**Paul’s Background**

* His city of birth was Tarsus, the capital city of the Roman province of Cilicia (Acts 22:3). He was of the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5).
* His given name was Saul, and Luke uses that name until Acts 13:9, when he writes*, “Then Saul, who also is called Paul…”* From that point on Luke uniformly calls him Paul.
* He was raised in Jerusalem, and educated by Gamaliel (cf. Acts 5:34), an influential rabbi. (Acts 22:3).
* He was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6; Philippians 3:5), with great zeal (Galatians 1:14).
* He was a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37; 22:25-29)
* His obsession – Persecuting the church of God (Philippians 3:6; cf. Acts 7:58 – 8:3; 9:1-2)
* Post conversion purpose – to preach the gospel to all men (cf. Romans 1:15-16), with a special calling to the Gentiles (cf. Acts 9:15-16; 13:46-48)

**Paul’s Major Life Events**

* Persecuted the Church (Acts 7:58 – 8:3; 9:1-2)
* Conversion (Acts 9; 22:9-16)
* First Missionary Journey (Acts 12:25-14:28)
* Council in Jerusalem concerning the requirement of circumcision (Acts 15)
* Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)
* Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:17)
* Arrest and Defenses in Jerusalem (Acts 21 – 26)
* Journey to Rome, w/ shipwreck (Acts 27:1-28:16)
* House arrest in Rome (Acts 28:8-31)
* **Note:** Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome. However, his later epistles tell us a little about his life following the two years spent there.
	+ While in prison, he wrote of his desire to visit the Philippians (Philippians 1:26; 2:24)
	+ Wrote of his desire to visit Philemon in Colosse (Philemon 22)
	+ Tradition has him visiting Spain. He had expressed his desire to do so to the Romans (Romans 15:24,28)
	+ Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus indicated further travels to: Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3; 3:14-15); Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3); Crete (Tit. 1:5); Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20); back to Ephesus (2 Tim. 1:16-18); Troas (2 Tim. 4:13); Corinth (2 Tim. 4:20); Nicopolis (Titus 3:12)
* Paul’s second letter to Timothy indicates a probable second imprisonment in Rome, with a harsher treatment (2 Timothy 2:8-9)
* The Bible does not record his Paul’s death

**Paul’s Discourses**

* His sermon at Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:15-41)
* His sermon in Athens (Acts 17:22-32)
* His address to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-36)
* His defense at Jerusalem (Acts 22:1-22)
* His defense before Felix (Acts 24:10-21)
* His defense before Agrippa (Acts 26:1-29)

**Paul’s Epistles**  *(In Chronological Order)*

1 Thessalonians; 2 Thessalonians; 1 Corinthians; 2 Corinthians; Galatians; Romans; Philemon; Colossians; Ephesians; Philippians; 1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy

**Paul’s Autobiography**

* His humility (Acts 14:15; 20:19; 2 Cor. 10:12-18; 12; Gal. 6:14-15)
* His care for the churches (Acts 15:36; 20:31; Rom. 1:9-12; Rom. 9:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:4; 7:8-9; Phil. 1:8; Col. 2:1-3; 1 Thess. 1:2-4; 2:8-9; 3; Philemon 7)
* His willingness to compromise (Acts 16:3; 1 Cor. 8:13; 10:14-15)
* His unwillingness to compromise (Gal. 2:1-5, 11-21)
* His sacrifices (Acts 21:13; 2 Cor. 11:16-33; Phil. 4:10-14)
* His history (Acts 22:3-5,25-28; 26:4-5; Gal. 1:13-14; 1 Tim. 1:12-16)
* His conversion (Acts 22:6-16)
* His apostleship (Acts 22:17-21; 26:12-20; Rom. 1:1; 15:18-21; 1 Cor. 1:1; 4:9-13; 9:1-2; 15:8-10; 2 Cor. 1:1; 11:5-6; Gal. 1:1, 11-17; 2:7-10; Eph. 1:1; 3:1-13; Col. 1:1, 24-29; 1 Thess. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:5-7; 2 Tim. 1:1; Tit. 1:1)
* His good conscience (Acts 23:1; 26:9; 2 Tim. 1:3-5)
* His zeal (Rom. 1:14-16; 10:1; Phil. 3:13-16)
* His wretchedness (Rom. 7:7-25)
* A spiritual father to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2)
* His confidence (Phil. 1:21-23; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8)