

The Apostle Paul and His Ministry, Bible Study Outline

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1. His Name
 - a. Born Saul, “asked for”, common name in Hebrew, as it was a common prayer to ask God for a son
 - b. Became Paul, “little”, denotes humility or physical stature, Acts 13:9 denotes he was known by both names, possibly by birth, if name was changed or added we have no specifics in the Holy Writ
2. His Office
 - a. Apostle, or sent one, commissioned for special service, to Gentiles primarily, but also to the Jews (Acts 9:15)
 - b. Specific sense of the Apostolic office, 1 Corinthians 15:8-9, must be an eyewitness to the resurrected Christ, therefore no Apostles today
 - c. The eleven, Judas Iscariot being disqualified, replaced by Matthias (Acts 1:21-26)
 - d. Paul’s call came out of season, see conversion experience
3. His Background
 - a. Acts 21:39, Jew, from Tarsus, in the Roman province of Cilicia (modern day south-central Turkey)
 - b. Acts 22:28, citizen of Rome by birth, implies father was a citizen
 - c. Acts 22:3, strict and strongly religious upbringing, taught by Gamaliel (Acts 5:34)
 - d. Philippians 3:5-6, Benjamite (tribal identity was still known in these days, up until the destruction of the temple in 70 AD), a Pharisee, diligent to keep the externals of the Old Testament Law, as well as the Oral Law
 - e. Persecutor of Christians (Acts 7:58, 8:1-4, 9:1-2)
 - f. Tentmaker by trade, not a professional clergyman (Acts 18:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 9:14-18)
4. His Conversion Experience
 - a. Acts 9:3-9
 - b. Acts 22:6-11
 - c. Acts 26:12-18
 - d. Apply: value of personal Christian testimony, whatever its nature
5. Paul’s Christian Training
 - a. Approximately ten years
 - b. Galatians 1:15-24
6. Paul’s Missionary Journeys
 - a. Acts 13-14
 - b. Acts 15-18:22

- c. Acts 18-21:8
- 7. Paul's Later Life
 - a. Jerusalem, Acts 21:17-23:30
 - b. Caesarea, Acts 23:31-Chapter 26
 - c. Voyage to and Arrival in Rome, Acts 27-28
 - d. Paul's Valedictory, 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - e. Paul's Martyrdom, Philippians 1:21, according to tradition by decapitation, in or near Rome, crucifixion very unlikely due to his being a Roman citizen
- 8. Paul's writings, 14 New Testament Books, Approximate Dates of Writing
 - a. Romans 57 AD, 1 Corinthians 55 AD, 2 Corinthians 56 AD, Galatians 52 AD, Ephesians 61 AD, Philippians 61 AD, Colossians 61 AD, 1 Thessalonians 50 AD, 2 Thessalonians 52 AD, 1 Timothy 62 AD, 2 Timothy 64, AD Titus 62 AD, Philemon 62 AD, Hebrews (disputed human authorship) 55 AD –brief summary of each book presented in study
 - b. Early Epistles (Letters), to Specific Churches
 - c. Personal Epistles, to Specific People
 - d. All Epistles, Intended to be circulated amongst all the churches, circular letters
 - e. Content both theological and practical—practical Christian living finds its basis in biblically correct theology, not in the opinions or decrees of men
 - f. Written for and to both Gentile and Jewish audiences, although Galatians and Hebrews are written primarily to a Jewish audience (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- 9. Paul's Theology
 - a. Cannot be disassociated or separated in any way from the rest of the Bible or the teachings of Jesus (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)—it is a part of the whole, and not different than the theology of any other biblical writer, but rather complementary to the rest of Scripture
 - b. Salvation (Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:8-10),
 - i. Romans 8:29-30, presents in three stages, justification, sanctification, glorification
 - c. The Content of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Galatians 2:20-21; Romans 1:4)