

# Why is Paul in the Bible?

## 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?"

## Paul was given divine \_\_\_\_\_ that had previously been kept secret.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had been well-schooled in God's prophetic plan.
  - Israel would be the vehicle through which the \_\_\_\_\_ nations would have the knowledge of God and of Christ, as Messiah and King.
2. The twelve knew this plan and were anxiously awaiting its fulfillment. Acts 1:6
  - They knew that the prophetic plan had to begin with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel. Matthew 10:23; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8
  - Acts 3:19-26 is a key passage which reveals the twelve's understanding of God's prophetic plan.
3. When persecution arose in Jerusalem, and the believing Jews were scattered, the twelve bravely \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, firmly committed to God's prophetic plan. Acts 8:1
4. But hidden in God was a \_\_\_\_\_ time period that God did not reveal to anybody, including the twelve. Paul called it "...the dispensation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God..." Ephesians 3:2
5. This body of truth concerning God's grace was kept \_\_\_\_\_. It was a mystery in previous time, but revealed in due time to the apostle Paul by direct revelation of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:1-10; Colossians 1:25-27

- It was revealed that Christ's death was, in fact, a blessing and the source of God's \_\_\_\_\_. Christ made a full atonement for the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ mankind on the cross.
6. The twelve had never explained the cross in this light before. Why is this? Simply because it was not \_\_\_\_\_ yet. This was the good news that God revealed to Paul. Galatians 1:11-12, 2:2, 6-9
- Peter understood that the prophets had foretold Christ's death, but they did not preach or understand the \_\_\_\_\_ for sin on the cross. They did not understand the redemption, reconciliation, or forgiveness that was to be extended to mankind through the death of Christ on the cross.  
Acts 2:23-24, 37-38, 3:13-20, 4:2, 10-12, 33, 5:29-32, 7:52-53, 8:12, 35-37, 10:39-43
7. Do you see now why God raised up Paul? God saved His chief enemy and extended to him grace. To this man God would make known the fact that God was now going to give to \_\_\_\_\_ of His enemies in the world a time of unprecedented grace.
8. God would send His grace directly to the world through the work of atonement that Christ made for \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross.

**Next week we will continue to answer the question, "Why Paul?"**

# Why is Paul in the Bible? – Part 2

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## I. Paul was given divine truth that had previously been kept \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Paul was given the special office of \_\_\_\_\_ apostleship.

1. A Gentile is anyone that is not a Jew. Paul himself was a \_\_\_\_\_, therefore his burden was to see his people (the nation of Israel) repent and accept Christ as their Messiah.
2. Soon after his conversion to Christ, Paul traveled to Jerusalem for this purpose.
3. God made it clear that He had another \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul. God would send him to the Gentiles with special revelation that we saw under point number one. Acts 22:18, 21, 26:16-18
4. Over and over again, Paul affirms that his message and ministry were aimed directly at the Gentile church.
5. In fact, in Romans 11:13 Paul declares, "*...I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.*"
  - Paul was not magnifying his \_\_\_\_\_, but rather his \_\_\_\_\_. He was given the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gentile apostleship. Galatians 2:7-8; Ephesians 3:1, 8
  - "*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*" **Romans 15:16**

6. \_\_\_\_\_ personally ordained and appointed Paul to this office.  
1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11
7. Peter and Paul both preached Christ, but in different ways.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ preached Christ as Israel's risen Messiah. Acts 3:19-21
  - \_\_\_\_\_ preached Christ as the risen Head of a new organism, called the body of Christ, where there is no Jew or Gentile. Colossians 1:26-27
8. To Paul was revealed that Israel had been temporarily \_\_\_\_\_ off as the Gentiles were cut off. Now a Jew must come to Christ the same way a Gentile does, through the grace of God and \_\_\_\_\_ in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Romans 10:12-13
9. There is so much confusion in Christendom today. The answer is for people to recognize who their God-appointed \_\_\_\_\_ and apostle is – the apostle Paul.

# Why is Paul in the Bible? – Part 3

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## 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**

# Why is Paul in the Bible? – Part 4

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### 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!