

EXTRA-BIBLICAL LITERATURE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – THE MEMPHIS CHURCH – WINTER/SPRING 2019

EBL – Schedule

Extra Biblical Class (20 Weeks)

10-Feb		Introduction to Topic, materials needed, & present the history/plan
17-Feb		Class 1 - Old Testament - Formation (42:26)
24-Feb	Douglas Jacoby	Class 2 - Old Testament - Apocrypha (25:03)
3-Mar	How the Bible Came to Be	Class 3 - New Testament - Formation (42:28)
10-Mar		Class 4 - New Testament - Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha (40:22)
17-Mar		Class 5 - Gospels - False & True (35:55)
24-Mar	Apocrypha	Tobit
31-Mar		Judith
7-Apr		Additions to the Book of Esther / Wisdom of Solomon
14-Apr		Ecclesiasticus (Part 1 of 2)
21-Apr		Ecclesiasticus (Part 2 of 2)
28-Apr		Baruch / Letter to Jeremiah / Additions to the Book of Daniel
5-May		1 Maccabees
12-May		2 Maccabees
19-May	Apostolic Fathers	1 Clement
26-May		2 Clement
2-Jun		The Letters of Ignatius
9-Jun		Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians / Martyrdom of Polycarp / Didache
16-Jun		Shepherd of Hermas
23-Jun	Wrap-up / Party	

Who was Ignatius?

This is “St. Ignatius of Antioch” - not to be confused with “Ignatius of Loyola”

May 15, 35 – July 6, 108

Buried: St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

Martyred during the reign of Trajan (AD 98-117)

Letters dated ca. 106-110AD)

Oct 23, 1491 – July 31, 1556



Who was Ignatius?

Just as we become aware of a meteor only when, after traveling silently through space for untold millions of miles, it blazes briefly through the atmosphere before dying in a show of fire, so it is with Ignatius, bishop of Antioch in Syria. We meet him for the first and only time for just a few weeks not long before his death as a martyr in Rome early in the second century.



- The Apostolic Fathers in English, Michael W. Holmes, 3rd Ed. 2006

Who was Ignatius?



Ignatius' letters were written under **extraordinarily stressful and difficult circumstances**. After his arrest (it is not known why and under what circumstances he was arrested) in Syria, which left the church in Antioch leaderless and vulnerable, Ignatius was sent to Rome in the custody of a detachment of ten soldiers (the “leopards” of Rom 5.1) to be executed.

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Who was Ignatius?



It appears that three concerns were uppermost in Ignatius' mind at this time:

- The struggle against false teachers within the Church
- The unity and structure of the Churches
- His own impending death

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To Ignatius, the false teachers within posed a greater threat than the pagan society without:

- Heresy of the Judaizers (whose teaching tended to diminish the importance and centrality of Christ)

Who was Ignatius?

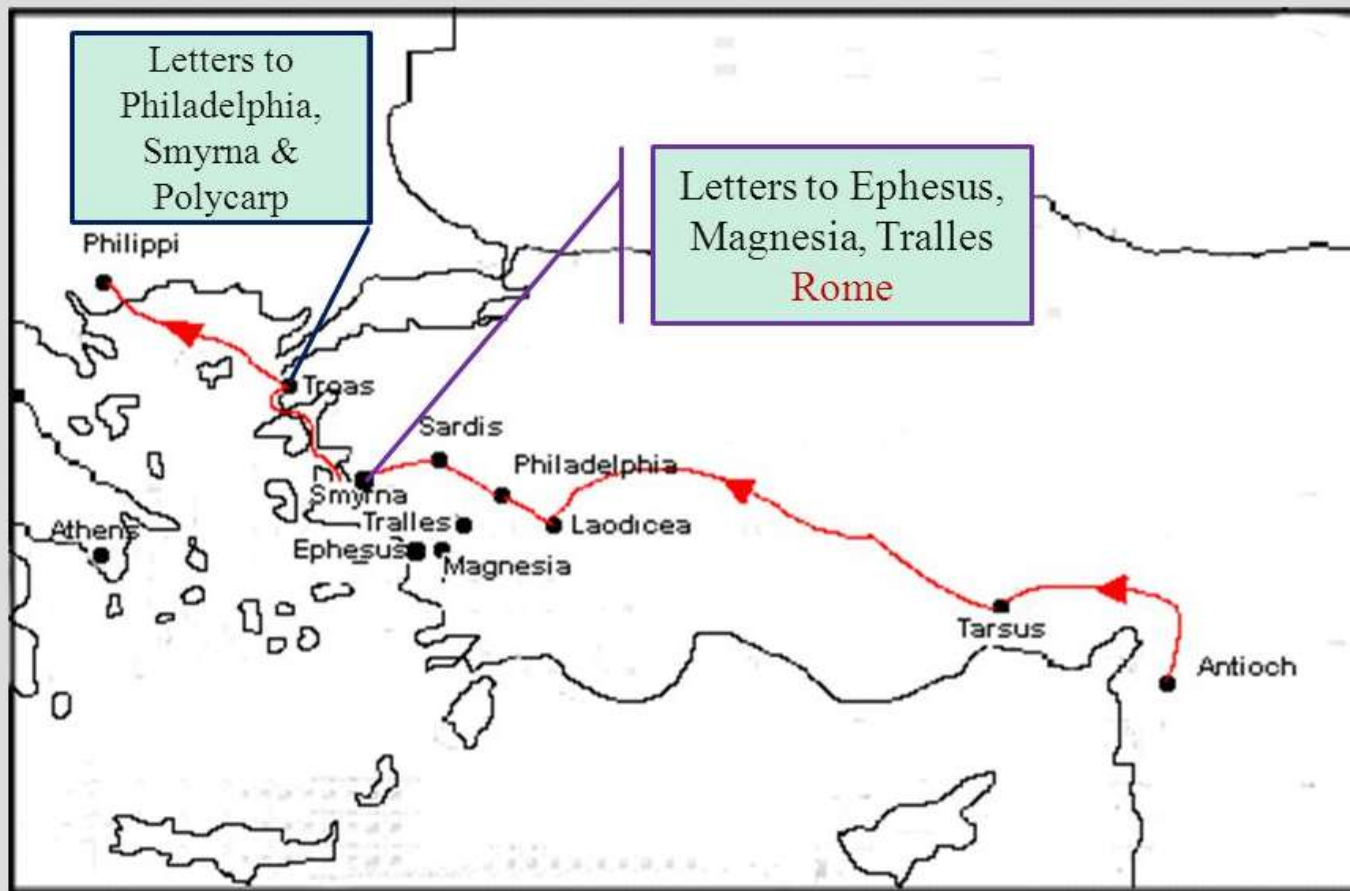


To Ignatius, the false teachers within posed a greater threat than the pagan society without:

- **Docetists (an important doctrine to Gnosticism – was that Christ’s body was not human but either a phantasm or of real but celestial substance and that therefor his sufferings were only apparent) – who under the influence of the common view that matter was evil tended to deny the reality of Jesus’ humanity, threatened to split the Church, and thereby destroy the God-given unity that for Ignatius was one of the distinguishing marks of the true faith.**

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Route

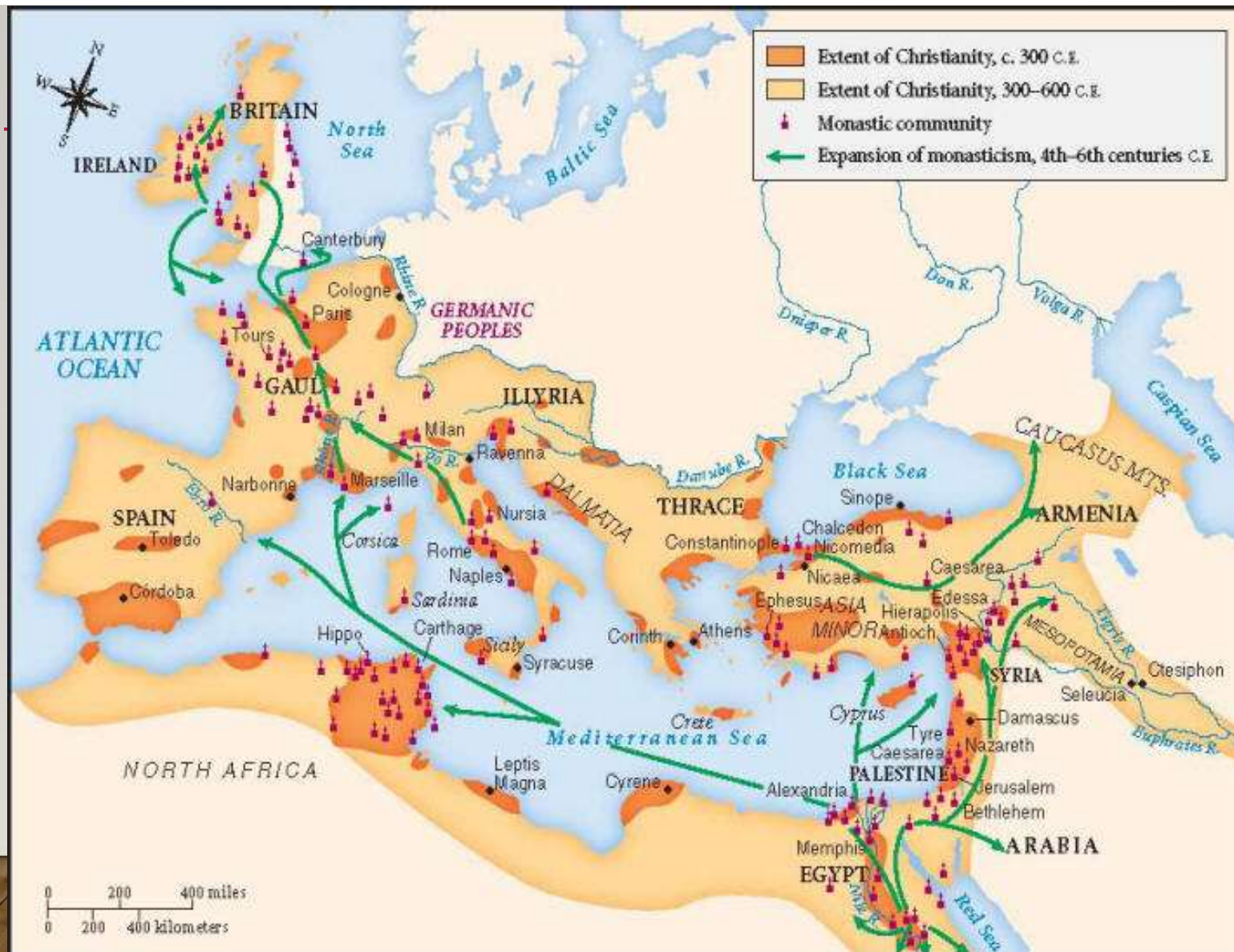


- Rev. Dr. Jos M Strengholt

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

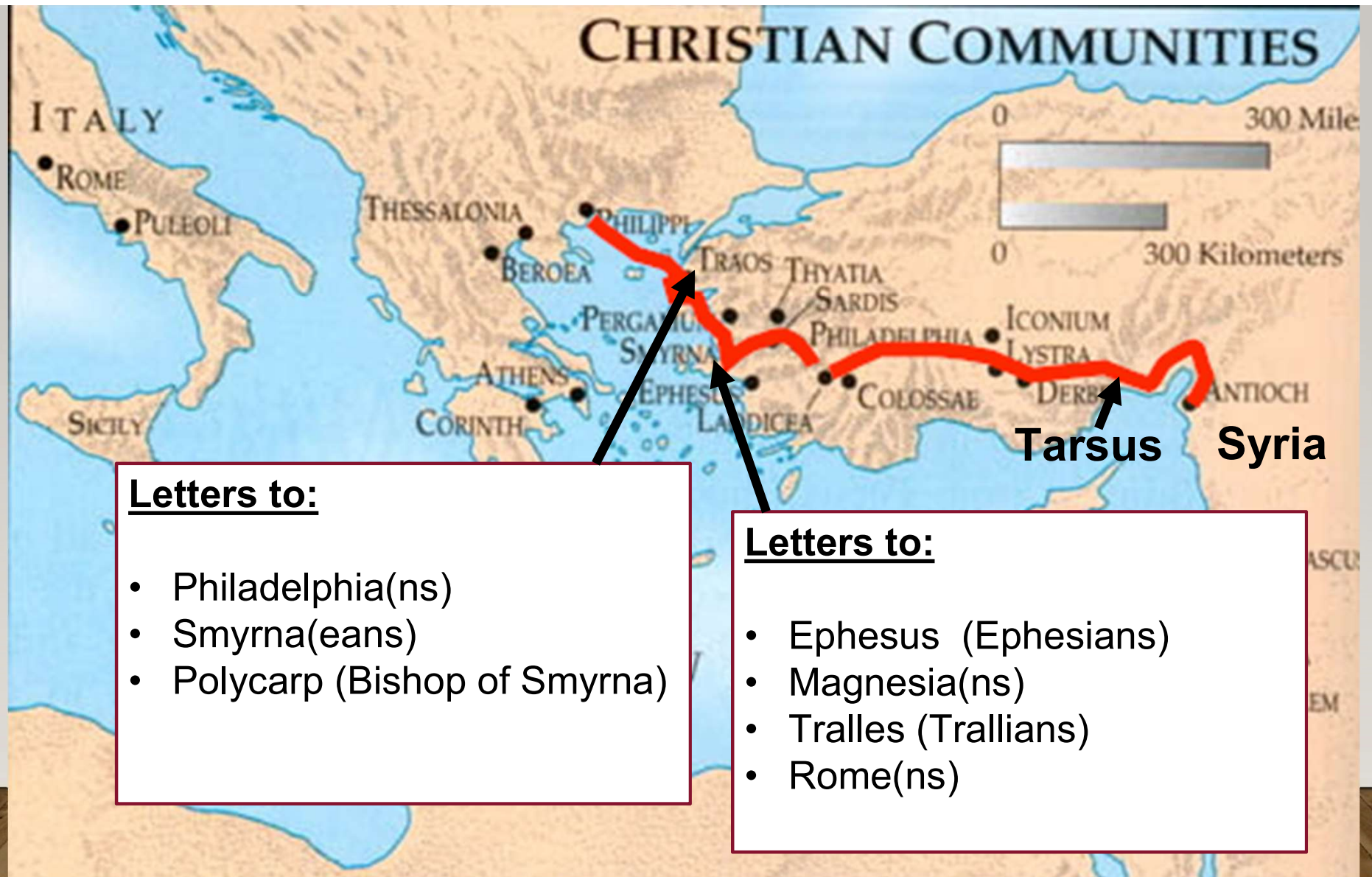












CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

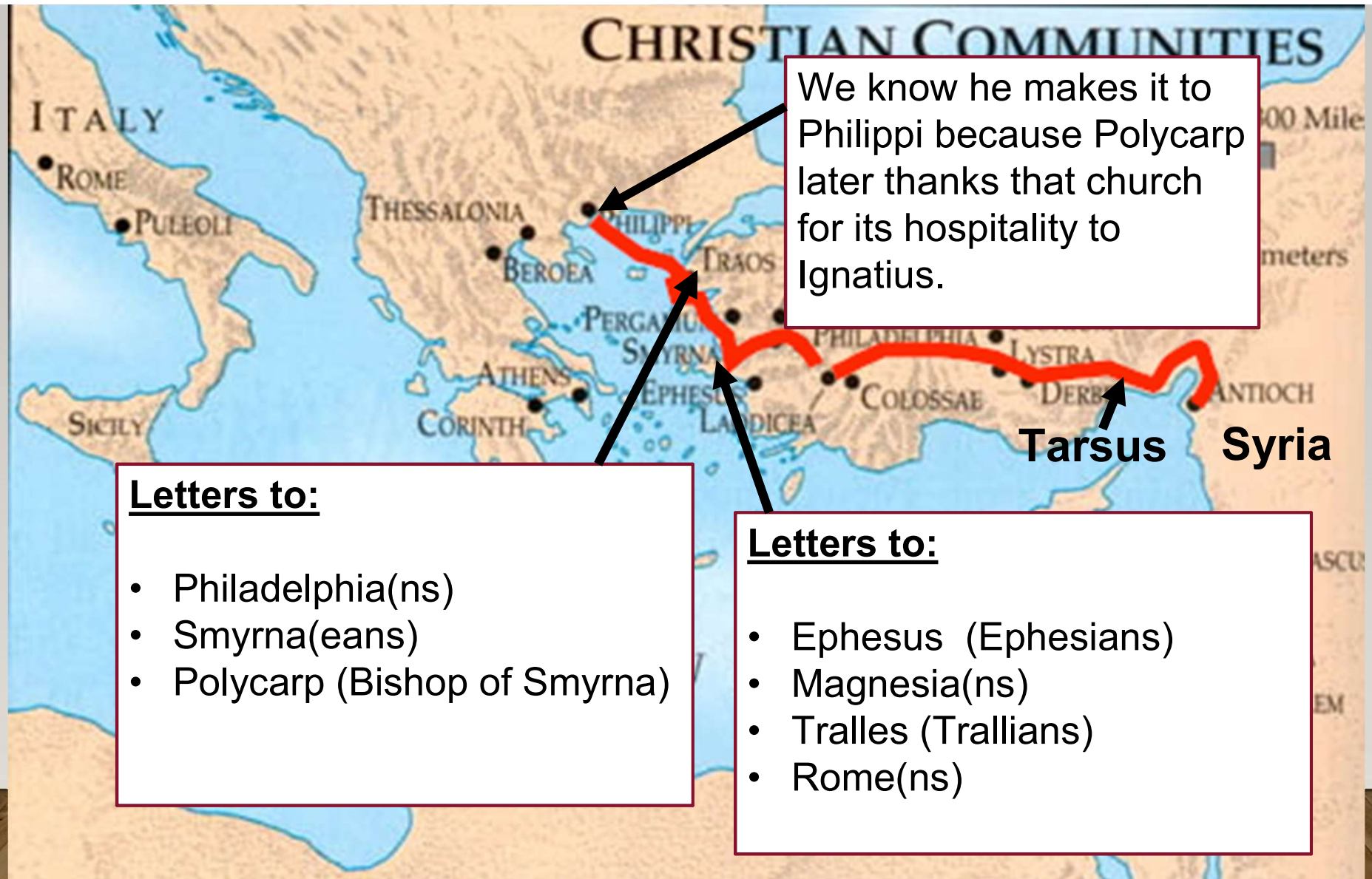
We know he makes it to Philippi because Polycarp later thanks that church for its hospitality to Ignatius.

Letters to:

- Philadelphia(ns)
- Smyrna(eans)
- Polycarp (Bishop of Smyrna)

Letters to:

- Ephesus (Ephesians)
- Magnesia(ns)
- Tralles (Trallians)
- Rome(ns)



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Ignatius Letter to (almost all of them)

Ignatius the Image-bearer to the Church at....

Salutation 'the Image-bearer' Gk *Theophoros*

In Greek inscriptions the term is commonly used as a title, describing those who carry divine images or shrines in religious processions (imagery and terminology that Ignatius applies to the Christian community in 9.2) It is possible that here the term is used as a name ("Ignatius, who is also called Theophoros"); if so, it would be the first instance of such a usage.

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Ignatius Letter to (almost all of them)

He stresses the importance of the bishop in preserving the unity of the Church.

Ignatius Letter to Ephesians 10:2 –

In response to their anger, be gentle;
in response to their boasts, be humble;
in response to their slander, offer prayers' in
response to their errors, be steadfast in the faith;
in response to their cruelty, be civilized;

do not be eager to imitate them.



Ignatius Letter to

Ephesians 18:2 – For our God, Jesus the Christ, was conceived by Mary according to God's plan, both from the seed of David and of the Holy Spirit. He was born and was baptized in order that by his suffering he might cleanse the water.

Ignatius Letter to

Magnesians 5:1-2 – Seeing then that all things have an end, two things together lie before us, death and life, and everyone will go to his own place. For just as there are two coinages, the one of God and the other of the world, and each of them has its own stamp impressed upon it, so the unbelievers bear the stamp of this world, but the faithful in love bear the stamp of God the Father through Jesus Christ, whose life is not in us unless we voluntarily choose to die into his suffering.



Ignatius Letter to

Romans 3:2 – Just pray that I will have strength both outwardly and inwardly so that I may not just talk about it but want to do it., so that I may no merely be called a Christian but actually prove to be one. For if I prove to be one, I can also be called one, and then I will be faithful when I am no longer visible to the world. Nothing that is visible is good. For our God Jesus Christ is more visible now that he is in the Father. The work is not a matter of persuasive rhetoric; rather, Christianity is greatest when it is hated by the world.

Ignatius Letter to

Smyrnaeans 4:2 – For if these things were done by our Lord in appearance only, then I am in chains in appearance only. Why, moreover, have I surrendered myself to death, to fire, to sword, to beasts? But in any case, “near the sword” means “near to God”; “with the beasts” means “with God.” Only let it be in the name of Jesus Christ, so that I may suffer together with him!



Ignatius Letter to

Smyrnaeans 6:2 — Now note well those who hold heretical opinions about the grace of Jesus Christ that came to us; note how contrary they are to the mind of God. They have no concern for love, none for the widow, none for the orphan, none for the oppressed, none for the prisoner or the one released, none for the hungry or thirsty.



Ignatius Letter to

Polycarp 6:1b-2 – Train together with one another: compete together, run together, suffer together, rest together, get up together, as God's managers, assistants, and servants. Please the one whom you serve as soldiers, from whom you receive your wages. Let none of you be found a deserter. Let your baptism serve as a shield, faith as a helmet, love as a spear, endurance as armor. Let your deeds be your deposits, in order that you may eventually receive the savings that are due you.



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Deposits....Savings

The military metaphors of the preceding three sentences are continued. When soldiers were granted gifts of money, only half the sum due was paid out to them, the balance being credited to their account. These *deposits* became the *savings* due if and when an honorable discharge was received.

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Coming of the Kingdom– 2 Clement 12:2-6

For the Lord himself, when he was asked by someone when his kingdom was going to come, said;

***“When the two shall be one, and the outside like the inside,
and the male with the female, neither male nor female.”***



Coming of the Kingdom— 2 Clement 12:2-6

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Now “the two are one” when we speak the truth among ourselves and there is one soul in two bodies without deception (***or with transparency***).



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“When the two shall be one, and the outside like the inside, and the male with the female, neither male nor female.”

And by “the outside like the inside” he means this: ‘the inside’ signifies the soul, while ‘the outside’ signifies the body.

Therefore just as your body is visible, so also let your soul be evident in good works.



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And by “the male with the female, neither male nor female” he means this: The when a brother sees a sister, he should not think of her as female, nor should she think of him as male.



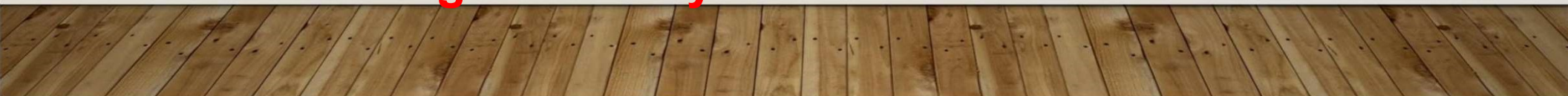
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When you do these things, he says, the kingdom of my Father will come.



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