

# Learning About The Apostle Paul

August 2016

By Laurence Torr

2016

Graceloveandtruth.com



**Laurence & Kim Torr**



# Learning About The Apostle Paul

August 2016

Bible Translation used in this Study  
Is the Authorized King James Version of the Bible  
Unless otherwise Noted.

**By Laurence Torr**  
**8/10/2016**

Quick View.

To go directly to a certain page press control on the key board and left click your mouse on the title of the page you would like to view. You do this in Word for windows. If you are viewing for a PDF format then just click the title.

## Table of Contents

Learning About the Apostle Paul .....	4
Paul's Names and where He came from. ....	4
Saul was a Roman Citizen By Birth.....	4
Rights and privileges .....	5
Paul's right to a trial .....	6
Jerusalem also had many people who hated him.....	6
His Name.....	7
The custom of Dual .....	7
The Apostle Paul was taught at Jerusalem By Gamaliel .....	8
Paul's life previous to his conversion .....	9
1 Timothy 1:12-15 .....	10
Lets us now take a look at the conversion of Paul .....	10
Acts 9:19-22 .....	12

## **Learning About the Apostle Paul**

### **Paul's Names and where He came from.**

The Apostle Paul who's Hebrew name was Saul, was born a Jew in a city called Tarsus which is located on the southern coast of Turkey. Tarsus was the capital of the province of Cilicia, during the Roman Empire, this made Paul a Roman citizen.

The city of Tarsus where Paul was born, was a very important city in Paul's day, as it was one of the largest trade centres on the Mediterranean coast. It was a seaport city, about twelve miles up the river Cydnus. Many people think Paul was Born in Rome because he was a Roman Citizen But now we know He was born in Turkey not Rome.

Now we will look at the records in the scripture that show us where Paul was from and also show us that Paul was a Roman citizen.

**Acts 21:39**, But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

**Philippians 3:5** Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee

### **Saul was a Roman Citizen By Birth**

**Acts 22:25 -29** <sup>25</sup> And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

<sup>27</sup> Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

<sup>28</sup> And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

<sup>29</sup> Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

**At that time one could become a citizen by either birth or buying the privilege. Paul's birth in Jewish family occurred in the city of Tarsus within the province of Cilicia.**

**(Acts 22:3).** I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Although a Jew, his birth in the city grants him citizenship. This is due to Tarsus designation as a free city By Rome. The commander, however, had to pay a large sum of money to earn the right.

A third avenue to gain citizenship was through an extended period of military service. In order to attract more soldiers, Rome offered this prize to those serving in the military for at least twenty-five years and who received an honourable discharge.

## **Rights and privileges**

Why was obtaining citizenship such a coveted prize? Those who possessed such a right enjoyed a wide range of privileges and protections which varied over time and place. Some of the more common rights and benefits were the right to vote in assemblies and stand for civil or public office, the right to make legal contracts and hold property and the right of immunity from some taxes and legal obligations. They also had the right to sue (and be sued) in the courts and have a legal trial where a person appears before a proper court in which to defend themselves. This right also includes the ability to request Caesar hear their case.

Additionally, citizens could not be tortured or whipped (scourged), nor could they receive the death penalty, unless they were guilty of treason. It is this right that kept the apostle from a severe flogging, in order to gain information, at the hands of soldiers.

### **(Acts 22:23 - 29).**

<sup>23</sup> And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

<sup>24</sup> The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

<sup>25</sup> And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

<sup>27</sup> Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

<sup>28</sup> And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

<sup>29</sup> Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

**Paul's right to a trial before Caesar was used to avoid being tried in Jerusalem. If he went to the city from Caesarea, his murder would almost certainly occur along the way.**

**Acts 25:1-3** Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him,

<sup>3</sup> And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.

**Jerusalem also had many people who hated him. We find Paul making use of his Roman citizenship in**

**Acts 25:10-11; 10.** But Paul said, "I stand before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I have the right to be judged . . . 11. For on the one hand, if I am a wrongdoer and have done anything worthy of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is no truth in their accusations against me, no one can deliver me over to them. I appeal to Caesar"

**Once again, Apostle Paul's Roman citizenship meant he could receive treatment the common person did not have the right to request. He did know, however, there was a greater group available to ALL that was of infinitely greater value than the empire could offer. To the church in Philippi he wrote the following.**

**Philippians 3:20 - 21**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

**(Source of Information - biblestudy.org)**

**continual Scripture confirmation Paul was from Tarsus**

**Acts 9:11,** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

**Acts 9:30** Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

**Acts 11:25** Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

**Acts 16 :37** But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

(**Acts 21:39**), But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

**Acts 22:3** I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

---

**His Name -- Paul - Strongs - G3972 - Paulos. Pronunciation = pau'los was his Greek name**

**Paul was also know as Saul of Tarsus Acts 9:11**

**The custom of Dual** name was common in those days Acts 13:9 describes the Apostle as "Saul" - Hebrew name, who was also called "Paul" Greek name." From that verse on, Saul is always referred to in Scripture as "Paul" Greek name." From that verse on, Saul is always referred to in Scripture as "Paul." The name Paul (or rather Paulos) is part of a group very common Latin and Greek words.

**SAUL Strong's - G4569 - Saulos = Pronunciation sau'los**

which is of Hebrew Origin and was his Jewish Name and He was of the tribe of Benjamin It was also the same name of the first King of Israel. 1 Samuel 9:25-27 - 1 Samuel 10:1

Saul Name was name was not changed due to him being converted in the book of Acts it tells us his name was also Paul

**Acts 13:9** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

**So we now understand He had both names before he became born again. In that time it was not unusual to have two name here are some examples.**

**Acts 1:23** And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

**Acts 9:36** Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

**Here I will give one more example of Dual names.**

*James M. Freeman - Bible Manners and Customs)*

**John 20:24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

Both these Name have the same signification, a twin Thomas being Aramaic, and Didymus, Greek. It is said to be customary for the Jews when travelling into foreign countries, or familiarly conversing with the Greek or Romans, to assume a Greek or Latin Name of Similar Meaning to their own.

*(Take from James M. Freeman - Bible Manners and Customs)*

## **Back To Paul**

Born around 4 or 5AD The exact year of the birth of Paul is unknown to us. Saul (Paul) was Jewish by Faith and Greek by culture. his Father was a citizen of Rome and from a young age Saul was schooled in the books of the torah He was taught to obey the Jewish Law and the rituals of the temple in Jerusalem, which was the centre of Jewish Authority.

## **The Apostle Paul was taught at Jerusalem By Gamaliel . (GA-ME-LEE-ALL)**

**Acts 22:3** I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

**Acts 23:6,** <sup>6</sup> But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

**Acts 26:4-5,** <sup>4</sup> My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

<sup>5</sup> Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

**Acts 5:34 -39.** Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

<sup>35</sup> And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

<sup>36</sup> For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.

<sup>37</sup> After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

<sup>38</sup> And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

<sup>39</sup> But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

**Romans 11:1** I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

**2Corinthians 11:22** Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

**Galatians 1:14,** And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

**Philippians 3:5** Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

It was under the Gamaliel schooling that Paul developed an expert knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. Paul's educational and professional credentials allowed him to preach in the synagogues wherever he travelled.

**Acts 17:2- 3** And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

<sup>3</sup> Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

**Paul's grasp of Old Testament history and law aided his presentation of Jesus Christ as the One who had fulfilled the Law.**

---

**In his first appearance in the Scripture Paul is referred to as Saul. Let us read introduction account in the Scripture.**

**Acts 7:58-60** <sup>58</sup> 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.

<sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

<sup>60</sup> And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Paul's life previous to his conversion was distinguished on account of great wickedness. Paul declared of himself in;**

**1 Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

**1 Timothy 1:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

<sup>13</sup> Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

<sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

**Lets us now take a look at the conversion of Paul**

**Acts 9:1-18** And Saul, yet breathing out threatening's and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

<sup>2</sup> And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

<sup>4</sup> And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

<sup>5</sup> And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

<sup>6</sup> And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

<sup>7</sup> And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

<sup>8</sup> And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

<sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

<sup>10</sup> And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

<sup>12</sup> And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

<sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

<sup>14</sup> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

<sup>16</sup> For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

<sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

<sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

**Acts 22:1-16** Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.

<sup>2</sup> (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)

<sup>3</sup> I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

<sup>4</sup> And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

<sup>5</sup> As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

<sup>7</sup> And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

<sup>8</sup> And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.

<sup>9</sup> And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

<sup>10</sup> And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

<sup>11</sup> And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup> And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,

<sup>13</sup> Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

<sup>14</sup> And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

<sup>15</sup> For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

<sup>16</sup> And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Now Pauls life was not his own, he surrendered his will to the will of the master our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ, and after certain from being changed around and his life changing he began to preach.

### **Acts 9:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

<sup>20</sup> And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

<sup>21</sup> But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

<sup>22</sup> But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

**Philippians 3:6-11** <sup>6</sup> Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

<sup>8</sup> Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

<sup>9</sup> And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

<sup>10</sup> That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

<sup>11</sup> If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

**To be Continued**