

Introduction

How shall we describe this “13” or “14” apostle?

- “A chosen vessel” **Acts 9:15**
- “One born out of due time” **1 Corinthians 15:9**
- “One who “persecuted the church of God and wasted it” **Galatians 1:14**
- One “not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” **Romans 1:16**
- The man who “fought a good faith” **2 Timothy 4:7**
- “A Hebrew of the Hebrews” **Philippians 3:5**

Of the some 2,930 individuals mentioned in the Bible, Paul ranks among the elite of Biblical generations. We meet him as Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 7:38**) and grow to love him as “Paul, an apostle” (**2 Timothy 1:1**)

- First, as a persecutor, then a convert.
- First, as a teacher of the law, then as a preacher of the gospel of Christ and a bearer of the cross.
- First, as an attacker of congregations to an establisher of congregations.

In Paul we see a solid demonstration of repentance. He was converted to convert others. He was taught that he might teach others. Evangelism was at the core of his every day. Concern for the lost tempered every conversation. Tears moistened his eyes as thoughts of the lost lodged in his heart. In addition to the physical marks of his sufferings, he bore daily the care of all the churches (**2 Corinthians 11:28**). Paul’s ability to change his life leaves many without excuse. What an example the Lord has provided in His servant Paul. Truly he was Paul—“a Hebrew of the Hebrews.”

After his conversion to Christ, Peter’s every step in service to please Christ. Every mile he traveled, he traveled in obedience to his gospel mission. Every opportunity to speak for the Savior was an opportunity to overcome some of his persecuting past. Every word of every epistle he authored was sent forth in power and hope hat others might be faithful sons of God. His journeys took him to many cities both large and small, but never did he take his eye off of the final city of his Christian sojourn—Heaven (**Philippians 1:23-24**). He was:

- A fighter of a good fight.

- A finisher of a great course.
- A keeper of the one faith.
- And, a recipient of a glorious crown of righteousness. **2 Timothy 4:7-8.**

Truly, he was **Paul –“A Hebrew of the Hebrews.”** And in knowing Paul one can better know Christ by seeing a living demonstration of a Christian living faithful to Christ in an effort to bring souls to the Savior of all mankind. May these materials on the life of the apostle Paul bring you closer to Christ, and in the words of Richard of Chichester’s prayer to enable men and women—**“To know Jesus more clearly, to love Him more dearly, and to follow Him more nearly.”**

**Follow me
As I follow
Christ!**