

Who Is The Apostle Paul &

Why Is It Important To Know?

Paul is one of the giants of the faith; from a persecutor of the church to the greatest planter of churches across the Roman Empire. He is the most prolific writer of New Testament scripture, penning thirteen of the twenty-seven books and letters of the New Testament: 87 chapters, 2032 verses, ~32%. Next to Jesus, Paul is considered the most outstanding person in the Bible.

So who is this Apostle Paul, and what makes him so outstanding? Why is it so important to know and why should we follow him? Can we follow his example? Are there principles and habits of Paul that we can model enabling us likewise to become spiritual examples following in his steps?

I. A Man of Prayer: 22 verses mention Paul's prayer life in his writings

- a. Ephesians 1:16: do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;
- b. Ephesians 6:18: With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- c. Philippians 1:4: always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,
- d. Colossians 4:2: Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

II. A Great But Humble Scholar

- a. 2 Timothy 2:15: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
- b. Philippians 3:4-5: although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;
- c. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5: Paul's Reliance upon the Spirit And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

III. Filled With Bold Courage

IV. Willing To Suffer For Jesus And The Gospel

V. A Single-Minded Goal For His Life: Philippians 3:10: that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; Philippians 3:12-14 not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.