

12—Paul, the Least of All The Apostles

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:9 Paul refers to himself as “*the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*” When are we first introduced to Paul (called Saul) and what is he doing in this passage (see Acts 6:5, 8; 7:57-60)? What were his feelings toward Christians in his younger days (Acts 7:54-8:3)?
2. What special advantage did Paul have that most of the other apostles did not (see Acts 22:25-29)? How would this have helped him in his preaching travels? Where was Paul trained as a Pharisee and who trained him (Acts 22:3)?
3. What were the Pharisees known for? What had Jesus condemned the Pharisees for in Matthew 23?
4. The accounts concerning the conversion of Saul are found in Acts 9, 22, and 26. Briefly describe the events which brought about this great change in Saul? Who was sent to speak to Saul and what did he instruct Saul to do? What would be Saul’s God-given mission when he became a disciple (9:15-16)?
5. How did the believers in Jerusalem feel when they heard Saul had converted and who vouched for him (Acts 9:20-28)? How did the Jews feel about his conversion and what do the brethren do to protect Saul? What lessons can we learn from this example?

6. From Jerusalem, where does Saul go as he continues to learn and grow (Galatians 1:17)?

7. Because it was dangerous to stay in Jerusalem, who does Paul go to teach (Acts 11:19-21)? What are these believers called according to Acts 11:25-26? Why do they send Barnabas and Saul to Jerusalem for a short stint (Acts 11:28-30)?

8. Paul would face angry mobs, miles of travel, and other hardships in his mission. What were some of Paul’s great trials (2 Corinthians 11:23-29)? What would he need to rely on to accomplish God’s will (Acts 9:15; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Ephesians 6:20; Philippians 1:19; 4:13)?

	Epistle	Possible dates of writing*	Possible dates of writing**	Possible dates of writing***
1	Galatians	AD 49-55	AD 49	AD 49
2	1 Thessalonians	AD 51-22	AD 51	AD 51
3	2 Thessalonians	AD 51-22	AD 52	AD 51
4	1 Corinthians	AD 55	AD 55	AD 56
5	2 Corinthians	AD 56	AD 56	AD 57
6	Romans	AD 57-58	AD 57-58	AD 57
7	Ephesians	AD 60-61	AD 62	AD 61
8	Philippians	AD 60-61	AD 62-63	AD 61
9	Colossians	AD 61	AD 62	AD 61
10	Philemon	AD 61	AD 62	AD 61
11	Titus	AD 62-67	AD 65-66	AD 64
12	1 Timothy	AD 63-66	AD 65	AD 64
13	2 Timothy	AD 67	AD 67	AD 66-67

9. What key lesson must we remember if we will “live godly in Christ Jesus?” (2 Timothy 3:12)?

10. Paul went on four journeys going from city to city preaching Christ. As you think of Paul, what are some of the most impressive aspects of his character, work, and teachings? How does meditating upon the life of Paul inspire you in some way today?