

The Life of the Apostle Paul

1 Timothy 1:15, “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

THE LIFE OF SAUL OF TARSUS

BEGINNINGS

- Paul's original name was Saul. (Acts 13:9)
- He was a Jew, but was born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, which is now located in Turkey. (Acts 21:39)
- He was a 'free born' Roman citizen. (Acts 22:27)

DISTINCTIVES

- He was from the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Pharisee. He was a 'Hebrew of the Hebrews.' (Phil. 3:4-6)
- He was taught by Gamaliel, a well-respected doctor of the law. (Acts 22:3, Acts 5:34)
- He was a Pharisee.

LIFE AS A PERSECUTOR

- He was a great persecutor of the early church. (1 Cor. 15:9)
 - He orchestrated the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. (Acts 7:54-8:2)
 - He put both men and women into prison. (Acts 8:3)
 - He killed both men and women. (Acts 22:4)

**How could Paul be so zealous for God (Acts 22:3), and yet think to do
"things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. (Acts 26:9)**

- He was a very vile and violent man. (1 Tim. 1:13)

SALVATION

- It was during his life of hatred and persecution when had formed an alliance with the High Priest. (Acts 9:1-2)
- He was on his way to Damascus to imprison people of 'this way'.

A LIFE CHANGING CONVERSATION:

JESUS: Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

SAUL: Who art thou, Lord?

JESUS: I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

SAUL: Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

JESUS: Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

**Paul would later say, “Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not
disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” (Acts 26:19)**

- Paul tells the story of his conversion twice.
 - Acts 22:3-11 and Acts 26:9-18
 - This teaches us the value and power of a personal testimony

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THE LIFE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

A NEW BEGINNING

- A new calling. (Gal. 1:15)
- A new attitude. (Acts 9:11)
- A disturbing announcement. (Acts 9:16)
- A new appointment. (Gal. 1:1)
- Immediate preparation for service. (Gal. 1:17)
- Service begins. (Acts 9:20)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
(2 Cor. 5:17)

A NEW MINDSET

- On life and eternity. (Phil. 1:21)
- On material gains. (Phil. 3:7-8)

HIS LIFE OF SERVICE

- Paul went on three distinct missionary journeys
 - First - Acts 13:4 - 15:35
 - Second - Acts 15:36 to 18:22
 - Third - Acts 18:23 to 21:17
- Paul mentored many men, such as Luke, Timothy, Silas, Titus, etc.
- Paul was given special powers. (Acts 19:11)
- He was made the apostle to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:13)
- Paul was taken to Heaven for special revelations. (2 Cor. 12:1-4)

THE LORD'S INCREDIBLE SOVEREIGNTY AND PURPOSE:
"Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only." (Acts 11:19)

HIS LIFE OF SUFFERING

- He actually rejoiced in his suffering. (Col. 1:24)
- He counted suffering for Christ as a privilege. (Phil. 1:29)
- He prepares us for a life of suffering. (2 Tim. 3:12)
- He endured many and great perils and sufferings. (2 Cor. 11:23-28)

Paul wrote fourteen epistles. Five of them were written from prison where he suffered for his testimony.

- Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon were written during his first imprisonment in Rome
- 2 Timothy was written during his second imprisonment in Rome

THE DEATH OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

- At the end of his life, with execution before him, Paul expressed his thankfulness to the Lord for putting him into this ministry which caused him to give up everything, but allowed him to gain Christ. (1 Timothy 1:12-13; Phil. 3:8)
- At the end of his life, Paul was ready to go to be with his precious Lord and savior. (Phil. 1:23)

It is commonly accepted that the Apostle Paul was beheaded at the order of the Roman emperor Nero about 67 AD.

2 Timothy 4:6-7, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."