



SIAD



AD37



The Apostle Paul

- Wrote 13 NT letters
- Explains core doctrines
- Does miracles
- Plants approx 20 churches
- Suffers a lot lot lot

The Apostle Paul

- Acts 19:10: "all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord."
- Led Church in Gentile inclusion
- Preaches in Athens, Tyrannus' hall, before Gov Felix, Gov Festus, King Agrippa, and perhaps Caesar

Acts 7:58-8:1

The witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him.

Saul the Persecutor

- Educated as a Pharisee
- Hated Christianity
- Lived as a zealot
- Persecuted "The Way"
- Stoned Stephen



Barnabas

- An apostle (Acts 14:14)
- “son of encouragement/exhortation”
- Was a Levite
- Perhaps one of the 70 sent by Jesus (Lk 10)
- Wealthy and generous (Acts 4:36).

Barnabas

- Great leader

• Perhaps wrote Hebrews

• Perhaps wrote "The Epistle of Barnabas"

Acts 9:26-27

When [Paul] had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:28-30

So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him. When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his hometown.



Acts 11:25-26

Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
and when he had found him, he brought him
to Antioch.

Key Friendship Events

1. Barnabas welcomes Paul despite his past.
2. Barnabas invites Paul to lead with him.

Key Friendship Truths

1. If you don't have deep friendships, it's because you've chosen that.

⑥ A 11:26 - Do LIFE IN ANTIOCH

⑦ A 11:27-30 - ROAD TRIP

⑧ 6AC? - BIG FRIENDS FIGHT

Galatians 2:11-13

But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore.

Galatians 2:11-13

He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Key Friendship Truths

1. If you don't have deep friendships, it's because you've chosen that.
2. Friends who share an eternal bond in Christ can speak truth without fear of separation.

Galatians 6:1

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Key Friendship Events

1. Barnabas welcomes Paul despite his past.
2. Barnabas invites Paul to lead with him.
3. Paul calls Peter and Barnabas in their sin.
4. The John Mark Controversy

Acts 13:4-5

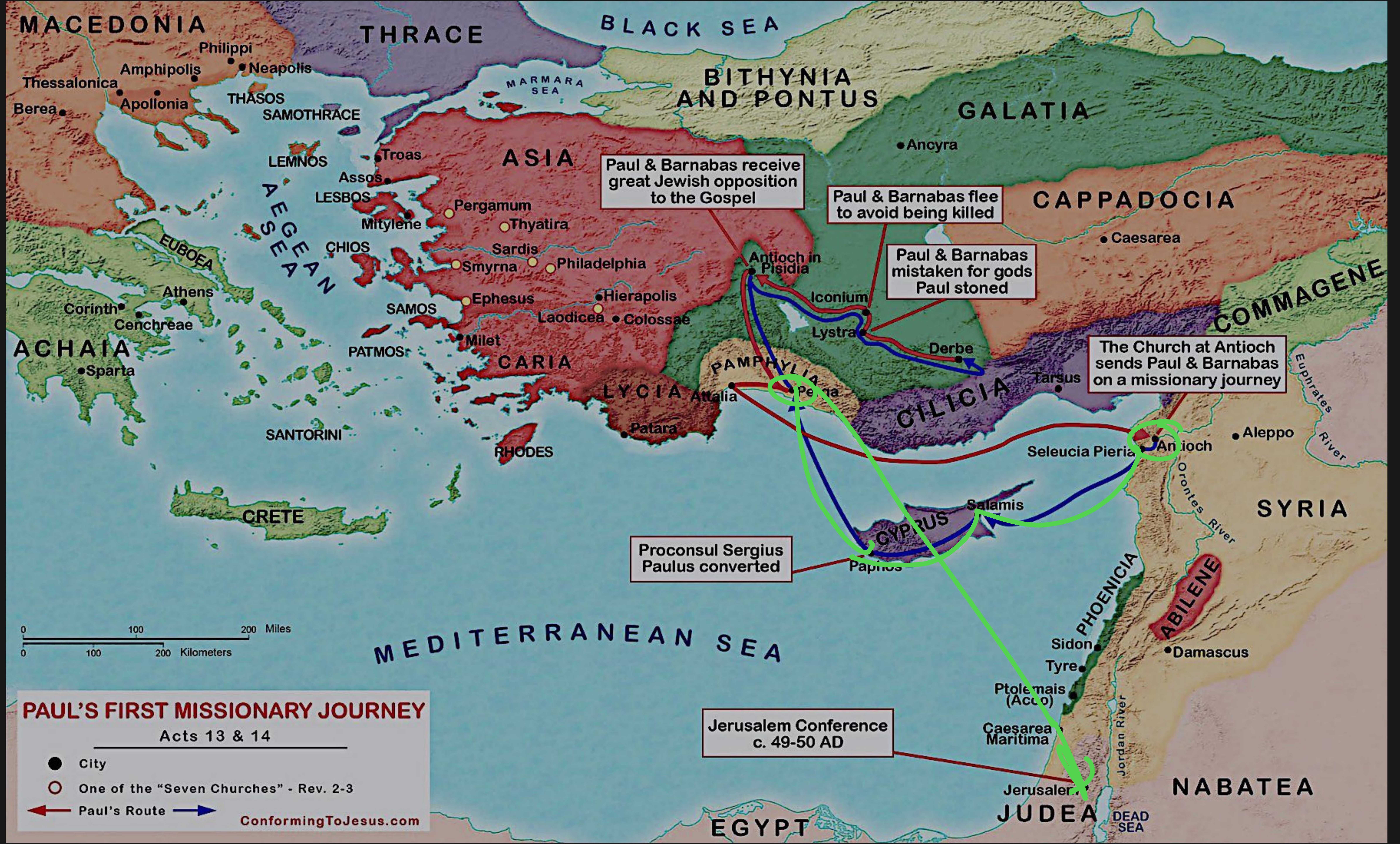
So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus. There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant.

John Mark

- Barnabas' cousin (Col 4:10)
- Perhaps author of Gospel of Mark
- Mom's house was a Jerusalem hideout for disciples (Acts 12:12)
- Close to Peter (1 Pt 5:13)

Acts 13:13

Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.



Acts 15:36-40

After some time Paul said to Barnabas,
“Let’s go back and visit each city where we
previously preached the word of the Lord, to
see how the new believers are doing.”
Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along
John Mark.

Acts 15:36-40

But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas...

Key Friendship Truths

1. If you don't have deep friendships, it's because you've chosen that.
2. Friends who share an eternal bond in Christ can speak truth without fear of separation.
3. The best friendships endure all things and last a lifetime.

“Christian community is most often threatened from the very outset by the greatest danger, the danger of confusing Christian community with some wishful image of pious community... A great disillusionment with others, with Christians in general, and, if we are fortunate, with ourselves, is bound to overwhelm us...Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that community.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Will not the very moment of great disillusionment with my brother or sister be incomparably healthy for me because it so thoroughly teaches me that both of us can never live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and deed that really binds us together, the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ?”

- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Colossians 3:12-15

Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:12-15

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.