

Rough and Somewhat Speculative Chronology of Paul's Life

Note that the epistles ascribed to Paul with some scholarly consensus are Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon. So the dates offered for other epistles below are highly qualified – as in: “If they were written by Paul, this could be the context.”

AD 6	Born in Tarsus, a Roman citizen by birth
AD 20-30	Goes to Jerusalem to study under Gamaliel
AD 30-33	Persecutes Christians
AD 33	Conversion on the Road to Damascus
AD 33-36	Goes “immediately” to Arabia (Gal 1:17)
AD 36	Returns to Damascus then goes to Jerusalem, where he spends 15 days with Peter and meets James
AD 36-43	Preaches in Tarsus and “the regions of Syria and Cilicia” (Gal 1:21)
AD 44-46	Preaches in Antioch, at the invitation of Barnabas
AD 46	Visits Jerusalem with Barnabas to deliver relief supplies
AD 47-48	First Missionary Journey to Galatia and Cyprus with Barnabas
AD 49	At the Council of Jerusalem, Paul argues successfully that Gentile Christians need not follow Jewish law; returns to Antioch; confronts Peter over question of Jewish law
AD 49-52	Second Missionary Journey through Asia Minor and Greece with Silas. Writes 1 <i>Thessalonians</i> while in Corinth, likely his first extant epistle.
AD 52	Goes again to Jerusalem, 14 years after his first visit, to challenge Peter and the Apostles on the law as it applies to gentiles
AD 52-55	Stays in Ephesus. Writes the epistles of <i>Galatians</i> and <i>1 Corinthians</i>
AD 55-57	Third Missionary Journey through Greece and possibly Illyricum (the former Yugoslav region). Writes <i>Romans</i>
AD 57-60	Returns to Jerusalem and is arrested, appears before Festus, appeals to Caesar, goes to Rome.
AD 60-62	House Arrest in Rome. Writes epistles of <i>Philippians</i> , <i>Ephesians</i> , <i>Colossians</i> , <i>Philemon</i>
AD 62-64	Possible release and journey to Spain. Writes to <i>Timothy</i> and <i>Titus</i>
AD 64	Returns to Rome and is, according to tradition, martyred.