

Philippians Series

Lesson #003

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

Who is the Apostle Paul?

Philippians 1:1



Outline

- 1A** Introduction, Phil. 1:1–11
- 2A** Paul's joy for the expansion of the gospel, Phil. 1:12–26
- 3A** A worthy walk is characterized by standing firm in one spirit, Phil. 1:27–2:30
- 4A** Joy is not based on circumstances, but on who we are in Christ, Phil. 3:1–4:1
- 5A** The ability to rejoice in the Lord always is based on a God-centered mental attitude, Phil. 4:2–20
- 6A** Concluding greetings, Phil. 4:21–23

Phil. 1:1,

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

**To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with
the bishops and deacons:”**

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**From Saul to Paul:
What the Bible Teaches
About
the Apostle Paul**

**Key verses to read:
Acts 9:1–30; Acts 22:3–21;
Phil. 3:1–6; Gal. 1:13–14**



Conversion on the Way to Damascus
by Caravaggio

Basic Outline
Life of Saul of Tarsus
B. AD 5–15? — D. AD 67

- 1. Paul's Early Life: Birth to Conversion**
- 2. Paul's Conversion**
- 3. Paul's Three Missionary Journeys**
- 4. Paul's Trip to Rome and After**

1. Paul's (Saul's) Early Life in Tarsus



- 1. Born AD 5–15, uncertain. Father was a Roman citizen; a wealthy merchant, tentmaker. Given pronomen Shaul, for King Saul from the same tribe, Benjamin. Greek cognomen, Paulus.**
- 2. If born in AD 5, then he came to Jerusalem in AD 19; if born in AD 15 he arrived in AD 29 so he came to Jerusalem sometime between AD 19–29, which means he was in Jerusalem during the three years of Jesus' ministry.**
- 3. Sent to Jerusalem at 14 to study under Gamaliel; possibly wrote portions of the Talmud, but his name was removed.**

Acts 23:16, “So when Paul’s sister’s son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.”



Figure 1: Roman-era ruins at Tarsus. The street seen here is more than twenty feet wide, and dates from the first century B.C. The pavement is made of black basalt with gutters of white limestone. The buildings which flank this thoroughfare also date from this period, and so would have been standing when the apostle Paul lived here.



Figure 2: Cleopatra's Gate at Tarsus. In 41 B.C., Cleopatra of Egypt sailed into Tarsus to begin her affair with Marc Anthony. The gate seen here has been dubbed Cleopatra's Gate in memory of this clandestine meeting, though it probably dates to the first or second century A.D.



Figure 3: St. Paul's Well in Tarsus. This well is traditionally believed to mark the birthplace of the apostle Paul.

“It has indeed been thought that an unnamed pupil of Gamaliel who manifested ‘impudence in matters of learning’ and tried to refute his master was no other than Paul. If this is so (and it is quite uncertain), then the tradition reflects disapproval of Paul’s later departure from the rabbinical path; it preserves no reminiscence of Paul’s actual behavior while he sat at Gamaliel’s feet. But in one respect Paul did deviate from his master’s example: he repudiated the idea that a temporizing policy was the proper one to adopt towards the disciples of Jesus. So J. Klausner, *From Jesus to Paul*, E. T. (London, 1944), p. 310, in reference to TB Shabbat 30b.”

1. Paul's Early Life: Birth to Conversion

Phil. 3:4, “though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Phil. 3:5, “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Phil. 3:6, “concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

Gal. 1:13, “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

Gal. 1:14, “And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

Acts 22:4, “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,”

Acts 7:58, “and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”

Acts 7:59, “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”

Acts 7:60, “Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Acts 8:1, “Now Saul was consenting to his death.”

Acts 22:5, “as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.”

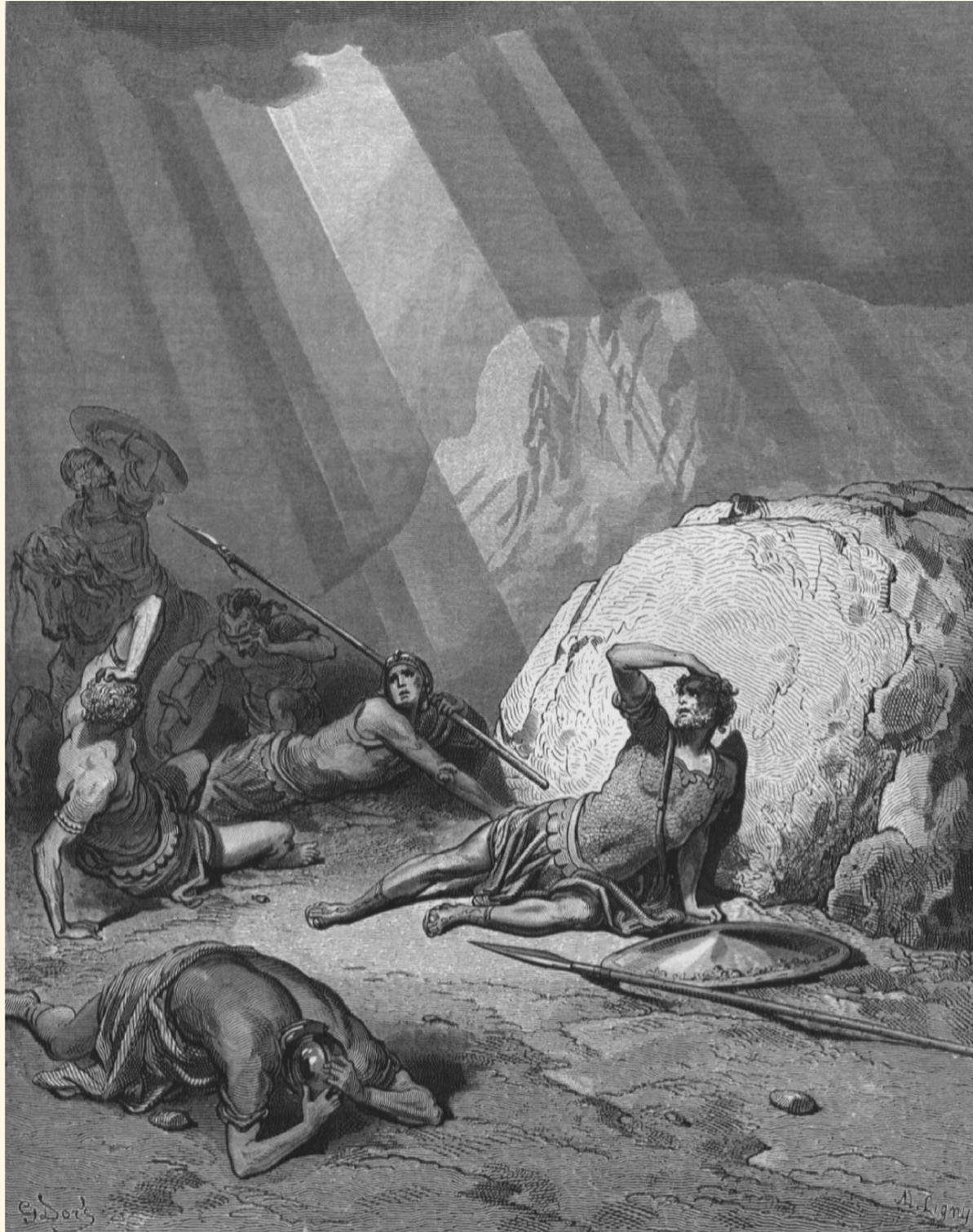
Acts 26:9, “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:10, “This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.”

What we have learned about Paul:

- 1. Born into a strict Pharisee household. Had at least one sibling, a sister.**
- 2. His father had somehow acquired Roman citizenship, which he inherited.**
- 3. He was arguably the most brilliant yeshiva student of his generation, and extremely hostile to the threat of Christianity.**
- 4. His mission was to pursue Christians to persecute and execute them.**

2. Paul's Conversion

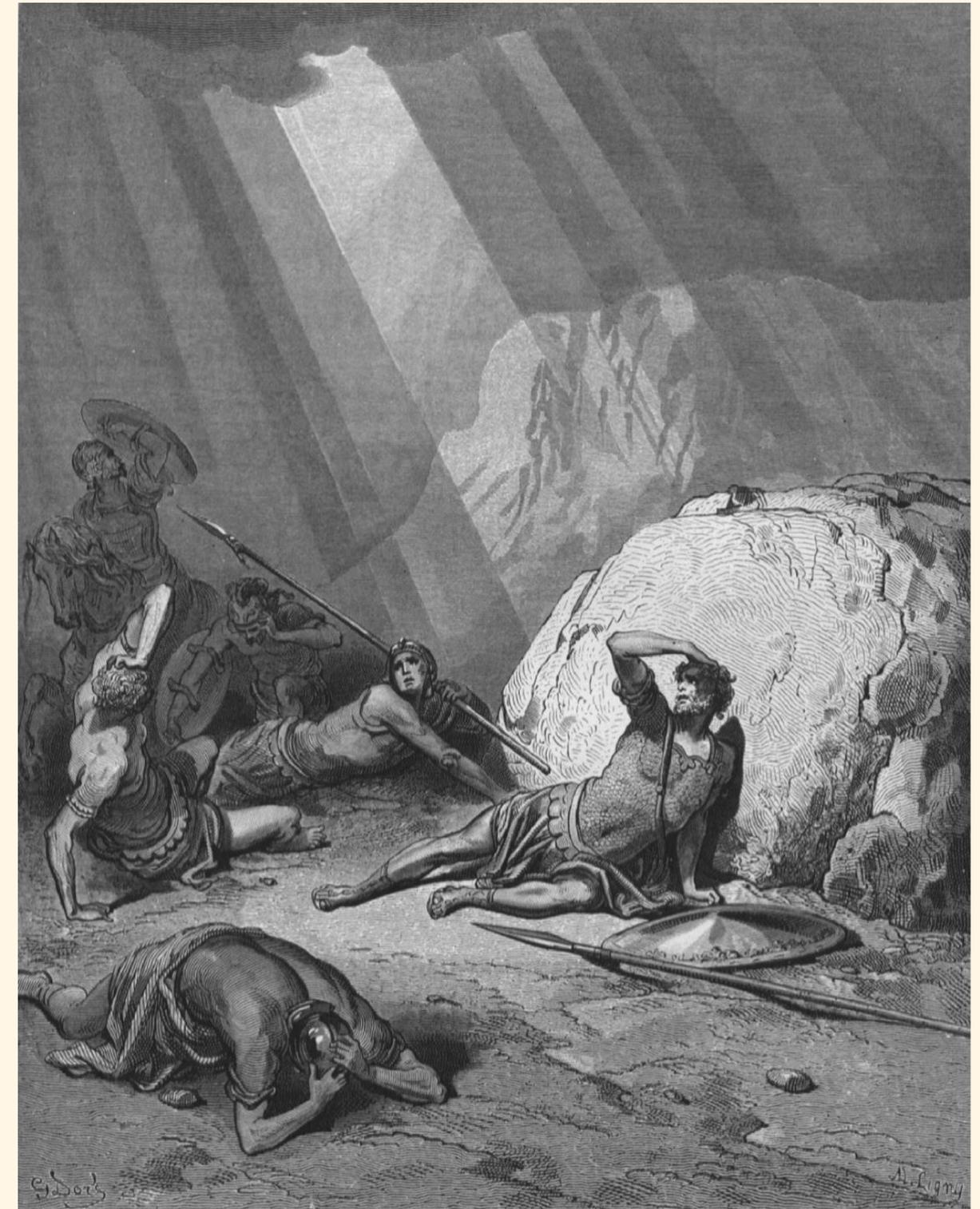


Acts 9:3, “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

Acts 9:4, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’

Acts 9:5, “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

Acts 9:6, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’ ”



From the ESV Study Bible

As Paul approached Damascus to arrest followers of the Way, Jesus appeared to him (1). Galatians 1:17 makes it clear that soon after this Paul spent time in Arabia (2, 3) before going to meet church leaders in Jerusalem (4). When some believers learned of a plot to kill Paul in Jerusalem, they took him to Caesarea, and he returned to his hometown of Tarsus (5).



Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:16, “ ‘For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’ ”

**Acts 22:10, “So I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’
And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go into Damascus, and
there you will be told all things which are appointed for you
to do.’ ”**

**Acts 22:14, “Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has
chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just
One, and hear the voice of His mouth.**

**Acts 22:15, “ ‘For you will be His witness to all men of what
you have seen and heard.’ ”**

Acts 26:15, “So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Acts 26:16, “ ‘But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

Acts 26:17, “ ‘I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

Acts 26:18, “ ‘to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’ ”

Phil. 3:8, “... that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:9, “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”

What we have learned:

- 4. The risen Christ appeared to him on the way to Damascus, he believed in Jesus as the crucified, risen Messiah, and was commissioned by Jesus Christ as an apostle.**

Specifically, he was commissioned to take the gospel to the Gentiles, proclaiming the new entity, the Church, the body of Christ, composed of Jews and Gentiles together as one.

3. Paul's Three Missionary Journeys (April 48–May 57)

First Missionary Journey: Crete, southern Turkey; then wrote: Galatians (April 48–Sept. 49)

Second Journey: revisit, southern Turkey, then to Troas, Greece (April 51–Sept. 52), then wrote: 1, 2 Thess.

Third Journey: retraces visit to Greece (Spring 53–May, 57), then wrote: 1, 2 Corinthians; Romans







BLACK SEA

MACEDONIA

THRACE

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

GALATIA

ASIA

CAPPADOCIA

CILICIA

PAMPHYLIA

LYCIA

CARIA

ACHAIA

Philippi

Neapoli

Troas

Byzantium (Istanbul)

Nicaea

Pergamum

Mitylene

Sardis

Smyrna

Antioch in Pisidia

Ephesus

Laodicea

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Samos

Miletus

Perga

Attalia

Tarsus

Antioch

Salamis

Cyprus

Paphos

Hamath

N



Crete

Thessalonica

Amphipoli

Apollonia

Thasos

Samothrace

Lemnos

Lesbos

Delphi

Athens

Corinth

Sparta

AEGEAN SEA

MARMARA SEA

Sangarius River

Halys River

Lake Tuz

Orontes River

River



4. Rome and Beyond

In Rome, 1st Imprisonment, wrote Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians

Fourth Journey to Spain, England, Europe, and revisited Crete, Ephesus, Macedonia, Troas, Nicopolis, writing 1 Timothy and Titus.

Second Roman Imprisonment, 65–67, decapitated by Nero. Before his death he wrote 2 Timothy.

Phil. 1:1,

“Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

**To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with
the bishops and deacons:”**

Acts 16:1, “Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.

Acts 16:2, “He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

Acts 16:3, “Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.”

Why Timothy?

- 1. Timothy did not write the epistle, neither was he Paul's amanuensis.**
- 2. Timothy was with Paul when he first went to Philippi.**
- 3. Timothy was with Paul when he wrote the epistle.**
- 4. Timothy was well known to the Philippians, having been there on two previous occasions.**
- 5. Paul was about to send Timothy to Philippi.**
- 6. By mentioning Timothy, Paul indicates his confidence in Timothy and that Timothy is in agreement with what Paul is writing.**