

The Conversion of Paul

SCRIPTURE

To assist understanding and study it may be convenient to consider the whole body of Scripture as:

- Preparation - The Old Testament
- Manifestation - The Gospels
- Propagation - The Book of Acts
- Explanation - The Epistles
- Consummation - Revelation

PAUL'S CONTRIBUTION (Explanation)

Paul was a prolific contributor to the New Testament writings; his wisdom and epistles being affirmed by Peter [2 Peter 3:15-16](#).

Through Paul alone we know that the church is not an organisation but an organism, the body of Christ; instinct with His life, and heavenly in calling, promise and destiny. Through him we know the nature, purpose and form of organisation of local churches, and the right conduct of such gatherings.

To Paul was committed the doctrines of grace which were latent in the teachings of Jesus. Paul originates nothing, but unfolds everything, concerning the nature and purpose of the law; the ground and means of the believer's justification, sanctification, and glory; the meaning of the death of Christ, and the position, walk, expectation, and service of the Christian. By him we learn that "we shall not all sleep" that "the dead in Christ shall rise first" and the living saints shall be "changed" and caught up to meet the Lord in the air at His return.

SO WHO WAS PAUL?

We first encounter Paul in the book of the Acts of the Apostles [Acts 7:58](#) , where he was known as Saul.

- He was born in Tarsus of Cilicia in Asia Minor. [Acts 21:39](#)
- He was a Jew and his family was of the line of Benjamin. [Romans 11:1](#)
- He grew up in Jerusalem and studied Jewish tradition under the elder Gamaliel. [Acts 22:3](#)
- He was a zealous Pharisee. [Acts 23:6](#) , [Galatians 1:14](#)
- He was fiercely opposed to "The Way". [Acts 8:1,3](#) , [Acts 9:1-2](#)

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Historical account:

- On the road to Damascus. [Acts 9:1-19](#)

Pauls personal testimony:

- Speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem. [Acts 22:6-21](#)
- In the presence of Festus and Agrippa. [Acts 26:12-18](#)

DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

1. What did Paul claim for himself? [Philippians 3:6](#)
2. Why did Paul need to be converted?
3. Can you think of anyone who needs to receive their sight?
 - What can **we** do about it?
4. Was Paul's life easy after his conversion? [Acts 16:16-24](#) , [2 Corinthians 12:7](#)
 - Should we expect our lives to be easy?