

St. Paul

The First Missionary

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St. Paul

St. Paul was a Jewish rabbi. He worked as a tent maker to make an income. Since he was a rabbi, he knew the Jewish faith. He knew the old testament "the Torah" known as the Jewish books. As a rabbi he was a judge and he judged St. Stephen the first martyr.

St. Paul

Saul was called St. Paul when he became Christian. He went to Ephesus. He was a good servant and a missionary.

(Acts 9:1-5)

What a servant needs to know before serving?

St. Paul went on 3 journeys and the 4th to Rome. In his turning point of Christian faith, he said "who are you, Lord?". This was his first spiritual journey. He left the old man "Saul" behind and now he is St. Paul.

St. Paul's Journeys

- St. Paul at Damascus 37-40 AD
- First Journey (Acts 13-14) 45-47 AD
- Second Journey (Acts 16-18) 51-53 AD
- Third Journey (Acts 18-21) 54-58 AD
- Imprisonment in Judea 58-60 AD
- Voyage to Rome (Acts 27-28) 60-61 AD
- Imprisonment in Rome 61-63 AD
- Post-Imprisonment Journey 63-67 AD

(Acts 15)

St. Paul had a dual citizenship, Roman and Jewish. He would use his citizenship of the country he was at. He was against Jews putting obstacles in front of gentiles (anyone who is not Jewish) during the unofficial Council of the church.

St. Paul argued with Aries the priest about his biggest heresy in the church.

(Acts 15:6)

A yoke means binding.

After reading the 4 Gospels then reading the book of Acts, we see how the word of God spread around the world.

Antioch, Syria

Antioch, Syria is the first place where the followers of Christ were called Christians. During liturgy we mention the "Universal church" which is all over the world.

St. Paul Evangelized in Greece

When St. Paul went to evangelize, the Jews didn't want to hear him. The Jews tried to stone him. Instead he started to preach to the gentiles in Greece. He traveled to the Mediterranean Sea even though it was dangerous because there are many rivers flowing in it (e.g. the Nile River) and he was shipwrecked. He had a chronic disease that was painful during that time.

(Acts 17:18)

- During his second journey, he made a stop at Greece. To the Greeks, St. Paul was a proclaimer of a new god (the Lord Jesus Christ).
- He spoke to the people of Athens and said "to the unknown god, you worship, I proclaim to you." Now Athens, Greece has one of the largest Christian population.

Ephesus

In Ephesus, the Christians were faithful. St. Paul wrote 14 letters to Ephesus to follow up. He said "you have lost your first love" in Revelations. He kept writing letters even in prison.

(2 Timothy 4:7)

- During his third journey, he re-visits the same cities. He was a missionary. He said "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
- St. James called him the bondservant because he was completely serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last Journey to Rome

During his last journey, he goes to Rome in front of Caesar. Then, he goes under house arrest and he kept writing. He knew about God and he finally knew God.