

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF PAUL

I. Introduction

A. Purpose of study

1. everything we know about Paul we know from the New Testament
 - a. we know about his conversion
 - b. he was an apostle
 - c. he wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer
2. in his letters he tells us a great deal about himself
3. purpose of study is to not just know about Paul but to get to know him

B. His background

1. a Jew religiously and by birth as well as a Pharisee (Philippians 3:5-6; Acts 22:3; 23:6; 26:5; Galatians 1:14)
2. a Roman citizen (Acts 16:35-39; 22:27-29)
3. his intense persecution of the church (Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-12; Galatians 1:13)
4. his conversion (Acts 9:3-18; 22:6-16; 26:13-18)

C. Paul after his conversion (Acts 9:20-22; 26:19-20; Galatians 1:15-20)

D. How Paul was treated after his conversion

1. by Jews (Acts 9:23-24; 13:50; 14:2,5,19; 17:13; 18:12,13; 10:19; 21:27-36; 22:22-23; 23:1,2,10,12-15; 24:1-9; II Corinthians 11:24; I Thessalonians 2:14-16)
2. by Gentiles (Acts 16:19-24; 17:18; 26:24; II Timothy 4:14-15)
3. by some Christians (Acts 9:26; II Corinthians 10:8-12; Philippians 3:18-19; II Timothy 1:15; 4:10)

E. Characteristics of his epistles

1. opening comments about himself
 - a. 7 of them open with statement that he is an apostle by the Lord's will (I Corinthians 1:1; II Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; I Timothy 1:1; II Timothy 1:1)
 - b. 2 more open with statement that he is an apostle and a servant (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1)
 - c. "prisoner" (Philemon 1)
 - d. just his name in I Thessalonians 1:1 and II Thessalonians 1:1
 - e. Hebrews begins without identification
2. first wish for his readers
 - a. grace and peace (Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; I Thessalonians 1:1; I Timothy 1:2; II Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4 {adds "mercy" to Timothy and Titus}; Philemon 3)
 - b. no first wish in Hebrews
3. first comment concerning his readers
 - a. thanks to God for their faithfulness (Romans 1:8; Ephesians 1:15-16; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3; I Thessalonians 1:2-3; II Thessalonians 1:3; II Timothy 1:3; Philemon 4)
 - b. thanks to God for blessing them (I Corinthians 1:4-7)
 - c. regarding their suffering (II Corinthians 1:7)
 - d. rebuke for unfaithfulness (Galatians 1:6)
 - e. gets right into instruction (I Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 1:1) - perhaps a greater sense of urgency in these cases

4. concluding comments
 - a. wish for grace (Romans 16:24; I Corinthians 16:23 {and love - vs. 24}; II Corinthians 13:14 {and love and communion of the Holy Spirit}; Galatians 6:18; Ephesians 6:24 {and peace and love - vs. 23}; Philippians 4:23; Colossians 4:18; I Thessalonians 5:28; II Thessalonians 3:18; I Timothy 6:21; II Timothy 4:22; Titus 3:15; Philemon 25; Hebrews 13:25)
 - b. also frequently mentioned others in conclusion (Romans 16:21-23; I Corinthians 16:10-12; 19; II Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 6:21; Philippians 4:21-22; Colossians 4:15; II Timothy 4:19-21; Titus 3:12-13; Philemon 23-24; Hebrews 13:23)
5. in general, the impression we get of Paul from reading his epistles is that he had great love and care for the church (II Corinthians 11:28-29)

II. Getting to Know the Apostle Paul

- A. Dedicated to his mission, even when he knew there was danger
 1. Acts 20:22-24; 21:10-13
 2. Philippians 3:13-14
 3. II Timothy 4:6-8
 4. Ephesians 6:19-20
- B. His suffering and response to same
 1. Romans 5:3-4; 8:18; 31-39
 2. I Corinthians 4:10-13; 15:32
 3. II Corinthians 1:3-6,8; 4:8-10; 4:16-5:2; 6:4-10; 11:23-28; 12:7-10
 4. Galatians 4:13; 6:17
 5. Colossians 1:24
 6. I Thessalonians 2:1-2
 7. II Timothy 2:9
- C. Great love and concern for souls
 1. Romans 1:11,14; 9:1-3; 10:1; 11:13-14; 12:1-2; 15:23-33
 2. I Corinthians 4:14; 16:5-9
 3. II Corinthians 2:1-5
 4. Philippians 1:8,21-30; 2:2,24-30; 4:1
 5. Colossians 2:1-5
 6. I Thessalonians 2:7,8,11; 3:1-10
 7. Philemon
- D. Encourager
 1. Romans 15:14; 16
 2. I Corinthians 4:16-17
 3. Galatians 5:10
 4. I Thessalonians 3:1-5
- E. Prayerful and desirous of others' prayers
 1. Romans 1:9,10; 15:30-31
 2. Philippians 1:9
 3. Colossians 4:3,4
 4. II Thessalonians 3:1-2
- F. Humble
 1. I Corinthians 1:12-13; 2:1-4; 3:5-7; 9:19-23; 15:9-10
 2. II Corinthians 3:5
 3. Ephesians 3:8
 4. I Timothy 1:15

- G. Not interested in pleasing men
 1. I Corinthians 4:3
 2. II Corinthians 2:17
 3. I Thessalonians 2:4
- H. Fought temptation
 1. Romans 7:18-25
 2. I Corinthians 9:25-27
- I. Greatly disturbed by false teaching
 1. Romans 16:17-18
 2. I Corinthians 1:10-17
 3. Galatians 1:6; 2:11-14; 4:13,19-20; 6:11-15
 4. Philippians 3:18-19
- J. Content
 1. Philippians 4:11-13,18
 2. I Timothy 6:6-8
- K. Devotion to teaching God's Word
 1. Acts 20:17-27
 2. Romans 1:14-16
 3. II Corinthians 4:2-5; 5:11
 4. Philippians 1:13; 4:22
 5. I Thessalonians 2:3-5
- L. Worked to support himself
 1. Acts 18:3; 20:33-34
 2. I Corinthians 4:12; 9:1-15
 3. I Thessalonians 2:9
 4. II Thessalonians 3:8
- M. Sometimes had to defend himself against lies
 1. II Corinthians 7:2; chapters 11-13
 2. I Thessalonians 2:1-12