

Paul



To Live is Christ

GREAT LIVES FROM GOD'S WORD

A Man of Spirit and Grace

PAUL



Profiles in Character from

C H A R L E S R.
S W I N D O L L



Paul



The Waiting Years

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

First Passage:

Galatians 1:10-18

Acts 9:25-26

²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening in the wall*, lowering him in a large basket.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; ...

Galatians 1:10-18

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10-18

¹¹ For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:10-18

¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased

¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood,

Galatians 1:10-18

¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.



➤ After Damascus, Saul
went to Arabia.

Galatians 1:10-18

¹⁸ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

➤ He didn't go to Jerusalem until 3 years after his conversion.

Acts 26:16

¹⁶ But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

Second Passage:

Acts 9:26-30

Acts 9:26-30

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Acts 9:26-30

²⁷ But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:26-30

²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

Acts 9:26-30

²⁹ And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic *Jews*; but they were attempting to put him to death.

Acts 9:26-30

³⁰ But when the brethren learned *of it*, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.



➤ Saul wanted to help the
Jerusalem church!

➤ But Saul had to leave
for Tarsus.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

I will go on to visions and revelations
of the Lord.

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen
years ago—whether in the body I do
not know, or out of the body I do not
know, God knows—such a man was
caught up to the third heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

Third Passage:

Acts 11:19-26

Acts 11:19-26

¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.

Acts 11:19-26

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:19-26

²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.

Acts 11:19-26

²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;

Acts 11:19-26

²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:19-26

²⁵ And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;

²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.



➤ Saul finally finds his place of ministry!

Lessons to Notice



1) We need time away
with God.

Lessons to Notice



2) Wait on the Lord!

Psalm 37:7-8

⁷ Rest in the LORD and wait
patiently for Him;

Do not fret because of him who
prosperes in his way,

Because of the man who carries out
wicked schemes.

⁸ Cease from anger and forsake wrath;
Do not fret; *it leads* only to evildoing.

Psalm 37:34

³⁴ Wait for the LORD and keep His way,
And He will exalt you to inherit
the land;
When the wicked are cut off,
you will see it.

Hebrews 6:11-12

¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,

¹² so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Isaiah 49:23

...And *you* will know that I am the
LORD;

Those who hopefully wait for Me will
not be put to shame.

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings
like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Lessons to Notice



3) God can use even our sins
for spiritual good.

Lessons to Notice



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4) It's a blessing to have a place to serve in God's kingdom.

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The Waiting Years