

Introducing the Apostle Paul and His Letters

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I. The Portrait of Paul

- a. Gal 1:11--2:2; 1 Cor 15:8-11; 2 Cor 11:21b-12:10
- b. Paul:
 - was named Paul, a Greek name and Saul, a Jewish name, was born in Tarsus, in southeastern Asia Minor.
 - Came from Jewish family of Pharisees of the tribe of Benjamin and named for King Saul.
 - Educated in Hellenistic philosophy and Jewish exegesis
 - Resident of Damascus
 - Persecutor of early Christian movement; became Christian through dramatic revelation of Jesus Christ
 - First years as a Christian in Arabia are a mystery, but three years after his call, Paul went to Jerusalem to visit; he saw Peter and James. 14 years later he returned for “the Jerusalem Conference” (Acts 15)
 - On mission field, worked with team, supported himself, often in danger or abused; suffered from a personal problem or injury
 - Collection for the poor of Jerusalem was a concern, in order to bring Gentiles and Jewish Christian believers closer
 - Wrote to churches while in other areas to address problems
 - Self-perception that he was “apostle of JC sent to the Gentiles
 - Presumably imprisoned in Rome and dies a martyr

II. Pauline Letters

- a. First Thess (Corinth, 52-53 c.e.)
- b. 1 Cor (Ephesus 53-55; longest letter)
- c. 2 Cor (Ephesus 53-56; several letters)
- d. Gal (Ephesus 53-56)
- e. Rom (Corinth 56-57)
- f. Phil/Phlm (Rome 60-62; Caesarea 57-59; Ephesus 54-55)
- g. Rom 1:4, 4:24; 16:2; Phil 2:11; 3:20
- h. Writings attributed to Paul
 - Deutero-Pauline (70-100 c.e.) Eph, Col, 2 Thess
 - Pastoral Epistles (100-110 c.e.) 1-2 Tim, Titus
 - Hebrews

III. The Spirituality of Paul

- a. The Cross (1 Cor 1:17-18; Ga 6:12-14; Phil 2:1-11)
- b. Life in the Spirit (Rom 1:3b-4, 9; Rom 8:1-17; Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 6:19; Gal 5:22-23; Rom 12:4-8)
- c. The Body of Christ (1 Cor 11:17-34; 12:12-27; Rom 12:4-5)
- d. The Future of Hope (1 Cor 15:20-28; Rom 8:31-39)

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Resources for further study:

Books:

- Hooker, Morna D. *Paul. A Beginner's Guide*. Oxford. Oneworld Publications, 2008.
- Horrell, David. *An Introduction to the Study of Paul*. New York: T & T Clark, 2006.
- Meeks, Wayne. *The First Urban Christians. The Social World of the Apostle Paul*. New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 1983.
- Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *Paul. His Story*. Oxford. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Roetzel, J. Calvin. *Paul: A Jew on the Margins*. Louisville, Westminster John Knox: 2003
- Sampley, J. Paul, ed. *Paul in the Greco-Roman World. A Handbook*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2003.
- Soards, Marion. *The Apostle Paul*. Mahweh, NJ: Paulist Press, 1987.
- Stirewalt, M. Luther Jr. *Paul: The Letter Writer*. Grand Rapids, William B. Eerdmans, 2003.

Audio Guides:

- Brink, Laurie. "Philippians" (*St. Paul's Letters Series*), Now You Know Media (www.nowyouknowmedia.com).

Journals:

- The Bible Today*. Subscription information available at http://www.litpress.org/Subscriptions/Journals/bible_today.html



Paul led to execution. 4th century
Junius Bassus Sarcophagus, Pio
Cristiano Museum, Vatican
Museum, Rome, Italy