

CHANGED LIVES

Lesson 10

SAUL OF TARSUS (WHO HE WAS):

Acts 22:27, 28

Philippians 3:4-6

Act 22:2, 3

Acts 26:4, 5

Galatians 1:13, 14

Acts 7:58 – 8:3

Acts 9:1, 2

I Timothy 1:13, 14

Did you Notice:

Saul: means “asked for”, “inquired of God”

Acts 22:27, 28 Saul was born a Roman citizen and free. This would suggest that his family was also wealthy and philanthropic. Growing up in Tarsus provided an education in the “little Athens for learning”. Taught in school of the philosophy and poetry of the Greeks.

Acts 23:6 Saul was the son of a Pharisee. Taught the laws of God and practiced strictly in his childhood.

Philippians 3:4-6 Saul was one to FULLY follow the teachings of the Scriptures and had for his entire life. Tradition suggests that he was only 4 ½ feet tall (quite the contrast to King Saul who was taller than everyone else). Benjamin was considered the “kingly tribe”.

Acts 26:13 Saul had a sister and nephew.

Act 22:2, 3 Saul was taught by Gamaliel. At traditional age of 14 was sent to University in Jerusalem to study under the eminent Pharisee, Gamaliel. Highly respected and listened to (see Acts 5) even among the Sanhedrin.

Acts 18:3 Saul was a tentmaker. Even religious leaders were to have a trade for difficult times. It was imperative for every father to teach their child a trade (otherwise thought they were teaching the child to “steal”.)

Acts 26:4, 5 Saul’s reputation was known from his home country to Jerusalem.

Galatians 1:13, 14 Saul was a successful Pharisee and increasing his standing.

Acts 7:58 – 8:3 Saul apparently was an active supporter of the stoning of Stephen and enabled others to be involved. This was just the start of his persecution of Christians.

Acts 9:1,2 The selection of Damascus was significant. Main travel route that connected Egypt with the rest of the Empire. Other main route led from Asia Minor (including Greece & ultimately Rome) to the eastern part of the Kingdom (Babylon area and beyond). The church had spread out of Jerusalem and into Judea and Samaria. Damascus was located on a major road that would lead from one end of the Roman Empire to the other. Saul was trying to contain the spread of Christianity.

I Timothy 1:13, 14 Saul testifies of his own “violent” nature.

What lessons can you learn for YOUR life?