

## ***Paul, Priscilla, and Persephone:***

*The people, places, and powers that formed (and transformed) the early church*

*Hosted By*

**Hayes Barton UMC**



**October 3 - 13, 2017    \$4399\*** from Raleigh, NC  
*(Date and Price are Tentative until Air is Confirmed)*

# *Greece and Turkey*

***Limited  
Space  
Available***



### **Your Journey Includes:**

Round Trip Airfare from Raleigh, Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Superior Tourist Class Hotels, Breakfast and Dinner Daily, Inside Cabin aboard *Celestyal Cruises*, All Meals Aboard Ship, Guided Sightseeing and Admissions, On-Site Biblical Storyteller, Small Intimate Group and Services of ACTS.

## ON THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME, YOU WILL ...

Experience a special emphasis on three layers of interconnected stories--some of the first female leaders of the Church, Paul's complex relationship with them, and the cultural mythology of the day--all of which battled together and ultimately birthed what became the early Church.

### Daily Itinerary:

**Day 1** Your journey begins as you depart from Raleigh on your international flight to Athens. After lunch at the Athens Airport take the short domestic flight to Thessaloniki.

**Day 2 THESSALONIKI** Arrive in the capital of Northern Greece, Greece's "second city." You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the hotel for dinner. The evening is free for rest as you prepare for the days ahead.

**Day 3 PHILIPPI and KAVALLA** Travel to Philippi, built by Philip II in 358 B.C.E., the place where Paul baptized the first Christians on European soil. Stop en route to see the Lion of Amphipolis, a landmark Paul would have passed on his journey. Visit the baptismal site of Lydia and see the ancient theater and the Roman prison where Paul and Silas were imprisoned. Travel along the road Paul took, the Via Egnatia, to Kavalla, an affluent Greek town with a large, beautiful, natural harbor. This was the ancient city of Neapolis, visited by Paul, Timothy, Silas and Luke, and was renamed Christoupolis, the first European city to accept Christianity. Delight in lunch by the sea and view the ancient aqueduct.

**Day 4 THESSALONIKA and BEROEA** Records of Paul's correspondence with the Christian community of Thessaloniki are found in the New Testament letters to the Thessalonians. Visit the old city ramparts, an ancient Roman monument transformed into a church, and the triumphal Arch of the Emperor Galerius on the Via Egnatia, and the tranquil grounds of an orthodox monastery. Hear the story of Paul in the Synagogue at Beroea and the riot that ensued. Continue on to Athens.

**Day 5 CORINTH** The ruins of this once magnificent city of Corinth lie high on a hill above the modern town. Hear the story of Paul's sojourn there as well as passages from Paul's Corinthian letters. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Market Place, the Bema, and the Temples.

**Day 6 ATHENS** Cupped in a bowl on the west coast of Attica, life in Greece begins in and revolves around this splendid city, one of the most ancient capitals of the Western world. Visit the renowned Acropolis with the Propylaea entrance and the ruins of Athena's Parthenon and Erechtheum. View the Areopagus (or Mars Hill) and hear the story of Paul's preaching about "the unknown god". See the Agora (the ancient market place and center of Athenian public life),



the House of Parliament, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Presidential Palace. Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens.

**Day 7 MYKONOS** We sail on our cruise ship at noon with an afternoon call at Mykonos island, the whitewashed jewel of the Aegean, and walk to the windmills and perhaps meet Peter the Pelican! Back on the ship for dinner and entertainment and a smooth night's sail.

**Day 8 EPHEBUS and PATMOS** This morning we dock at Kusadasi, Turkey and visit the most impressive biblical site of our trip: Ephesus, the richest city of the Roman Empire in Paul's day. We hear the story of the riot of the silversmiths and visit its well-preserved streets, temples, fountains, public baths, terraced houses and theater. We make an early afternoon arrival on the island of Patmos, considered where John the Divine, while in exile, wrote The Book of Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. The tour of the island takes us to the monastery of St. John, which still keeps its character of a medieval fortress. After the visit to St. John Monastery we visit the Grotto, the Cave of the Apocalypse where John is said to have had his visions and dictated The Book of Revelation.

**Day 9 RHODES** All day port of call at the island of Collosus (Rhodes) with a fantastic history from ancient times to Medieval times! Our included shore excursion will take us to the Ancient Acropolis of Lindos and the port of St Paul, where Paul docked on the way back to Jerusalem.

**Day 10 CRETE and SANTORINI** This morning we dock at the legendary island of Crete, land of Minoan civilization, home of Zorba the Greek. Opt to visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, where King Minos lived and where the Labyrinth and the Minotaur was located. We make an afternoon call at the volcano island of Santorini, where you may take the cable car on your own to visit the top of the island and enjoy the panoramic view of the famous Caldera.

**Day 11 RETURN TO THE USA** Transfer to the airport to return home.

*You will see all of the above sites during your journey. Flexibility in the itinerary may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, such as airline, hotel schedules, local conditions.*

# Alpha Christian TourS, Inc.

621 Macon Place Raleigh, NC 27609 ☎ 919 783-8714 fax 919 783-8747 ✉ Alphatours@gmail.com www.Alphatours.com

<b>Passenger 1</b> _____ <i>As It Appears On Your Passport</i>	Departure City: _____
Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. <i>If different than above</i>	Departure Date: _____
Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Please Register Me For (Please Check) <span style="float: right;">GR100317</span>
<b>Passenger 2</b> _____ <i>As It Appears On Your Passport</i>	_____ Basic Program \$4399* from Raleigh, NC <i>(Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you)</i>
Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. <i>If different than above</i>	_____ Upgrade to Outside Cabin \$150/person
Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	<b>Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with this registration form.</b>
Mailing Address _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Home Phone (____) _____ Work(____) _____	
E-Mail Address _____	<b>Emergency Contact</b> _____
Roommate _____ Smoking? _____	<b>Contact Telephone</b> _____
Assign single room** _____ Assign a roommate** _____	_____
	For Office Use
	Date Received: _____ Check #: _____

**AGREEMENT:** Registration constitutes acceptance of this agreement by the passengers.

**PAYMENT:** A \$350 per person deposit is required for registration. Full payment is due 130 days before departure. Full payment must accompany registrations inside 130 days of departure. Registrations made less than 35 days before departure require a \$75 Late Registration Fee. Late payments will be charged a \$50 late fee. In an effort to maintain lower costs credit cards are not accepted. Canceled checks serve as receipt of payment. Travel Insurance is recommended. ACTS reserves the right to add a surcharge if the dollar declines by more than 5% against the Euro based on foreign exchange rates in effect on September 2016.

**AIRLINES:** Air transportation will be provided using economy class aboard IAATA and ARC carriers with APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, unchangeable tickets for groups of 10 or more with the same itinerary. Flight times are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. Alpha Christian TourS, Inc. accepts no responsibility for airline delays and will not reimburse any expenses caused by such delays. Airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded after being purchased.

**CANCELLATION FEES:** 100% of tour cost is refundable by the Optional Travel Insurance Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is insurable. The following cancellation fees apply to those who do not take Travel Insurance. Up to 130 days before departure ~ \$75 and any airline penalties. Thereafter, you will be charged a single room fee if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single room plus any airline penalties and the following charges apply: 129 - 100 days ~ \$350. 99 - 65 days ~ 35% of total trip cost. 64 - 36 days ~ 50% of total trip cost. 35 days to departure ~ 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

**\*NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:**(1) Love Offering for the Driver and Guides (2) Baggage charge, lunches (except on the ship), beverages at meals, laundry, passports, personal items are not included. ACTS reserves the right to add fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

**\*\*ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms are based upon double occupancy. ACTS will provide single rooms at an additional charge of \$100/night if available. Upon request, ACTS will attempt to assign (but cannot guarantee) a roommate. If itinerary changes necessitate extra nights there will be an additional charge of \$100 per night (Single - \$125 per night). Please note: single rooms are often smaller than double rooms. Meals for extra nights are not included.

**FIT FOR TRAVEL:** Most foreign countries do not conform to the USA Disabilities Act standard. Passengers registering for the trip accept responsibility for being in good health and able to walk on the tour. Many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged, who may find the tour limiting in their experiences. ACTS assumes no responsibility for a passenger's inability to fully participate in the tour.

**DEVIATIONS:** Deviations must be submitted in writing with registration and are subject to a \$100.00/person assessment fee. Transfers for deviating passengers are not included.

**NOTICE:** Except where otherwise stated ACTS works only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall ACTS be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. ACTS assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service. ACTS does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold ACTS harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any act of God or for any other act of any third party. North Carolina law will be applicable to any dispute which arises out of or concerns this brochure or your tour.

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**TRACY RADOSEVIC** ([www.tracyrad.com](http://www.tracyrad.com)) is an internationally-acclaimed freelance storyteller who has traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries performing, teaching, and leading retreats. A longtime member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers ([www.nbsint.org](http://www.nbsint.org)), she served as editor of their bi-monthly newsletter, *The Biblical Storyteller*, from 2000-2008, and is currently the dean of the Academy for Biblical Storytelling (<http://nbsint.org/moreacad.html>). Tracy has a Master's Degree in Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, an M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University, and a Doctor of Ministry in "Spirituality for Transforming Community" from Wesley Theological Seminary where, along with the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore, she is now an adjunct professor.

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**People make friends through the telling and hearing of stories. That is the unique nature of narrative: people have a different relationship with those they have seen and been around after these folks have given them a story. Stories open up relationships.**

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of the Apostle Paul? If you're a woman, it may not be positive! Many females have a negative knee-jerk reaction to Paul because of his teachings that appear to oppress women (i.e. "... women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as the law also says" I Cor. 14:34). Is that a complete picture, however, or a mere freeze frame of one particular situation—and even if it is, does that make it more palatable?!

Paul's epistles were all a piece of a larger narrative with specific characters, a backstory, and an anticipated outcome. It's been said that text without context is pretext so it behooves those who study and read the scriptural texts pertaining to the Church's beginnings to explore the larger context to glean a fuller and more accurate understanding of what was going on and what Paul intended. What cultural influences did these fledgling congregations have to combat? What was the unique ethos of each spiritual community? And what exactly *were* Paul's views concerning the role of women, considering that some of his leaders were, indeed, female?

These are questions that can obviously be tackled from the comfort of home but, if my recent storytelling pilgrimages to Israel/Palestine are any indication, there's no substitute for actually *being* at the places where these important stories (and letters) were birthed and inspired. The sights, sounds, and smells are all different from what we are accustomed to and my experience is that the sensory stimuli, which can only be encountered *there*, combined with detailed historical information from knowledgeable tour guides, the juxtaposition of hearing both biblical and cultural stories side by side, and the camaraderie of fellow pilgrims all seeking to deepen their faith is a combination that simply can't be replicated at home.

The Book of Acts mentions that Paul was distressed by all the idols in Athens (a capital city named for the goddess Athena). Picture being at her temple, the Parthenon, and hearing the stories of her influence as well as Paul's subsequent admonition against polytheism. Or what about touching the waters in Philippi where Lydia, a successful businesswoman, was baptized, and remembering your own baptism? And speaking of water, imagine hearing the tale of Paul's escapades at sea while onboard a boat upon that very sea. Well, you don't have to imagine it; I invite you to actually *experience* it!

Even though my income tax return states "Storyteller" as my vocation, I've always considered myself an educator at heart.

But I've come to appreciate the idea of formation more than education. To me, formation implies a more holistic experience that involves all our senses, all our intelligences, and all our being. It's the kind of occurrence that seeps into our bones, our gut, our heart ... and it doesn't soon leave. Be forewarned, therefore, that participating in a pilgrimage like this doesn't just form you, it *transforms* you!

~ Dr. Tracy Radosevic, *Biblical Storyteller*