

Paul's Great Commission

Introduction

- Did Paul receive a great commission from Christ? Indeed he did.
- In this lesson we will explore the commission of Christ to the apostle Paul and seek to understand how it applies to us today.

First, Paul's commission involved an unlikely ambassador, _____ of Tarsus.

1. When the time came for Christ to give a special commission in Acts 9, He chose a most unlikely ambassador. A man known as Saul of Tarsus (Paul).
 - Saul was a devout religious _____, a Pharisee. Galatians 1:14
 - Saul was zealous to keep the Old Testament _____. Philipians 3:6
 - Saul was the _____ of Christ. Acts 26:9
 - Saul was the enemy of believers in Christ. Acts 9:1-2, 22:4, 26:10-11
2. What an unlikely candidate to take the message of God's grace!
3. But, in another way, it makes perfect sense. Paul was the enemy of God who deserved God's wrath and judgment, but received the undeserved _____ of God.
4. Who does this sound like? This sounds like all of us who have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:11-13

Second, Paul's commission involved a different focus, _____.

1. The kingdom program of Israel called for the conversion of _____ first. Isaiah 60:1-3
2. This is why Christ's commissions to the _____ required that they begin executing their commissions at Jerusalem.
 - *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* **Luke 24:47**
3. As soon as Paul was converted to Christ on the road to Damascus, Christ made it clear that His commission to Paul would be different. Acts 26:14-18

- In fact, when Paul went to Jerusalem, Christ commanded him to get _____ of Jerusalem quickly because Christ would send Paul far hence to the _____. Acts 22:17-21

Third, Paul's commission involved a new _____, the gospel of Christ.

1. In 1 Corinthians 9:17, Paul stated that "...a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me."
2. Between Acts 9 and 13, Paul spent _____ years in Arabia and Damascus. What was he doing? He was receiving the special gospel message that the Lord would have him preach to the Gentiles. Galatians 1:11-12
3. We see Paul preaching it for the first time in Acts 13:38-39. It was the message that sinners could be totally forgiven and justified before God _____ from the Law of Moses.
4. This was a new message and Paul calls it "*the gospel of Christ.*"
 - "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" **Romans 1:16**
 - "*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*" **Galatians 1:7**
 - "*For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.*
What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel." **1 Corinthians 9:17-18**
5. This is the gospel that _____ is desperately trying to blind people from seeing. 2 Corinthians 4:4
6. Can you see why Satan would want to shift people's focus away from the commission of Paul? Paul's commission is our commission today.
7. As the former enemies of Christ, we are to take the gospel of Christ to people _____, without discrimination.