

The Apostle Paul

What Does the Bible Say About Him?

“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain...” – 1 Corinthians 15:10

1. Paul's Place

- a. Penned more books of the Bible than any other writer → Romans – Philemon = 13
- b. Wrote nearly half the books of the “New Testament” portion of scripture → 13 of 27
- c. More words than any NT author save Luke → Paul=43k+; Luke=49k+ (17k+ about Paul)
- d. Name appears more times in NT (189) than any other person save Jesus Christ (1,200+)

2. Paul's Person

- a. First mentioned in Acts 7:58, though maybe one of the disputers in Acts 6:9 (Acts 21:39)
- b. A Jew (of the tribe of Benjamin) – Acts 22:3, Rom 9:3, 11:1, Phi 3:5, Gal 2:15, 2Cor 11:22
- c. A Roman (of the free city of Tarsus in Cilicia) – Acts 9:11, 21:39, 22:3 & 25-29
- d. A Pharisee (of the Pharisees & second generation) – Acts 26:4-5, 23:6
 - i. Well-educated in the scriptures (Acts 22:3), Of the law, blameless (Phi 3:5)
 - ii. Zealous for God, but ignorantly in unbelief – Gal 1:14, Rom 9:31-32, 10:2
- e. And yet...a murderer, blasphemer & persecutor of believers in Christ – 1Tim 1:12-13, Acts 8:1-3, 26:10-12, 9:1-2, 9:13-14, 9:21, 22:5, 22:19, Gal 1:13, 1Cor 15:9-10

3. Paul's Pattern

- a. Paul's salvation is a pattern to them which should hereafter believe – 1Tim 1:16
- b. It is more fully described & referred to in Scripture than any other conversion or personal experience aside from the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - i. Nearly three entire yet separate chapters in Acts (ch. 9, 22, 26)
 - ii. The main subject of 2 of Paul's 5 recorded discourses to unbelievers
- c. Salvation by God can only ever be by grace through faith, but here in Paul's conversion God's grace is magnified, fully on display like never witnessed before
- d. Saved while not a follower of Jesus Christ (Mat 19:27-28), nor repentant (Luke 18:13)
- e. Immediately an apostle → Acts 26:16, 9:6, 22:10 vs. Luke 6:13, Mat 10:1-2
- f. *NOTE:* the pattern isn't in his experience, but by faith: salvation of enemies by grace through faith in Christ's blood for forgiveness of sins & resurrection unto eternal life

4. Paul's Purpose

- a. Not a missionary, but the masterbuilder of a new dispensation–1Co3:10, 9:17, Ep3:2-6
- b. Not behind the chiefest apostles, but sent of the Lord –2Cor11:5, 12:11, Gal 2:6-7, 1:11-12
- c. Not the new 12th, but The Apostle of the Gentiles–Ro11:13 15:16&20, 1Tim 2:7, 2Tim 1:11
- d. Not boastful and arrogant, but in defense of his commission, position, and gospel:
“I/my/me/mine” = 608x; “we/us/our/ours” = 555x; “gospel” = 69 of 98x in NT
Rom 2:26, 16:25, 1Co9:16-18, Gal 1:8-11, 2:2, Phi 1:7, 1:17, 4:15, Col 1:23, 1Ti 1:11, 2Ti 2:8
- e. Most mentions of “Christ” (71%), “Jesus Christ” (68%), “Lord Jesus Christ” (79%) in NT
- f. Bold to make and grow followers of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery –
Rom 16:25, 1Cor 4:16, 11:1, Eph 6:19, Phi 3:17, 4:9, Titus 1:3