

LIFE AND EPISTLES

OF PAUL

Prepared by

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LESSON #1: PAUL'S CALL TO APOSTLESHIP

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Consider Acts 22:3; 23:6; Gal. 1:14. Give some facts concerning Paul's (Saul's) early life.
2. Consider Acts 7:57-58; 8:1,3; 9:2-3; 26:9-11. Tell of his work as a persecutor.
3. Consider Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-11; 26:15-18. List things that happened to him on the road to Damascus.
4. Give evidence that Saul was not saved on the road to Damascus.
5. List in order the places to which Saul traveled after his conversion. Gal. 1:15-18; Acts 9:26-30.
6. What circumstances brought Saul to Antioch? Acts 11:19-26
7. What work brought Barnabas and Saul to Judea? Acts 11:27-30

8. Who said that Barnabas and Saul should go on the first journey?

What did the people at Antioch do in sending them? Acts 13:1-3

9. Read Acts, chapters 13 and 14. List the cities visited by Barnabas and Saul on the first journey.

What verse tells us that Saul was also called Paul?

10. **Thought Question:** What does the word “apostle” mean?

At what time in Saul’s life did the Lord tell him that He would send him to the Gentiles, according to Acts 26:15-18?

Could he have refused? Consider Acts 26:19.

LESSON 2: SILAS ACCOMPANIES PAUL ON A SECOND JOURNEY

1. What false teaching was troubling the Gentile Christians in Antioch?

Where had these teachers come from? Acts 15:1-2

2. What four requirements were written in the decrees drawn up in Jerusalem?

From whom did these decrees come? Acts 15:28-29

3. What difference arose between Paul and Barnabas when a second journey was proposed, according to Acts 15:36-41?

In your opinion, who was right?

4. What important work were Paul and Silas doing in the early portion of the second journey, according to Acts 16:4?

Who joined them in Lystra? Acts 16:1-3

Who joined them in Troas? Acts 16:10

5. What caused Paul and his company to leave Troas for Macedonia? Acts 16:9-10

6. List those who were converted in Philippi. Acts 16:11-40

Who stayed in Philippi with this group? Acts 17:1

7. Read Acts 17:1-9. **Think!** What important difference was there about the persecutions in Thessalonica from persecutions that had previously occurred?

8. What was the difference between the Jews in Thessalonica and the Jews in Berea, according to Acts 17:10-12?

What was the difference in results?

9. What command did Paul send Timothy and Silas when he arrived in Athens, according to Acts 17:14-15?

Do you think they would have obeyed that command?

According to 1 Thess. 3:1-5, why did Paul not keep Timothy with him in Athens?

10. What were the results of Paul's preaching in Athens, according to Acts 17:32-34?

11. How are Paul's feelings described while he was in Corinth, according to 1 Cor. 2:3?

Can you give some possible reasons why he would have such feelings?

12. What two men joined Paul in Corinth, according to Acts 18:1-5?

Review question: Where had Timothy been?

What report did Timothy bring, according to 1 Thess. 3:6-8?

13. **Thought Question:** Many refer to the meeting in Jerusalem concerning circumcision as “the Jerusalem conference.” What differences do you see in this meeting and in a typical denominational conference of our day?

14. **Thought Question:** When Paul wrote the Philippians, can you think of some who might have been in the audience when the letter was read?

Can you think of at least one who might have been in the audience when First and Second Thessalonians were read?

LESSON #3: PAUL WRITES THE THESSALONIANS

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. What two men join Paul in the salutations of First and Second Thessalonians?

On what journey did these two men accompany Paul?

2. Read the two letters carefully. List three major subjects discussed in the two letters (You will need to read through the two letters before answering).
3. With what success did Paul preach in Corinth, according to Acts 18:8?

In one word, state the background of some of those who were converted, according to 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

4. What promise did Paul make to the people of Ephesus, according to Acts 18:18-21?

Whom did he leave in Ephesus?

5. List several terms used to describe Apollos.

On what subject were Aquila and Priscilla able to help him, according to Acts 18:24-26?

In what city did these things occur?

LESSON #4: PAUL WRITES THE CORINTHIANS

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. **Thought Question:** If you were to read First Corinthians for the first time, never having read Second Corinthians, what would be your opinion of the church in Corinth?
2. **Think!** Is there any hint in this letter that the church is not all bad? Consider the first chapter especially.
3. What need existed as suggested in 1 Cor. 16:1-4?

What instructions did Paul give to the church regarding this need?

4. When Paul left Ephesus, what was his purpose as he arrived in Troas, according to 2 Cor. 2:12-13?

Why did he not stay?

5. Where did Titus meet Paul?

What report did he bring from Corinth? 2 Cor. 7:5-16

6. After reading these verses, what is your opinion of the church in Corinth?

7. What did Paul have to exhort the church to do in 2 Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9? (Read both chapters before answering)

8. What were false teachers saying of Paul, according to 2 Cor. 10:10-11; 11:6?

9. What did Paul say of them? 2 Cor. 11:13-15, 18-20

10. Where did Paul go when he left Macedonia, according to Acts 20:1-3?
How long did he stay there?

11. **Review Question:** On what journey did these things occur?

LESSON #5: “BUT NOW I GO TO JERUSALEM”

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. With whom was Paul staying when he wrote the book of Romans, according to Romans 16:23?

In what city did he live? 1 Cor. 1:14
2. Give evidence from Rom. 15:25-27 that Paul wrote Romans on his third journey.
3. Consider Romans 1:16-17 and fill in the blanks. It is not the law that has power to save, but the _____. Salvation is not for the one who works, but for the one who _____. This salvation is not for Jews only, but for _____ and _____. In the gospel we have revealed the _____.
4. As Paul is traveling toward Jerusalem, how many men are listed as traveling with him? Acts 20:4-6
5. What was the Holy Spirit revealing as Paul traveled toward Jerusalem, according to Acts 20:22-23?
6. In what way did Agabus demonstrate this fact? Acts 21:10-11
7. Describe the interaction between Paul and his companions following Agabus’ prophecy. Acts 21:12-14

8. **Think!** Why is Paul so determined to go to Jerusalem?

Why are so many traveling with him?

9. With whom did Paul and his companions meet on the day following their arrival in Jerusalem? Acts 21:15-19

10. Briefly summarize the information we have concerning the aid sent for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

LESSON #6: PAUL IS IMPRISONED

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. What false rumor was James hoping to silence by Paul's assisting the four men who had a vow? Acts 21:20-25

2. Who stirred the crowd, causing them to beat Paul and try to kill him?

What had they falsely assumed? Acts 21:26-32

3. Read Acts 21:33 - 23:10. Tell of several failed attempts by the commander to determine what "crime" Paul had committed?

4. What encouragement did the Lord give Paul, according to Acts 23:11?

5. What caused the commander to transfer Paul to Caesarea? Acts 23:12-24

6. Read the letter from Claudius Lysias (the commander) to Felix. What lie do you find in the letter? Acts 23:25-30

7. Read Acts 24:1-9. Summarize briefly the charges brought against Paul by Tertullus.

LESSON #7: “I STAND AT CAESAR’S JUDGMENT SEAT”

1. What request did the Jews make to Festus? Acts 25:1-5
2. When Paul saw that he was not being treated fairly by Festus, what was his request?
Acts 25:6-12
3. Why was Festus anxious for Agrippa to hear Paul? Acts 25:13-27
4. Consider Acts, chapter 26. It seems that as Paul spoke before Agrippa and others who had assembled, he had one goal in mind. What was that goal?
5. Read Acts, chapter 27. Discuss briefly Paul’s active role and influence during the terrible storm and shipwreck.
6. Describe Paul’s circumstances during the two years in which he was a prisoner in Rome.
Acts 28:30-31
7. Consider the letter to Philemon. Who was Onesimus?

What circumstances surrounded the writing of this letter?

8. What evidence is there that Paul was in prison when he wrote Philemon?

What evidence is there that he hoped to be released?

9. Consider Col. 4:7-9. What city was home to Philemon and Onesimus?

LESSON #8: PAUL WRITES COLOSSIANS AND EPHESIANS

1. Consider Col. 4:7-18 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Give evidence that Philemon and Colossians were written at the same time.
 - b. Give evidence that Paul was in prison when he wrote the Colossians.
 - c. Whom was Paul sending with Onesimus?
 - d. Name two people who would be in the audience as this letter was read.
2. Read Colossians, chapters 1 and 2. Try to picture in your mind the false ideas that Paul was correcting. List the ones you see.
3. What link do you see between Col. 2:12 and Col. 3:1?
4. Read Eph. 6:18-24. Give evidence that Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter.

By whom was the letter sent?

LESSON #9: PAUL WRITES PHILIPPIANS, FIRST TIMOTHY, AND TITUS

Read the letter to the Philippians, then answer the following:

1. According to Phil. 4:10,14,17,18, who had come to Paul from the church in Philippi?

Why had he come?

2. What is said of the help given to Paul in former days by the Philippian church? Phil. 4:15-16
3. What had happened to Epaphroditus while he was with Paul?

What is said that indicates Epaphroditus' unselfishness?

4. Give evidence from chapters 1 and 2 that Paul's trial was to occur soon.
5. Give evidence from these same two chapters that he expected to be released.
6. Where was Paul hoping to go after his release? Phil. 2:24

7. As one reads this letter it becomes obvious that this church is special to Paul. Phil. 2:2 indicates, however, that his joy concerning them is not complete. Read Phil. 2:1-8. What would be necessary for his joy to be fulfilled?

What kind of mind did they need to develop?

8. Read 1 Tim. 3:14-15. What was Paul's purpose in writing Timothy?
9. This being Paul's purpose, we are not surprised to find practical teaching concerning proper handling of matters pertaining to the church. List three or four subjects discussed along these lines.

10. Consider 1 Tim. 1:3. Where was Paul at time of writing?

Where had he left Timothy?

11. Read Titus 1:5. Where had Paul left Titus?

For what purpose?

According to Titus 3:12, where was Paul planning to spend the winter?

LESSON #10: PAUL WRITES SECOND TIMOTHY

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. When Paul wrote the Philippians he was anticipating release from prison. What does he anticipate as he writes this letter, according to 2 Tim. 4:6-8?
2. What disappointments does he express in 2 Tim. 4:9-22?
3. What two expressions indicate how anxious Paul is to see Timothy before he dies, found in these same verses?
4. Discuss Paul's love for Timothy as indicated in 2 Tim. 1:3-5.
5. What admonition does he give Timothy in 2 Tim. 1:6-8?
6. What is the admonition of 2 Tim. 2:3-4?

7. What is the admonition of 2 Tim. 4:1-5?

Why is this especially important, according to verse 6?

8. What were some of the factors that would help Timothy in heeding these admonitions? Consider 2 Tim. 1:5; 2:2; 3:14-17.

9. Thinking back over previous lessons, give a brief summary of the character of Paul as you see him.