



**LESSONS FROM  
PAUL THE  
APOSTLE**

**I Timothy 1:15-16**

**I. Early biographical information of Paul is very limited.**

**A. Paul was born in the prominent city of Tarsus, of Cilicia (Southeast Asia Minor)-see Acts 21:39; 22:3. By the time of the Romans, Tarsus competed with Alexandria as the learning center of the world.**

**Additionally, it was a city of great wealth.**

**B. He was born a Roman citizen-see Acts 22:28.**

**C. Paul was trained by the famed Jewish Rabbi, Gamliel-see Acts 22:3.**

**D. He was from the Jewish tribe of Benjamin-Philippians 3:5.**

**E. His parents apparently were “faithful Jews” inasmuch as Paul was circumcised the eight day-Philippians 3:5.**

**F. He was a Pharisee-Philippians 3:5. Since Pharisees believed in the resurrection (Acts 23:6-8), this mindset in Paul could have contributed to his believing in the Lord’s resurrection after he saw and heard him on the Damascus road-see Acts 9:1-5.**

**G. His nephew is mentioned in the record of Acts 23:16.**

**H. Paul apparently had great scholastic ability-see Galatians 1:14. He may well have been the magna cum laude graduate of the “Gamaliel Theological Seminary!”**

**I. “Saul” was his Jewish name and “Paul” was his Roman name.**

**II. Saul became a fierce persecutor of the church! I sometimes call Saul, “A Christian-murdering maniac!”**

**A. In the NT we meet Saul first in the record in Acts 7:58. The fact that the witnesses who stoned Stephen to death laid their garments down at Saul’s feet is indicative of the fact he was their leader!**

**B. *“And Saul was consenting to his death.*”**

*And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem”-Acts 8:1.*

*C. “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,*

*And desired letters of him to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem”-Acts 9:1 & 2.*

**D. He was persecuting the Lord-Acts 9:4.**

**E. Ananias had heard of the “much evil”**

**Saul had done to the saints in Jerusalem-Acts 9:13.**

**F. Paul himself said, “*I persecuted this way unto the death*”-Acts 22:4.**

**G. He further said of himself, “*Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believe on thee*”-Acts 22:19.**

**H. “*When they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.***

***And punished them oft in every synagogue,***

*and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities”-Acts 26:10d & 11.*

*I. “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it”-Galatians 1:13.*

*J. “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”-I Timothy 1:15.*

**K. *“And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.***

***For I am the least of the apostles, that am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God”-I Corinthians 15:8 & 9.***

**The phrase “born out of due time” comes from the Greek word “ektromati” and had reference to a miscarried-baby (one imperfectly developed or formed, so that it died prematurely)!**

**Paul uses this word to describe his unworthiness in comparison to the other apostles!**

### **III. Paul's accomplishments as an apostle**

**A. By God's grace, he labored more abundantly than all the apostles-see I Corinthians 15:10**

**B. He lived an exemplary life and encouraged other Christians to follow his example-see I Corinthians 11:1.**

*“Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you”-Philippians 4:9.*

**Every Christian should have as his goal to live his life in such a way that the God of peace would be with other Christians who followed in his steps!!**

**C. Paul carried the gospel of Christ throughout the Roman Empire in his lifetime!**

*“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister”-Colossians 1:23.*

**D. Paul was the human author of all the NT books from Romans through Philemon (13 books). If Paul authored Hebrews, then 14 of the 27 NT books came from the apostle Paul.**

**Where would we be without these books?**

**E. Consider the dedication Paul had to have to have endured all the sufferings he endured as a Christian!**

**Consider just one of his many!**

***“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one”-II Corinthians 11:24.***

**Can we even imagine the scar-lacerated back of the apostle Paul? See the record in Galatians 6:17.**

***“From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear branded in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ.”***

**THINK ABOUT THE PUNY EXCUSES  
GIVEN TODAY BY CHRISTIANS WHO FALL  
AWAY FROM THE LORD!!**

**IV. Paul's conversion-some 4 years after His  
resurrection, the Lord appeared to, and spoke to  
Paul from heaven-see Acts 9:1-18; 22:5-16; 26:12-19**

**A. Paul confessed Christ as Lord-Acts 9:6**

**B. He had obviously believed on Him prior to  
his confession of Him!**

**C. Paul was obviously in a penitent state  
inasmuch as we're told he didn't eat nor drink for  
three days and he was praying-Acts 9:9&11.**

**D. Paul was still unforgiven-see Acts 22:16.**

***“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”***

**The denominational position that, “Paul was saved as soon as he fell off his horse,” is seriously contradicted by these bible verses!!**

**Question: Will you accept the denominational position of being saved before baptism, or will you accept the bible position that a believer is saved after baptism?**

**Which do you think is right, the denominational position, or the bible?**