

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Was Paul an unusually proud man? Before or after conversion?
2. What made him so hateful against the believers?
3. Did God promise him a bright future?
4. What gave Paul such boldness as a believer?
5. When was his name changed from Saul to Paul?

### SUMMARY:

Though Paul was one of the most notorious enemies of the early church, God knew that if this man ever got on the right path, he would be second to none in total allegiance to Jesus Christ. His life proved this. He was willing to “spend and be spent” in total commitment for a cause that brought salvation to Jews and Gentiles alike. [\[SoF:15\]](#) Jesus entrusted him with special revelations because of his unselfish devotion to the Lover of his soul.

### NOTES:

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[\[SoF:15\]](#) We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout “all the world to every creature”.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

October 6, 2019

Fourth Quarter

### PAUL MEETS CHRIST

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 9:1-31*

**LESSON SETTING:** Saul journeys to Damascus in order to persecute believers.

**TIME:** Approximately 36 A.D.

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#### I. SAUL THE PERSECUTOR. Acts 9:1-2

- A. A Religious Fanatic (vs. 1) Acts 26:5, 9
- B. Hate Against Christians (vs. 2) John 15:18, 19; Acts 26:10, 11
- C. Evil Zeal (vs. 2) Philippians 3:6; Galatians 1:14
- D. “Why Persecutest Thou Me?” (vs. 4)

#### II. SAUL THE PENITENT. Acts 9:3-14

- A. Heard and Answered (vs. 4-5) Genesis 3:8-10
- B. Convicted of Sin (vs. 6) Psalm 40:12
- C. In Distress and Repentance (vs. 9) Psalm 119:28
- D. Prayed in Faith (vs. 11)

#### III. SAUL THE PREACHER. Acts 9:15-31

- A. Predestined (vs. 15) Galatians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:1
- B. A Chosen Vessel (vs. 15) John 15:16
- C. Served Immediately (vs. 20, 22, 29)
- D. Persecuted (vs. 23-25) 2 Corinthians 4:9; 11:24-27

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?*

Acts 9:6

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Acts 13:1-49

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Isaiah 42:5-8; 49:5-7  
Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10  
2 Corinthians 10:14-16

**QUARTERLY THEME:** LIFE AND WRITINGS OF PAUL

**TOPIC:** PAUL GOES WITH THE GOSPEL

**INTRODUCTION:**

Although Paul is known as the Apostle to the Gentiles, his *“heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.”* Fortified with this longing, he went to the Jews first, hoping somehow that their hearts could be turned to Christ. However, after repeated rebuttals, he and his co-laborer Barnabas, turned to the Gentiles.

His message to the Jews was, *“Be it known unto you . . . by Him (Christ) all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”* (vs. 38, 39) With their legalistic minds it was difficult to grasp this simple message of justification by faith. Unfortunately this was not the only problem that hindered them.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Effective witnesses are called by the Holy Spirit and sent forth with prayer.

**NOTE:** Paul and Barnabas were called by the Holy Ghost to go out into the work for which He called them (vs. 4). It is interesting to note that only certain prophets and teachers in the Church (five in number) received this message and they sent them away (vs. 3). The things necessary to hear the voice of the Holy Ghost were, and still are, ministering to the Lord, fasting, and praying. (vs. 2, 3)

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *THEY, BEING SENT FORTH BY THE HOLY GHOST, DEPARTED.* Acts 13:4

The feet of Paul and Barnabas were well-shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In the power of the Holy Ghost they went forth preaching and teaching the good news to anyone who would listen.

Ironically, when the Jews saw that the Gentiles were not only listening, but were anxious to hear more about Jesus, their envy against these men of God became so pronounced that they stirred up the people and expelled them out of their coasts.

However, these two servants knew that they were in the will of God and consequently were not afraid of persecution.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 7 – 13**

M. \*Paul Launches First Missionary Journey. Acts 13:1-5

T. \*The Gospel Preached in Cyprus. Acts 13:6-13

W. \*Christ Proclaimed in Asia. Acts 13:14-25

T. \*Christ’s Ministry and Resurrection Recounted. Acts 13:26-37

F. \*Paul Challenges Jews and Gentiles. Acts 13:38-49

S. Paul Affirms His Commitment. Romans 1:1-16

S. Paul Analyzes God’s Purpose. Ephesians 4:1-16

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