

Apostle Paul Outline

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Apostle Paul

1. Why are we studying the Apostle Paul?

With any great man of God, this teaching on Paul is just a small sample of what he did and accomplished. He did much more, he touched thousands, Praise God!

- A. Writer of most of the new testament – 27 books in the new Testament, Paul wrote 13 books.
 - B. Leader of the Gentile Church: 2nd Corinthians 11:28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.
 - C. Historical perspective – Spear headed the Growth of the Gentile Church after Jesus's death. Founded church after church.
 - D. Productive missionary – Wherever he went, he led people to Jesus and started churches.
- So, Apostle Paul deserves our respect and admiration for all that he did.

2. Paul's Background

- A. Born approx. in 0-5AD, (close in age to Jesus), in Roman city of Tarsus, a wealthy city in Turkey, Asia Minor. Tarsus had a big-time university. Paul was able to speak Greek, and Roman.

One either spoke Greek or Roman or he was considered a barbarian.

Occupation: Tent Maker, maybe Tallit prayer shawl

Family: Acts 23:16 sister and nephew lived in Jerusalem.

- B. Given the Jewish name Saul. His father, a Pharisee, was from the Tribe of Benjamin. Paul, (Gentile name), might have been given to him to use by his family as they lived in a Gentile City.
- C. Paul was a pure-Blooded Jew, religiously = creme de crème Jew.
Paul talking:
Acts 26:5 that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

Philippians 3:6 as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Galatians 1:14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely **zealous** for my ancestral traditions.
- D. Paul was a Roman citizen: Acts 22:28 And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen." Most people in the Roman Empire were not citizens, many more slaves than citizens. Many advantages to be a Roman citizen, as with an American citizen.
- E. At a young age, maybe 13 years old, he moved to Jerusalem from Tarsus and studied under Gamaliel (Doctor of the Law).

F. Act 26:24 (Festus talking to Paul) Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad."

3. Life in Jerusalem

Who did Paul know? Did he know of Jesus, the disciples, or others? At some point he came back to Jerusalem after leaving.

Was he around for the Crucifixion, was he at the tomb, did he know of the temple curtain being torn in half, did he hear about the resurrection? Many of these things did not escape his notice, but his heart was hard.

4. Stoning of Stephen – 1st Christian Martyr

Acts 6:9 (Some men from) Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. (Saul's area).

Acts 22:20 (Apostle Paul) 'And when the blood of Thy witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the cloaks of those who were slaying him.'

5. **Results of this action:** Ac 8:1 And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria...

Saul was zealous for his ancestral traditions. Christianity was certainly a variance from the Jews tradition.

Acts 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

We see the Gospel of Jesus spread because of the stoning.

6. Road to Damascus

Acts 9:1-2 Now Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Saul was certainly a vicious little guy before he met Christ.

7. Paul's Salvation Experience

Acts 9:3-6 And it came about that as he journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but rise, and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do."

Saul certainly heard and possibly saw the Lord. We are seeing dialog here between Saul and Jesus, somewhat unusual, as we usually see conversation with an Angel.

Damascus is approximately a 6 day's journey from Jerusalem, about 130 miles.

What happened at Paul's conversion?

1. Hears and possibly sees Jesus
2. Blinded – taken by hand into Damascus
3. Jesus claims ownership of the Christian Church: "whom you are persecuting".
4. Jesus starts directing Paul's life – go into the city.
5. Paul surrenders his life to Jesus: Who art thou Lord – the purpose of his life is now changed for God's Glory, instead of tradition.

8. Damascus after conversion

1. 3 days without sight, neither ate or drank (fasting – seeking God)
2. Jesus sends Ananias to pray for Saul and Saul receives his sight and takes nourishment.

Ananias – Humble, loving, just the right man to send. Calls Paul “Brother”. We all need an Ananias in our lives, somebody to love on us, guide us spiritually.

9. Into Arabia – not much is known of these 3 years

Galatians 1:15-17 (Paul) But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

Time of solitude, contemplation, repentance, reviewing the scriptures in the light of the revelation of Jesus. We all need an experience like Arabia.

Paul was set apart from his mother's womb. And so are we, we have been set apart for ministry and service.

10. Back to Damascus:

Act 9:22-25 But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

And when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, but their plot became known to Saul. And they were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; but his disciples took him by night, and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

11. Escapes to Jerusalem

1. The Disciples knew of him. They were afraid of him and didn't want to meet with him.
 2. Barnabas (son of consolation) – brings him to the Apostles.
 3. Moves about freely testifying of Jesus
 4. Arguing with the Jews and they were attempting to put him to death.
- Sound Familiar – same with Stephen.

Sent away to Tarsus, his home town, via Caesarea (Sea Port)

Lives in Tarsus for about three years. What did he do there? We know don't we: he was ministering. Paul was sold out to Jesus.

12. Antioch

Men of Cyprus and Cyrene came and began preaching to the Greeks in Antioch and a large number believed.

Acts 11:22 And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch and he witnessed the revival and he left to Tarsus to get Paul to help with this work.

Think about that – helping with the ministry of others, unusual today.

Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

13. Calling of Paul and Barnabas

Acts 13:2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, (at Antioch), the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

What was the work they were called for: missionary, church planter, evangelist, teacher, writer of scripture through letters, mentor.

Before this point, Paul is just one of the many Christians, teacher, exhorter. Now God has pointed him out. Why? Because he was faithful.

Question: What are you set apart to do? What has God called you to do. Paul received his calling by just being faithful, and you and I will have to do the same, be faithful.

From Acts 13 onward, Saul starts to be referred to as Paul.

14. John Mark – writer of the Gospel of Mark

Acts 13:5 and they, (Paul and Barnabas), also had John as their helper.

Acts 13:13 ...John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:38-40 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them... And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and departed, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

2nd Timothy 4:11...Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

15. Themes in Paul's ministry.

A. Jews

Paul was a Jew and he had a heart for the Jewish People and he continued trying to minister to them his entire ministry.

Acts 13:14 ...and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Romans 9:3 For I (Paul) could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. Wow!

Acts 13:46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; (Jews), since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27 (God) opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Ministering to all, but his main emphasis will be toward the Gentiles from Acts 13 onward.

B. Persecution

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with **jealousy**, and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

No matter where Paul went, he was persecuted. The Jews and sometimes the Gentiles, were always out to kill him.

2nd Corinthians 11:23-27 Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the

deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from [my] countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

How about for the church today? Thousands of Christians are killed for their faith each year. Estimates run as high as 100,000 martyrs a year.

16. Missionary Journeys

Possibly up to five missionary journeys, maybe more. The Mediterranean Sea Area: Turkey, Rome, Greece, maybe Spain, possibly other areas.

Romans 15:20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation.

Paul wasn't successful everywhere he went, (Athens Acts 17:17-31), He never went back to Athens, little fruit.

Soil can be dry; hearts can be hard! Japan is an example.

What did Paul do on these journeys:

1. Lead People to Christ
2. Founded Churches
3. Created Church Structure
4. Worked miracles
5. Trained and appointed Leaders

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church

Probably hundreds of other things.

Paul was directed where and where not to go.

Acts 16:6 And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

We should be directed by the Holy Spirit like this. Difficult, as we want to forge ahead without praying it out.

The men at the Life Center should be seeking direction on when to leave here, where to go, and what to do!

17. Training Church leaders

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church.

Paul mentored many: Timothy (Special relationship, but many others.)

Luke, Philemon, Onesimus, Silas, Barnabas, Phoebe, Prisca and Aquila, Rufus – many more, more.

Why so many:

1. Years in ministry, the Life Center has had thousands of men.
2. He focused on leading others onward.

18. Miracles in Paul's ministry – could write a book

1. Acts 13:6 Blindness on false prophet
2. Acts 13:11-12 Blinds Elymus (Magician)
3. Acts 14:3 Signs and wonders performed
4. Acts 14:10 Healing of a lame man
5. Acts 14:19-20 Survived Stoning
6. Acts 16:18 Commands spirit of divination out of a servant girl
7. Acts 20:9-10 Raises Eutychus from the dead
8. Acts 28:6 Viper's venom had no effect on Paul
9. Acts 28:8 Heals Publius and many others

19. Bible Books Paul Authored

Galatians (AD 47)

1st and 2nd Thessalonians (AD 49—51)

1st and 2nd Corinthians, Romans (AD 52—56)

Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians (AD 60—62, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment)

1st Timothy and Titus (AD 62)

2nd Timothy (AD 63—64 (during Paul's second Roman imprisonment)

20. Prison experiences - estimated 5-6 years

Philippi

Acts 16:22-40 Paul casted spirits out of women, masters stir up the city and they arrest Paul and Silas. They are beaten, earthquake opens the Prisons door, jailer and family accept Christ. Released the next day.

Jerusalem/Caesarea

Acts 21 Arrested in the Temple by a Jewish mob, saved from the mob by the Romans. Roman citizenship saves Paul from being examined by scouring.

Acts 23 Jewish council meeting of Sadducees and Pharisees to question Paul. God gives Paul insight and he identifies himself as a Pharisee and disrupts the meeting.

Act 23:11 But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

Acts 23 Plot is formed to kill Paul and he is moved to Caesarea, Herod's palace.

Acts 24:23 And he (Governor Felix at Caesarea) gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.

Paul Continues ministering in prison

Acts 24 But some days later, Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.

Acts 24 Two years pass and Felix is replaced by Porcius Festus. After twenty years of incessant evangelization, Paul needed a rest, no writings were done at this time. Beautiful location right on the ocean.

Acts 25 The Jews bring accusations to Felix, Caesar's tribunal, and Paul as a citizen of Rome appeals to Caesar. Felix sends Paul to Rome, to Caesar.

After a ship wreck adventure, Paul arrives in Rome.

Rome

Acts 28:16 And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

Soldiers changed at intervals and Paul had an opportunity to witness to them.

Philippians 1:13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else

Acts 28:17 And it happened that after three days he called together those who were the leading men of the Jews

Acts 28:30-31 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Rented quarters: who paid for them? Answer: The Church in Rome.

In confinement in Rome, he wrote Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and to Philemon, and probably also to the Hebrews.

First Roman imprisonment closed, he was released.

Last Freedom, imprisonment and execution.

More missionary visits.

During this period of freedom, he wrote his First Epistle to Timothy and his Epistle to Titus.

Great fire in Rome on the year of Paul's first release.

Emperor Nemo blames the Christians.

Paul is re-captured and taken to Rome again 65-67AD. Now treated as a felon.

Paul possibly wrote the Second Epistle to Timothy during this period.

Condemned by Nero. Because he was a citizen, he could not be crucified, but beheaded.

Beheaded in approximately 66AD, four years before the destruction of Jerusalem.

2nd Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Conclusion:

What a wonderful man of God, certainly one of a kind. The Apostle Paul was just a workhorse for the Gospel.

We are here today in-part of Paul's missionary work in spreading the Gospel. Thank you Jesus for the Apostle Paul!