

Paul, Priscilla, and Persephone:

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

Led by

Biblical Storyteller, Tracy Radosevic



May 18 - 29, 2012

\$3248* from New York City

(Price subject to air confirmation)

Greece and Turkey

Register by July 15th

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Your Journey Includes:

Round Trip Airfare from NYC, Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Superior Tourist Class Hotels, Breakfast and Dinner Daily, Outside Cabin aboard *Louis Hellenic 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:

FRI: DEPARTURE Your journey begins as you depart from New York City on your international flight to Istanbul.

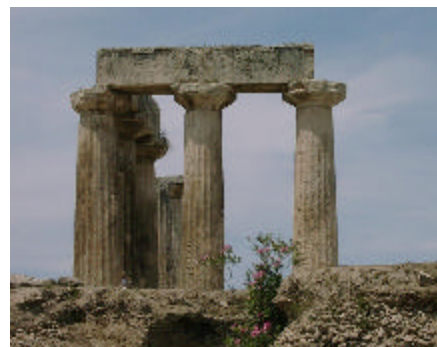
SAT: ISTANBUL Arrive in Istanbul. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the hotel for dinner. The evening is free for rest as you prepare for the days ahead.

SUN: ISTANBUL The day begins with a walk across the Byzantine Hippodrome, where chariot races were held. Visit the famous Blue Mosque, with its priceless colored tiles, and the 1,500 year old Hagia Sophia, the Imperial Church of Byzantine Emperors. In the afternoon visit the magnificent Topkapi Palace (Harem & Treasury sections are not included) with its famous museum and pleasure gardens. End the afternoon with a stop at the covered Grand Bazaar, the largest in the world (with 4,000+ shops).

MON: ISTANBUL and KAVALLA Depart Istanbul to cross the Turkey/Greece border. Travel 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.

TUES: PHILIPPI and THESSALONIKI Travel along the Via Egnatia, the road Paul took to Philippi, built by Philip II in 358 B.C.E., the place where Paul baptized the first Christians on European soil. Visit the baptismal site of Lydia and see the ancient theater and the Roman prison. Continue to Thessaloniki, with a stop en route to see the Lion of Amphipolis, a landmark Paul would have also passed.

WED: THESSALONIKA and BEREIA 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, the triumphal Arch of the Emperor Galerius on the Via Egnatia, and the beautiful basilica of St. Demetrius, built over the saint's tomb. Hear the story of Paul in the Synagogue at Berea and the riot that ensued. Continue to Athens.



THURS: CORINTH and CENCHREAE Travel to Corinth. 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. After bidding the people of Corinth farewell, Paul traveled across the plain to the harbor of Cenchreae where he embarked for Ephesus.

FRI: PIRAEUS and MYKONOS Sail from the Port of Piraeus (Athens) to Mykonos, visiting its picture postcard streets and shops.

SAT: EPHEBUS and PATMOS At dawn as the sun is rising over the Aegean we arrive in Patmos where we will visit the Monastery of St John and the Grotto of the Apocalypse, where *Revelation* was written. After a short sail arrive in Kusadasi, Turkey and journey to Ephesus, where Paul spent three years of his ministry.

SUN: SANTORINI Visit the famous island of Santorini. Take in the local flavor and enjoy a relaxing day on the island.

MON: 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.

TUES: 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. contributes to The John A. Buckley Endowment Fund which awards annual grants to ministries around the world for education and peace building. Read more about the Endowment at www.Alphatours.com/Endowment.

Alpha Christian Tours, Inc.

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Passenger 1 _____ <i>As It Appears On Your Passport</i>	Referred By: _____
Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. <i>If different than above</i>	Departure City: _____
Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Departure Date: _____
Passenger 2 _____ <i>As It Appears On Your Passport</i>	Please Register Me For (Please Check) _____ FP/051812
Title _____ Name on Badge _____ Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss, Dr., Bro., Rev., Fr. <i>If different than above</i>	_____ Basic Program - \$3248* from NYC <i>(Or contact the ACTS office to travel from a city near you)</i>
Birth Date ____/____/____ Sex _____	Please make a copy of the front page of your passport and send it to our office with this registration form.
Mailing Address _____	Emergency Contact _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Contact Telephone _____
Home Phone (____) _____ Work (____) _____	_____
E-Mail Address _____	_____
Roommate _____ Smoking? _____	_____
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. Registrations postmarked by July 15, 2011 will receive \$50 Early Registration Discount. Receive an additional \$25 Discount when paid in full by November 15, 2011. 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 May 2011.

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.

***NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC PRICE:** (1) Tour and Cruise Gratuities - \$99, (2) Taxes, handling fees, immigration, departure and/or border fees - \$356, (3) Port Charges - \$89, (4) Non-refundable administrative fee - \$75, (5) Travel Visa for Turkey purchased individually upon arrival - \$20, (6) Excess baggage charge (44 lb. limit), lunches, love gifts for guide and driver, beverages at meals, laundry, passports and personal items are not included. (7) Optional Travel Insurance. (8) Fuel Surcharges which may be imposed by airlines and other suppliers will be paid by the passenger, if applicable.

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 - 65 days - \$350. 64 - 55 days - 35% of total trip cost. 54 - 34 days - 50% of total trip cost. 35 days to departure - 100% trip cost. No refund for any service not used. Travel Insurance is recommended.

****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.

DEVIATIONS: Deviations from the standard tour program must be submitted in writing and are subject to a \$75.00 per person assessment fee. Transfers for passengers who deviate 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.

TRACY RADOSEVIC (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), 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.



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). Imagine being at *her* temple, the Parthenon, and hearing the stories of her influence as well as Paul's subsequent admonition against polytheism. Or envision yourself standing in the Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) in Istanbul and contemplating the impact of this feminine aspect of the Divine. Or what about touching the waters in Philippi where Lydia, a successful *businesswoman*, was baptized? 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