Join Dr. Julius West & Pastor Stephen Dyson & Dr. Brian Kennedy

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL TOUR

Greece, Greek Islands Cruise, Ephesus, Patmos & Rome!
April 7 - 18, 2019

The Parthenon is considered by many to be the most perfect architectural building in existence today. It was constructed in 446BC on the highest point in ancient Athens, called the Acropolis, and was home to a giant statue of the goddess Athena, the patron goddess of the city of Athens. The apostle Paul no doubt walked on the Acropolis and saw the Parthenon during his visit to Athens in Acts 17 in the summer of 50AD. The idol worship carried out on the Acropolis certainly contributed to Paul's consternation that "the city was full of idols." (Acts 17:16). Mars Hill, where Paul debated the message of Christ with the philosophers of Athens (Acts 17:18ff), is immediately adjacent to the north slope of the Acropolis, just below the Parthenon itself.

Dear Friends,

We are happy to send you the details of our "In the Footsteps of Apostle Paul" Tour scheduled for 9-21 September 2016.

Next to Jesus himself, the Apostle Paul is the most important person in the New Testament. His life essentially fills the Book of Acts. He wrote 13 of the 21 letters that comprise the New Testament. And his four missionary journeys propelled the Gospel message of Jesus Christ onto the world stage in an unprecedented way and forever changed the history of western civilization. As followers of Christ, we have all read about Paul's missionary journeys in the Book of Acts. We have all read the letters that Paul wrote to the churches he founded on these journeys in places like Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica. We've read about Berea (Acts 17), whose Jewish people "examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." We know about Paul's speech to the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill in Athens (Acts 17). We've read Paul's amazing letter to the church at Rome and know about Paul's visit to Rome to stand before Emperor Nero (Acts 28).

On this tour, you will have the opportunity to visit all these places and actually see for yourself where these great events in the Bible took place. This tour is a re-tracing of the second and third missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul as described in the Book of Acts, chapters 16-21. In addition, we will visit Rome where Paul ended his fourth missionary journey, was imprisoned, and eventually martyred at the site that is today the Church of St. Paul's Outside the Walls. We will also visit the island of Patmos where the Apostle John was exiled and where he received and wrote down the Book of the Revelation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR

1. Three days in the enchanting city of Rome, we’ll visit the place where Paul's body was buried after Emperor Nero beheaded him in 66 AD. In Rome, we will also visit the Roman Forum, the Coliseum, the Arch of Titus & much more.
2. Chance to see the very jail cell in Philippi where Paul & Silas were freed by God's miraculous intervention (Acts 16:26)

3. A visit to Mars Hill in Athens where Paul debated the Gospel message with the elite philosophers of the age (Acts 17:16ff)

4. An opportunity to see the very spot in Corinth where Paul stood before the Roman proconsul Gallio (Acts 18:12)

5. An unforgettable morning in the city of Ephesus, where we will walk on the very streets where Paul walked and go into the actual theater mentioned in Acts 19:29.

6. A four-day cruise in the beautiful Aegean Sea, including the breath-taking Islands of Mykonos, Santorini, and Crete, with a stop at Patmos to see the place where the Apostle John was exiled for his faith and where the Lord gave him the Book of Revelation.

We will be sharing devotional messages from the Bible at many of these places as well as at many other sites. As a result, you will return from this tour with an understanding of Paul's life and ministry that is phenomenal. You'll also return with a deeper confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible, because you'll see for yourself all these places the New Testament mentions and you'll discover that they are just as the Bible declares them to be.

We will cover essentially the entire Book of Acts after Paul crossed into Europe in Acts 16. This tour is rich in biblical information and deep in spiritual challenge. It will forever change how you read the Book of Acts and Paul's New Testament letters.

Please compare our tour to similar tours offering similar levels of service and I believe you will agree that this tour represents a great value.

I hope you'll pray about joining us for 12 wonderful days of watching the Bible come alive and allowing the Lord to speak to your heart. If you have questions, please feel free to call 951 264 3927 or email Juliuswest@msn.com.

Hope to see you soon!

Bless,

Pastor Julius West

TOUR ITINERARY
April 7, 2019 Sunday – Depart LAX.

Monday – Arrive Thessalonica. Dinner and overnight at our deluxe hotel the Mediterranean Palace on the sea front.

Tuesday – Today after a great breakfast, we head for the ancient city of Philippi (Acts 16:12). This city was built by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, in 358 BC. Here Paul preached his first sermon in Europe and here the first believers in Europe were baptized. We will visit Lydia's Spring, the place where Paul led Lydia to Christ, making her the first person in Europe to ever give her life to Christ. Pastor will give a message at this beautiful and significant spot. Then we will visit the archaeological excavations of the Roman city of Philippi from Paul's time. We will see the remains of the Agnation Way, the famous Roman road that connected Rome itself with Greece and the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. The Apostle Paul walked on these very stones almost 2000 years ago. We will also visit the actual jail where Paul and Silas were imprisoned (Acts 16:22ff). Time will be taken here at the ancient city of Philippi for a devotional message. Then we move on to the port of Neapolis (Acts 16:11), the spot where Paul first set foot on European soil. Following lunch here at one of the charming outdoor cafes along the shores of the sparkling Aegean Sea, we’ll focus on Paul's obedience to God in coming to Europe in Acts 16. After a full day of spiritual challenge, we return to our deluxe hotel in Thessalonica.

Wednesday – After a hearty breakfast, we will spend our day visiting the capital city of northern Greece, the city of Thessalonica (modern day Thessaloniki). The ancient city on this same spot was home to some of Paul's most exciting ministry, resulting in a church that has two letters in the New Testament. We will see the triumphal arch of Galerius, built in 303 A.D. We will also visit the archaeological site of the ancient city of Thessalonica where Pastor will share a devotional based on the events of Acts 17. After an exciting morning in Thessalonica, we will visit the ancient city of Berea (Acts 17:10ff). Here Paul found a community of Jewish people who were serious about Paul's message and who "examined the Scriptures to see if it was true". While we are here, we will be able to stand on the very marble synagogue steps where Paul stood and preached. Standing on these steps, Pastor will share a message from the Bible about the attitude towards the Bible that these folks in Berea had and how that should change our lives. We will then return to Thessalonica and board our flight to Athens. Welcome to the birthplace of western civilization! Anywhere you look its beautiful and meaningful. Dinner and overnight in our deluxe hotel in the BEST location – Syntagma square.

Thursday – After a great breakfast, we head to ancient Corinth. This city was a major commercial crossroads in the time of the Apostle Paul and a city in which Paul spent a year and a half in ministry activity (Acts 18:11). We will see the Corinthian canal, which connects the Aegean and Adriatic Seas. In the 19th century, this canal was dug through the four-mile isthmus where Corinth sits and the canal is still used by ships today. We will then visit the ancient city of Corinth and see the very road that Paul walked on almost 2000 years ago when he entered the city. We will see the Bemah platform where Paul's case was dismissed by Roman proconsul Gallio (Acts 18:12). Time will be taken here for a devotional message. We will also visit the archaeological museum here at Corinth. We will then return to Athens and explore the Parthenon. We will visit Mars Hill (the "Areopagus" of Acts 17:19) where Paul addressed the philosophers of ancient Athens. Time will be taken here for a devotional message by Pastor. We will then visit the Parthenon, considered by many to be the grandest architectural structure of the ancient world. After seeing this incredible sight we enjoy free time for a leisure & shopping at the Plakka agora & dinner in our deluxe hotel.

Friday – After a great breakfast, we will transfer to the port of Piraeus in Athens, where we will board our cruise ship. We sail at noon and head for our first stop at the beautiful Aegean isla

Saturday – After breakfast, we begin a day full of exciting events. First, we head to Ephesus and the unmatched archaeological excavations at the ancient city of Ephesus. Ephesus was considered the third most significant city in the Roman Empire of Paul's day and the capital city of the entire eastern Roman Empire. Recognizing this, Paul dedicated over two years of his life to ministry in this city (Acts 19:10). The archaeological excavations here at Ephesus are perhaps the most incredible excavations in all of the Middle East. One of the many discoveries that archaeologists have made here in Ephesus is the unearthing of the 25,000 seat theater where the riot happened that the Bible tells us about in Acts 19:29. Time will be taken here in Ephesus for a devotional word by pastor and a walking tour of the ancient city. After our awe-inspiring visit to ancient Ephesus, we return to the port area where you will have time for shopping. We then board our cruise ship for lunch. Upon our disembarking in the early afternoon, we find ourselves on the beautiful island of Patmos. It was here that the Apostle John was exiled (Rev 1:9) and that he received the Book of Revelation from the Lord Jesus Himself (Rev 1:19). We will go directly to the cave where Apostle John received the Revelation and wrote it down. We will visit the church that stands on this site overlooking the beautiful Aegean Sea, and pastor will share a message here from the Book of Revelation. We will then visit the monastery on the uppermost part of the island, which contains priceless icons and ancient artifacts, including an original painting of Jesus by the famous artist El Greco (Dominikos Theotokopoulos). Dinner and overnight on our deluxe cruise ship.
Sunday – After breakfast, we disembark to spend the morning in Heraklion, the largest city on the island of Crete. Its archaeological museum holds the remains of the 3000 year old Minoan civilization. The city was a stronghold for the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire from 961 AD until 1204 AD. This city was bought by the Republic of Venice in 1204 AD and became an outpost for the Italian Renaissance. In 1669 AD, Heraklion was captured by the Ottoman Turks and made part of their empire. Finally, in 1913, Heraklion (and all of Crete) was incorporated into the Kingdom of Greece. The city has a charming mixture of architectures as well as wonderful outdoor markets, restaurants, and shopping. You will have all morning to explore and enjoy this quaint city. After returning to our ship for lunch, we set sail for the beautiful island of Santorini. First settled by the Phoenicians in 1200 BC, the island became part of Greece in 1821. The expansion of tourism here in the 20th century has resulted in the growth of the island’s economy and popularity. The island is one of the most breathtaking in all the Aegean and is full of cafes, shop, and restaurants. We will spend the dinner hour here and then re-board our cruise ship for our final night of cruising the Aegean.

Monday – After breakfast, we disembark back in Athens and fly to Rome. Arrive and enjoy this free half day in the magnificent city of ROME! You can spend time in St. Peter’s Square, relax on the Spanish Steps, or just walk around the most romantic city in the world. Maybe you'd like to visit the famous Trevi Fountain or one of the wonderful piazzas, where you can sit at an outdoor cafe, eat wonderful Italian food, and just watch the city go by. The afternoon and evening are yours to spend as you like before returning to our centrally located hotel for overnight. (Dinner is on your own, not included).

Tuesday – After a hearty breakfast, we set out as a group to tour Rome. We begin by visiting the Arch of Titus, erected by the Roman general Titus to commemorate his victory over the Jewish people in the uprising of 66-70 AD. This victory by Titus culminated in the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. The Arch of Titus actually depicts some of the spoils of war that Titus returned to Rome with, including a giant Menorah (seven-branched candlestick) as well as pieces of furniture and other implements that Titus took from the Jewish Temple. On this arch, we have the only depiction in history of some of the actual contents of the Jewish Temple. Pastor will share a devotional at this impressive location. After this we will visit the Roman Forum where pastor will have a message. From here we go to the Colosseum, where thousands of Christians were martyred for their faith in the three centuries after Jesus' resurrection. We'll explain the complex structure and then we will be able to actually go down onto the floor of the Colosseum and walk where so many faithful believers in Jesus gave their lives rather than deny him. It will be an inspiring experience that you will never forget. In the afternoon, we visit St. Peter’s Basilica, which tradition tells us is built over the grave of the Apostle Peter. Finally, we visit St. Paul’s Outside the Walls, the great church built over the burial place of the Apostle Paul. In this beautiful and serene spot, pastor will share a final message that helps us reflect back over the life of this incredible man who changed the entire world for Jesus Christ. After a full day of sightseeing, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday – FULL DAY FREE IN ROME to enjoy Pizza Pasta Gelato and relax and explore the magical beauty of this breath-taking city! Overnight in Rome.

Thursday 18 April 2019 – This morning head to the airport to return home to the USA, carrying with us incredible memories of our journey in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. Arrive same date to LAX.

Space is limited.

Send Deposits to Dr. Julius West to secure your spot.

ADDITIONAL INFO
Greetings My Beloved:

I am pleased to announce publicly for the very first time, an opportunity you DON’T want to miss.

In April 2019, a short fifteen months away, we will be hosting an exciting, 13 Day Tour to Greece, Turkey, and Rome. We will be literally "Following In The Footsteps of the Apostle Paul" as we visit Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, and Thessalonica where Paul spread the Gospel and established and helped to build churches. Then we will end our journey in the historically and culturally iconic city of Rome where Paul ended his life journey. Along the way, we will enjoy a three-day cruise where one of our stops will be the Isle of Patmos, where the Apostle John wrote the Revelation.

Sound too good to be true? The accommodations, Tour Guide, food, and every aspect of this trip will be nothing less than first-class. Affordably priced, with tips and all extras included in one cost, this is a once-in-a-lifetime offer you can't afford to let pass you by.

The final exact amount cannot be announced until May when airlines finalize their ticket prices but the approximate cost, based upon our just completed tour to Egypt and Israel will be $4,300 per person, based on Double Occupancy. Flights leaving from a designated departure city on the East Coast will be slightly less.

Please review the attached itinerary and begin saving your money and making the appropriate plans NOW!!! We are already receiving minimum $500 deposits that are temporarily refundable. As soon as the final price is confirmed in May 2018, all deposits will be non-refundable. Make sure you join others who are already reserving their spots for this incredible spiritual and cultural adventure.

All accounts must be paid-in-full approximately four months before takeoff, so get your deposit in now and start making payments on any schedule that works best for you. Checks or Money Orders can be mailed to: Focus Ministries, 15218 Summit Ave., Suite 300-440, Fontana, CA. 92336. The option for credit card payments is currently unavailable.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at: juliuswest@msn.com. And be sure to freely spread the word and forward this correspondence to all your family and friends. I absolutely guarantee you, someone you know will be very disappointed with you if they don't hear about this trip until it’s too late to make timely plans.

Be sure to include your email address and contact number when sending payments. Electronic receipts will be promptly sent out with every payment received. Look forward to hearing from you and receiving your deposits soon!

Working Together,

Pastor Julius