

Why is Paul in the Bible? – Part 3

Introduction

- One of the most significant events in the Word of God is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, later known as the apostle _____. Acts 9:1-9
- The conversion of Paul marked the beginning of the unfolding of the mystery of God's purpose and grace for the past 2,000 years.
- Why Paul? Why is he in the Bible? If Christ already had twelve apostles that he had trained for over three years, why was there a need for another apostle?
- In this lesson, we will seek to answer the question from God's Word, "Why Paul?"

I. Paul was given divine truth that had previously been kept _____.

II. Paul was given the special office of _____ apostleship.

III. Paul was given to be a _____ for the body of Christ today.

1. It has often been taught that the twelve apostles represent the _____, just as the twelve patriarchs represented Israel in the Old Testament. This conclusion is without Scriptural foundation.
 - Matthew 19:28 makes it very clear that the _____ apostles represent the nation of Israel.
 - A fulfillment of Isaiah 1:25-26.
 - *"And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:
And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city."* **Isaiah 1:25-26**
2. God raised up a separate apostle, distinct from the twelve to represent us, the body of Christ. This, of course, was the apostle Paul. Colossians 1:24-25

3. The great mystery revealed to Paul was that Jews or Gentiles (who were once at enmity) could now be reconciled into one _____ by the cross-work of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:11-18, 3:6
4. Paul is the pattern that aptly represents this one body of Jews and Gentiles.
 - Paul was born a _____. Philippians 3:5
 - But Paul was born a _____, too. Acts 22:25-28
 - Paul was a Jew and a Roman in _____ body!
5. Not only this, but Paul was the former _____ of Christ, who was now reconciled to God by sheer grace. This too aptly represents the body of Christ today. Colossians 1:20-21
6. Paul declares that he is a “...pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.” **1 Timothy 1:16**
7. What do you do with a pattern? You _____ it. Philippians 3:17, 4:9
 - “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.”
1 Corinthians 4:16-17
 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” **1 Corinthians 11:1**
 - “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
2 Timothy 2:2