

I. Paul's Greeting (1-5)

Why does Paul identify himself as an Apostle?
(Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Col, I & II Tim, Titus)

Acts 9:1-18
Acts 22:1-16
Acts 26:12-18

ἀπόστολος *apostolos*;
Lit - a messenger, one
sent on a mission
Acts 1:21-26

¹ Paul, an **apostle**—not from men nor through man,
but through **Jesus Christ and God the Father**, who
raised him from the dead—

Why does Paul not
identify his
companions as in...
I & II Cor, Phil
Col, I & II Thess,
Philem

² and **all the brothers** who are with me, To the
churches of **Galatia**:

Common Greeting
-Rom, I & II Cor,
Gal, Eph, Philem

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the **Lord Jesus Christ**,

Galatia - Likely the
churches planted during
Paul's first missionary
journey in the province
of Galatia in southern
Asia Minor (Acts 13, 14)

Rom 3:21-31

⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from
the present evil age, according to the will of our God
and Father,

Doxology - Sets Jesus
as the focus.

⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Antioch of Pisidia
- Iconium
- Lystra
- Derbe

II. Paul's Grief (6-10)

⁶ I am astonished that **you** are so **quickly** deserting
him who called you in the grace of Christ and are
turning to a *different gospel*—

Key Words To Describe
Their Desertion:

- (1) You
- (2) Quickly
- (3) Him

Jesus is the
ONLY Way!
John 3:16-18
John 14:6
Acts 4:10-12
I Cor 15:12-19

⁷ not that there is another one, but there are **some**
who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of
Christ. < Acts 13:45-46, 50-51; 14:2-7, 19-20

Who is responsible for
the Galatians desertion
from the gospel?
-James 1:13-15

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should
preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we
preached to you, let him be **accursed**.

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If
anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the
one you *received*, let him be **accursed**.

ἀνάθεμα *anathema*;
Lit - Eternally condemned
or damned

Matt 6:24 - "No one
can serve two masters"

¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of
God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still
trying to please man, I would not be a servant of
Christ.

III. Paul's Gospel Call
(11-24)

The direct revelation of Jesus Christ was a distinctive experience, paralleled only by those who were apostles before him (John 14:25-26)

3 Things that God did for Paul:
(1) Set him apart before his birth
(2) Called him by His grace
(3) Revealed His Son

-Acts 9:1-18
-Acts 22:1-16
-Acts 26:12-18

Likely corresponds with Paul's visit recorded in Acts 9:26-29

ἀπόστολος *apostolos*;
Lit -a messenger, one sent on a mission
Apostle of Christ or Just a Messenger?

i.e. In the next phase of his life:
-Acts 9:30
-Acts 11:25,26

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, **but** I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. *The only way he could say it was not created by or taught by MAN.*

13 For you have heard of my former life in **Judaism**, how I **persecuted the church of God violently** and tried to destroy it.

14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so **extremely zealous was I for the traditions** of my fathers.

15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,

16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, **in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles**, I did not **immediately consult with anyone**;

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but **I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.**

18 Then after **three years** I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other **apostles** except James the Lord's brother.

20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, **I do not lie!**)

21 Then I went into the regions of **Syria** and **Cilicia**.

22 And I was still unknown in person to the **churches of Judea** that are in Christ.

23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God because of me.

Paul denies 3 possible sources for his teaching:
(1) Created by Man
(2) Delivered by Man
(3) Taught by Anyone

Paul can stand on equal footing with ANY Judaizer
*Phil 3:4-7
[1]-Physical circumcision (Gen 17:12)
[2]-Tribe of Benjamin (Acts 13:21; Rom 11:1)
[3]-Hebrew of Hebrews
[4]-Pharisee (Acts 22:3)
[5]-Persecutor (Acts 8:1-4; 9:13,21)
[6]-Blameless

Three years - by the Jewish mode of reckoning time, this could have been one full year and two partial years.
(John 2:13-22)

-Rom 9:1
-2 Cor 1:23; 11:31
-1 Thess 2:5
-1 Tim 2:7

Paul's denial in vv. 11-12 is defended in vv. 13-24+

Authorship

Galatians 1:1 (ESV) – “Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead”

Recipients

Galatians 1:2 (ESV) “...To the churches of Galatia:”

Likely the churches planted during Paul’s first missionary journey in the Roman province of Galatia in southern Asia Minor (Acts 13, 14). These cities would include Antioch of Pisidia, Lystra, Derbe, and Iconium

Date of Writing

Very difficult to determine, but likely between A.D. 48 and 55

Purpose of Writing

To refute Judaizing teachers who challenged Paul and his teachings. For example:

1. Paul was a “false Apostle”
2. Paul’s teachings were not the “true gospel”
3. Paul’s teachings led to loose living

Do gentile Christians need to observe the ritualistic requirements of the old law (Acts 15)?

Outline of Galatians

1. Defense of Paul’s apostleship (1:11–2:21)
2. Defense of justification by faith in Jesus Christ (3:1–4:31)
3. Defense of Christian liberty (5:1–6:10)

Why Study Galatians?

Notes:

Apostle

693 ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*), ου (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 8938; Str 652; TDNT 1.407—**1.** LN 53.74 **apostle**, a special messenger of Jesus Christ, a restricted group, the exact number variously reckoned (Mt 10:2; Ac 1:2, 26; Ac 14:14; 1Co 12:28, 29); **2.** LN 33.194 **messenger**, envoy, one sent (Jn 13:16; 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25+)¹

652. ἀπόστολος **apostolos**; from 649; *a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle*:—apostle(19), apostles(52), apostles'(5), messenger(1), messengers(1), is sent(1).²

Acts 1:21–26 (ESV)

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Acts 9:1–19 (ESV)

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² 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. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.”¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

Acts 22:1–16 (ESV)

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “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. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

Acts 26:12–18 (ESV)

¹² “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Romans 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

All the Brothers

Mentions his companions in 1 and 2 Cor, Phil, Col, 1 and 2 Thess, Philem / why not in Galatians / probably to show that the message he delivered could stand alone without need for anyone else.

Paul's Common Greeting

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation From God Through Christ

Romans 3:21–31 (ESV)

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and

the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Jesus is the Only Way

John 3:16–18 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 14:6 (ESV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:10–12 (ESV)

¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Corinthians 15:12–19 (ESV)

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 John 2:23 (ESV)

²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

You > Deserting the Gospel

Acts 13:45–46 (ESV)

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you

thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:50–51 (ESV)

⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

Acts 14:2–7 (ESV)

² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. ⁵ When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, ⁶ they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, ⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Acts 14:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. ²⁰ But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

James 1:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Accursed

353 ἀνάθεμα (*anathema*), ατος (*atos*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLHebr 3049, 3051; Str 331; TDNT 1.354—1. LN 33.473 **a curse**, an oath, the content of what is spoken (Ac 23:14; 1Co 12:3; 16:22; Lk 21:5 v.r. NA26); **2.** LN 33.474 **one cursed**, the object of the curse (Ro 9:3; Gal 1:8, 9+), for another interp, see prior³

331. ἀνάθεμα anathema; from 394; *that which is laid up*, i.e. *a votive offering*:—accursed(5), solemn(1).⁴

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁴ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

Serving Two Masters

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Direct Revelation of Jesus Christ

John 14:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Paul’s Calling

Acts 9:1–19 (ESV)

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² 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. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately

something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

Acts 22:1–16 (ESV)

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “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. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

Acts 26:12–18 (ESV)

¹² “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint

you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Paul’s Zeal for Judaism and Christian Persecution

Philippians 3:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Genesis 17:12 (ESV)

¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

Acts 13:21 (ESV)

²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

Romans 11:1 (ESV)

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

Acts 22:3 (ESV)

³ “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.

Acts 8:1–4 (ESV)

⁸ 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. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 9:13, 21 (ESV)

¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem

²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?”

Three Years / Jewish Reckoning of Time

John 2:13–22 (ESV)

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in **three days** I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in **three days**?” ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Acts 9:26–31 (ESV)

²⁶ And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Do Not Lie

Romans 9:1 (ESV)

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—

2 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:30–31 (ESV)

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 (ESV)

⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness.

1 Timothy 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Syria and Cilicia

Acts 9:30 (ESV)

³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11:25–26 (ESV)

²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.