

New Testament Survey

Class 9: Introduction to Paul

Original Sense of identity

- Roman citizenship by birth implies an aristocratic background (Acts 16:37-40; 22:25-29)
- A Hebrew, confident in his standing with God (Phil 3:4)
- A committed Pharisee, strict in his interpretation of the Law; Training under Gamaliel required a first-class mind, deep piety, and a radical zeal for keeping the Law (Acts 22:3; 23:6)

Conversion and Commissioning (Acts 9:1-19)

- Saul's conversion was deeply disturbing (Acts 9:9).
- His conversion to faith in Christ was uncommon because it didn't include the give-and-take of argumentation, but it did include a commission to a specific calling (Acts 9:15-16)
- The experience was like a house-fire and a personal execution (Philippians 3:5-11).

“Saul” → “Paul”

- First occurrence of “Paul”: Acts 13:9
- Alternate name introduced without comment after meeting with the proconsul Sergius Paulus (13:7).

NT Survey: Class Schedule

9	5-Nov-23	Introduction to Paul
10	12-Nov-23	Romans
11	19-Nov-23	1 Corinthians
12	26-Nov-23	2 Corinthians

The Center of Paul's Theology: The Cross of Christ

1 Corinthians 1:17-25

Apostle to the Gentiles

1. Rejoicing in reconciliation through Jesus Christ was the basis of all Paul's theology (Romans 5:6-11)
2. A minister of the Spirit who gives freedom (2 Cor 3:5-18)
3. Enthusiastically renounced his own rights for the eternal welfare of others (1 Cor 8:7-13; 9:19-23)
4. Love-fueled readiness to yield on non-essential issues for the sake of advancing the gospel (Gal 2:3 + Acts 16:3)
5. Paul sought to replicate a pattern of ministry established by Jesus (Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 15:31)
6. Pastoring pagan converts brought countless headaches (cf. every letter Paul wrote) and personal anguish (2 Cor 11:28-29).
7. A refreshing humility and freedom from self-importance (1 Cor 4:1-6)
8. Enterprising spirit and eagerness to take advantage of opportunities (Rom 15:22-33)
9. Resilience based in hope (Romans 8:23-25)
10. Cheerfully embraced suffering (Col 1:24; Acts 14:19-23), "without self-pity, resentment, or murmuring" (Ray Ortlund).
11. Nurtured a warm friendship based in the mutual sharing of the Spirit with all of the churches he founded (2 Cor 3:1-3; 1 Thes 2:6-8)