

Lessons From The Life Of Paul

#1 Saul (Pre-Conversion)



Acts 7:54-60 ESV — Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1-3 ESV — And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 9:1-2 ESV — But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 22:1-4 ESV — “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.” And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

Acts 22:19-20 ESV — And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’

Acts 26:9-12 ESV — “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities. “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

Paul's actions against the Church

- **He participated and aided those who stoned Stephen (7:58) (22:20)**
- **He approved of the execution (8:1) (22:20) (26:10)**
- **He was at the forefront of a great persecution against the Church (8:1)**
- **Ravaged the Church, entered homes and dragged off Christians, committed them to prison. (8:3) (22:4) (26:10)**
- **Persecuted the Way to death, punished them often in all the Synagogues(22:5) (26:10-11)**
- **Actually pursued them to other cities and regions (22:4) (26:10-11)**
- **Convinced he ought to do many things opposing Christ (26:9)**
- **Tried to make them blaspheme (26:11)**

Acts 23:1 ESV — And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.”

What was wrong with Paul?

Low IQ, Low Intelligence

Mean, Hateful

Pride, Arrogance

Simply Wrong