

Hello everyone

No doubt you are familiar with those maps of Paul's journeys in our Bibles. Three Journeys and a trip to Rome, all set out as if it were detailing the availability of different cruise itineraries in a brochure.

Maybe if you like your holidays filled with as many moments of anxiety as of joy, then you would be happy with Paul's cruises. Behind the ordered pictures, Paul has quite a time as he helps spread the good news to the ends of the earth.

Luke I'm sure would approve of the organised illustrations after all he tells us he is writing an orderly account of the spread of the news good news from the time of Jesus in his gospel to the ends of the earth in his second book, the book of acts.

For over half of the book of Acts, Luke focuses almost exclusively on the ministry of one missionary, Paul as he moves around from city to city preaching and setting up churches.

This coming Sunday we will look at the conversion of Saul to Paul in the book of Acts, but today we look at how Paul carried out his mission and how he seemed to see his role. It turns out that each of us in the church of

today following in the footsteps of Jesus might also be said to be following in the footsteps of the way Paul worked too. He was not just a hard working tentmaker to those he met, he was also a missionary, a pastor, a religious thinker and each of us today continue one, two or maybe all three of those roles in our day to day lives as members of the church.

And like Paul, as we do that we also have moments of anxiety and moments of joy in our work for God.

Remember when Paul writes the following words to Timothy, he writes to all of us.

Take strength from the grace of god which is ours in Christ Jesus.

Let us worship God

Let us pray.

Loving God

Go with us on our journey of faith-

Just like you did with Paul.

He never forgot those he helped

He kept in touch

Through messengers who bore letters.

Not really ordered lists of words to be poured over
daily,

But words of to be copied, shared,

Preached and taken to heart

In all places and each day

Those words now come to be in our hearts

So, God we praise you for being with us still

On our journeys of faith

Revive us when we grow weary,

Direct us when we go astray,

Inspire us when we lose heart,

Reprove us when we turn back.

Keep us travelling ever onwards,

A pilgrim people,

Looking to Jesus Christ

Who has run the race before us,

And who waits to welcome us home.

Amen