

Why is Paul in the Bible? – Part 4

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.

IV. Paul was given to _____ the Word of God.

1. Paul states three things very clearly in Colossians 1:25:
 - God made Paul a minister.
 - God dispensed truth to Paul which he in turn gave to the church.
 - This body of _____ fulfilled the Word of God.
 - The word "fulfill" means "to _____, to finish."
2. Before Paul, the Bible was basically broken down into two categories: the _____, and the _____. Matthew 5:17, 7:12, 22:40
 - *"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."* **John 1:45**
3. God dispensed to the apostle Paul new revelation, which had previously been kept secret.

4. Paul did not receive God's Word in one revelation, but rather, a _____ of revelations. Paul refers to it as an "abundance of revelations."

2 Corinthians 12:7

- Paul received a revelation from Christ at his _____, but Christ made it clear that Paul could expect further revelations. Acts 26:16
 - Paul received a revelation concerning the grace and gospel found in the _____. Galatians 1:11-12
 - *"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."* **Romans 3:22**
 - Paul received revelations all during the book of _____ (Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Romans).
 - Paul received revelations while in _____, after the book of Acts concluded (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon).
5. God had a mystery that He kept hidden. God would take believing Jews and Gentiles and bring them together in Christ to form a new organism, the _____ of Christ.
- This truth is _____ found in the law or in prophecy.
6. The truths of all that would be accomplished through the cross work of Christ and the new organism that would be created (the body of Christ) was a _____ until revealed to, and through, Paul. Ephesians 3:2-5
7. This is why Paul said that it was given to him to fulfill, or complete, God's Word. Paul's ministry wasn't to _____ to the law or add to the prophetic program of Israel. God gave to Paul _____ revelation for us, the body of Christ!