

God's Vision Ministries

Bible Study Series

Journey From Religion To Relationship

A study of the Life of Paul

Teacher & Pastor: Elder Burnice Green, Sr.

Journey From Religion To Relationship

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13 STUDY LESSON ON THE LIFE OF PAUL

STUDY OF THE LIFE OF PAUL

Materials Needed

- good study bible
- note book
- Take good notes

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Prayer
- Concentrate on what God will reveal
- Read over the power point posted on web –site daily

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- Try to be at every class
- Write down things you want to remember
- Personalize events and scripture
 - Use pronouns such as “I”, Me, MY, mine, etc.”

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Lesson 1 - When You Make Big Mistakes (Acts 6:8-8:3)

God can use us even when we make mistakes.

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- Let's begin:
- Move around in **Acts and other Books** of the bible.
- Oh! One other thing
- We may not move in chronological order all the time.
- Ok let's begin!

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- What do you think from religion to Relationship mean?

Lesson 1: WHEN YOU MESS UP “BIG TIME”

Lesson 2: FINDING GOD’S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

Lesson 3: GETTING READY TO SERVE

Lesson 4: GETTING GOD TO BLESS YOUR CHURCH

Lesson 5: HOW TO BE USABLE FOR GOD

LESSON 6: WHAT TO EXPECT AS WE SERVE THE LORD

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- **LESSON 7:** HANDLING LIFE'S FREQUENT PROBLEMS
- **LESSON 8:** HOW PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL
- **Lesson 9:** HOW PEOPLE REACT WHEN YOU ARE DOING GOD'S WILL
- **LESSON10:** WHEN WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS UNPOPULAR
- **LESSON 11:** HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH EFFECTIVELY
- **LESSON 12:** WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT STORMS OF LIFE
- **LESSON 13:** HOW TO FINISH THE RACE WITH GRACE

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- LESSON 1
- Acts 6:8- 8:3

When you mess up “Big Time”

Have you ever messed up?

When we first meet Paul he is messing up Big Time”

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- When we mess up the enemy tries to tell us that God can never use us.
- As we look at Paul's background we will discover 2 things to remember when we mess up 'big Time'
- First: God has a purpose for our lives before we are born
- Saul was born in Tarsus (Modern-day Turkey)

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- He was born a Roman Citizen(Acts 22:27) a privilege that would have helped him on several occasions during his ministry. His Roman name was Paul his Jewish name was Saul, probably after the first king of Israel. Unlike the other Apostles who were considered unlearned and ignorant men(Acts 4:13) Saul was highly educated. He was educated in Law, (Acts 5:34 & 22:3)

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- He was Jew by birth
- Both of his parents was Hebrews
- Therefore he could trace his genealogy back to Abraham.
- What does Paul write about himself in Galatians 1:14?

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- Paul was also Blameless
- This mean he meticulously followed the letter of the Jewish Law.
- He was one of the most brilliant and zealous of the Pharisees.
- Saul was very religious, but he had know personal relationship with God

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- Jewish parents, like Saul's believed if you didn't teach your son a trade you taught him how to steal. Therefore, Saul was trained in the practical trade of tent making (Acts 18:3). This trade would later help Saul support himself and his associates during his later missionary journeys.

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- The Bible says : ***all my members were written in God's Book ... when as yet there were none of them.***
- What is this saying?
- Psalms 139:16
- God planned you and me before we were born
- Our talents, gifts, intellect, and personality, regardless of your shortcomings, hurts , your parents, God created you because he have certain combinations to do his will and purpose.

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- Nothing in Saul's heredity, background, experiences or training would go to waste. It was all a part of God's plan to prepare the greatest of all the Apostles.
- What does this mean for you and I?

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- God made you and allowed the experiences-good and bad , glad and sad. You need to fulfill His purpose for your life. God has a purpose for allowing ever hurt you have ever had. It's part of the preparation of his wonderful plan for your life. To be used by God, we must remember that God doesn't want to waste any of our talents, experiences, training, or hurts. They are all part of his divine "purpose puzzle" for our lives. ***When we come to God, and begin to build a relationship with him, all parts of the puzzles of our live come together to help us fulfill God's purpose.***

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- God can use us in spite of our worst mistakes(Acts 6:8 8:3)
- God's word makes this clear because it reveals to us that even the greatest OT saints faltered in faith, had doubts, and committed terrible sins. Moses and David were murderers, but so was one of the greatest NT saints, the apostle Paul. God always reveals the faults and sins of His great saints to give us hope. As we continue to study Saul's life, we will learn that no matter what we have done , God can still use us in a mighty way.

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- The first time we meet Saul , angry Jews are stoning a young man (Acts 7:57-58)
- What' happening here?

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- Watches as they pick up stones and begin to throw them at Stephen's head. SAUL watches the first stone hit Stephen! Then he watches as the second and third stones crushes Stephen. Stephen stands as long as he could with stones coming so fast they can not be counted. Finally the stones take their toll and he falls to his knees.

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- What does he pray in Acts 7:60?
- He prays for Saul!
- Saul was no innocent bystander

Acts 8:1

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- Thus the first time we meet Saul he is gladly assisting in the brutal killing of the first Christian Martyr. Stephen's demeanor and prayer did not touch Saul's heart that day because it was filled with hatred for all Christians. But no doubt Stephen's heroic death played a part in changing Saul's heart. We never know how God is going to use our hurts and suffering to touch others.

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- Saul's hatred do not end here because he makes *havoc* of the church (entering into every house and putting them into prison. *"Ruthlessly Devastating"*! He left children without parents and causing untold pain and sorrow. It's hard to believe that this is the man that God would use later to inspire to write the great LOVE chapter 1Corinthians 13.

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- Notice however, Paul never tried to justify or rationalize his sin. He didn't play the blame game by blaming his parents or religious training. Instead what does he write about himself in 1 Timothy 1:15
- 1Timothy 1:16 Paul explain how God can use us in spite of our worst sins.

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- Though his Sins were all forgiven , Paul had to live with the memories of his sin for the rest of his life. That's what make sin so bad. We can be forgiven but we have to live with the memories and consequences of our sins for a lifetime. How does David describe this truth in psalms 51:3?

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- We are free to choose sin or not , but we are not free to choose the consequences.
- So when we mess up “big time” just remember that God has a purpose for our lives before we are born and God can use us in spite of our worst mistakes. These principles are true because Christianity is a relationship not a religion.

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A study of the Life of Paul

- **Conclusion:**

- Religion teaches what we need to do for God,
Christianity teaches what God in Christ has already
done for us on the cross by taking our “minuses” and
changing them into “pluses”

*RELIGION SAYS “**DO**”*

*RELATIONSHIP SAYS “**DONE!**”*

Next Week: Finding God’s purpose for your life!