

# **Paul, A Servant of Jesus Christ**

*“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle,  
separated unto the gospel of God,”*

**Romans 1:1**

## **Introduction:**

**The statement in verse 1 reads: “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ...”  
Today we will examine the change that brought this blaspheming  
persecutor to become a servant of Jesus Christ.**

### **1) \_\_\_\_\_ – His Purpose in the Past**

#### **a) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7**

- i) Acts 7:58 *“And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul:”*
- ii) Acts 22:20 *“And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by ... and kept the raiment of them that slew him.”*

#### **b) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Death of Stephen**

- i) Consent – an \_\_\_\_\_ of the mind with what is proposed
- ii) Acts 8:1 *“And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem.”*
- iii) Acts 22:20 *“And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.”*

**c) Committed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Saints**

i) He made \_\_\_\_\_ of the church

*Acts 8:3 "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."*

Havock – to \_\_\_\_\_ or destroy

*Acts 22:19 "And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:"*

*Acts 26:9 "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."*

ii) He \_\_\_\_\_ the church

*1 Timothy 1 :13 "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious:"*

To blaspheme is to utter impious or reproachful words against God.

To persecute is to pursue in a manner to \_\_\_\_\_, vex, or afflict

Injurious is to be wrongful, to inflict damage or \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 9:5 "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest..."*

"Anything which hurts a member of Christ's body hurts the body, and hurts Him who is the Head of the Body. In persecuting the Church Paul was persecuting the Lord Himself. Every blow that fell upon the back of a Christian fell upon Him." –I.M. Haldeman

## 2) \_\_\_\_\_ – His Purpose in the Present Romans 1:1 "servant of Jesus Christ"

### a) He received God's \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Timothy 1:13

i) *"But I obtained mercy"*

ii) Eph 2:4 *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved);"*

iii) *"Because I did it ignorantly in unbelief"*

2 Peter 3:4 – \_\_\_\_\_ ignorant

iv) v.16 *"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern..."*

v) Paul's conversion is itself a figure of symbol of the way in which the nation of the Jews is to be converted at the last. Paul was not converted by the preaching of the gospel, but by the personal appearing of the Lord in glory.

### b) He received God's \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Timothy 1:14

i) The grace of God brought faith – it's a \_\_\_\_\_!  
Ehp. 2:8-9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

- ii) By God's grace Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners – *"this is a faithful saying"*!

John 3:16-21

*Mark 2:16 "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? 17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

- iii) Nothing evinces the depravity of man more fully than his unwillingness to believe himself depraved. – Webster's 1828 dictionary under the entry "evince"

### Conclusion:

In John Bunyan God calls the bold leader of village reprobates to preach the gospel – a blaspheming tinker to be one of England's famous confessors. From the deck of a slave ship he summons John Newton to the pulpit, and by hand defiled with mammon's foulest and most nefarious traffic brings them that were bound out of darkness, and smites adamantine fetters from the slaves of sin. In Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, He converts Christ's bitterest enemy into His warmest friend: to the man whom a trembling Church held most in dread she comes to owe, under God, the weightiest obligations.