

# Paul's Life and Ministry in His Own Words

## The Book of Acts

Sunday, September 23, 2012

### INTRODUCTION:

*What did Paul say about:*

#### I. His upbringing apart from Jesus?

##### 1. *Paul's birth:*

- Acts 22:3a = "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia. . ."
- Acts 22:28 = "I was actually born a citizen."

##### 2. *Paul's move to Jerusalem as a youth:*

- Acts 22:3b = "But brought up in this city (Jerusalem). . ."
- Acts 26:4 = "All Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem."

##### 3. *Paul's training under Gamaliel:*

- Acts 22:3c = "Educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today."
- Acts 26:5 = "I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion."

#### II. His persecution of the church?

##### 1. *Paul's presence at Stephen's death:*

- Acts 22:20 = "When the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him."

##### 2. *Paul's early persecution of the church:*

- Acts 26:9 = "I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."
- Acts 26:10 = "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them."
- Acts 22:4 = "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons."
- Acts 22:19 = "In one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You."

- Acts 26:11 = "As I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

### **3. Paul's expanded persecution of the church:**

- Acts 22:5 = "From them (the high priest and the Council of elders) I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished."
- Acts 26:12 = "While so enraged. . . I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests."

## **III. His conversion and calling by Jesus Christ?**

### **1. Paul's confrontation by radiant glory:**

- Acts 22:6 = "It happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me. . ."
- Acts 26:13 = "At midday. . . I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me."

### **2. Paul's first words with the Lord Jesus:**

- Acts 22:7 = "I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'"
- Acts 26:14 = "When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'"
- Acts 26:16-18 = "Get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."
- Acts 22:10 = "'What shall I do?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.'"

## **IV. His Savior and the gospel!**

### **1. Paul's discovery of Jesus of Nazareth:**

- Acts 9:5 = "Who are You, Lord?"
- Acts 22:8 = "Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'"
- Acts 26:15 = "Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'"

### **2. Paul's proclamation of Jesus:**

- Acts 9:20 = "He is the Son of God."

- Acts 17:3 = "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."
- Acts 17:31 = "He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

### 3. *Paul's proclamation of the roots of the gospel:*

- Acts 13:29 = "They took Him down from **the cross** and laid Him in **a tomb**."
- Acts 13:30 = "But God **raised Him from the dead**."
- Acts 13:33 = "God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He **raised up Jesus**."
- Acts 13:34 = "He **raised Him up from the dead**, no longer to return to decay."
- Acts 13:37 = "He whom God **raised** did not undergo decay."
- Acts 17:31 = "Having furnished proof to all men by **raising Him from the dead**."
- Acts 26:22-23 = "I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that **the Christ was to suffer**, and that by reason of **His resurrection from the dead** He would be the first **to proclaim** light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."
- Acts 13:38 = "Through Him **forgiveness of sins is proclaimed** to you."
- Acts 13:39 = "Through Him **everyone who believes is freed** from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."
- Acts 16:31 = "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household."
- Acts 19:4 = "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to **believe in Him** who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."
- Acts 20:21 = "Solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ**."
- Acts 24:24-25 = "Felix arrived. . . and sent for Paul and heard him speak about **faith in Christ Jesus**. But as he (Paul) was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, 'Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.'"

## V. His ministry for the gospel and church?

### 1. *Paul's ministry purpose determined by Jesus (and through Ananias):*

- Acts 26:16-18 = "Get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."
- Acts 22:15 = "For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard."
- Acts 26:19-20 = "I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."

**2. Paul's ministry met persecution by the Jews in Jerusalem early on:**

- Acts 22:18 = "I saw Him saying to me (in Jerusalem in the temple), 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.'"
- Acts 22:21 = "And He (Jesus in a vision in the temple) said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

**3. Paul's ministry dove into the Greek world (1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey):**

- Acts 13:46 = "We are turning to the Gentiles."
- Acts 14:15 = "We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God."
- Acts 14:22 = "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

**4. Paul's ministry dove into the Greek world (2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey):**

- Acts 18:6 = "Your blood be on your own head! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

**5. Paul's ministry dove into the Greek world (3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey):**

- Acts 19:21 = "After I have been there (Jerusalem), I must also see Rome."
- Acts 20:18-19 = "I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials. . ."
- Acts 20:20-21 = "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Acts 20:23 = "Bonds and afflictions await me."
- Acts 20:24 = "I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."
- Acts 20:29-30 = "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them."
- Acts 20:31 = "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears."
- Acts 20:32 = "I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."
- Acts 20:35 = "In everything I showed you (20:33-34) that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**6. Paul's ministry led to an arrest in Jerusalem:**

- Acts 26:21 = "Some Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death."

**7. Paul's ministry involved a defense in Jerusalem:**

- Acts 23:1 = "I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day"
- Acts 23:6 = "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"
- Acts 28:17 = "I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans."

**8. Paul's ministry involved a defense in Caesarea:**

- Acts 24:14-16 = "This I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. In view of this, I also do my best to maintain a blameless conscience both before God and before men."
- Acts 25:8 = "I have committed no offense against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."
- Acts 25:11a = "If I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. . ."
- Acts 25:11b = "If none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."
- Acts 28:18-19 = "When they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death. But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation."
- Acts 26:6 = "Now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews."
- Acts 26:22-23 = "I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."
- Acts 26:25 = "I am not out of my mind. . . but I utter words of sober truth."
- Acts 26:26 = "This has not been done in a corner."
- Acts 26:29 = "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

**9. Paul's ministry involved a transfer to Rome:**

- Acts 27:23-24 = "This very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'"

**10. Paul's ministry meant imprisonment in Rome:**

- Acts 28:20 = "I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel."
- Acts 28:28 = "Let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen."