

# THE QUEENS MINISTRY

## BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

### LESSON: THE PAULINE EPISTLES

Elder Mary Ellis – Facilitator

Sept. 2020

Bishop Andy C. Lewter – Senior Pastor

\*\*\*\*\*  
“God has given me the responsibility of serving His church by proclaiming His entire message to you.” Col. 1:25

#### Part 1      Paul's Story

Who was the man called Paul - who became an influential follower of Christ?

Born in the city of Tarsus – around 5 BC or 5 AD – 64 or 67 AD

Born into the tribe of Benjamin – though he alludes to parents in scripture their names are not known

A Roman citizen

Known also by his Hebrew name of Saul

A deeply religious man, and a righteous Jew; a Pharisee – zealous for the Law of Moses

Brilliant scholar, educated and trained by the well-respected Rabbi, Gamaliel

Makes his entrance in the Bible in the books of Acts – overseeing and witnessing the death of Stephen

Widely known as the Persecutor of the early Christian church

“As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.” Acts 8:3

Converted and transformed while traveling on the road to Damascus – in pursuit of Christians

Blinded by the light of Jesus; eventually is baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit - studied under the disciple Ananias

After putting his faith in Jesus, Paul immediately began preaching publicly and he quickly built a reputation as a formidable teacher. \*

3-year wilderness experience – Desert of Arabia; receives the revelation of the Gospel thru Jesus (Gal. 1:11-17) – begins the work of ministry alongside the established disciple - Barnabas

Preacher, Teacher, Missionary (three well-traveled journeys) Tentmaker, Miracle-Worker

Prolific letter-writer, Church-Planter, Overseer, Visionary, Mentor, Church Leader

Prisoner, Persecuted

Tireless Champion of Christianity

Becomes known as the Apostle to the Gentiles

Throughout the rest of Acts, Paul is a prominent figure who plays a pivotal role in bringing the gospel to non-Jewish communities.\*

While Paul's status as a Pharisee and his intense devotion to the Law might have made him well-suited to preach to the Jews, Paul had a different calling. Before Paul ever preached the gospel, Jesus said, "This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15) \*

## Part 2 Paul' Work

"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:2-3

"I became a servant of the church because God gave me a special work to do. This work helps you. My work is to tell the complete message of God." Col. 1:25 (ERV)

"This is my work and I can do it only because of Christ's mighty energy is at work within me." Col. 1:29

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation." Romans 15:20\*

## Part 3 Points of Interest

What lessons can we learn from the life of Paul?

1. GOD can use anybody! Your past does not determine your future nor your value to GOD.
2. Sometimes we must be "knocked down" off our high place – position; or from our attitude of haughtiness in order to hear GOD
3. GOD will use all of you! – if you are willing, for His glory. What may seem like a negative trait or characteristic to you – GOD can turn it around for His good
4. We can be forgiven! GOD loves us enough that He will cleanse us from our sins
5. People won't always recognize the new life in you – they'll try to hold you to your past; don't be discourage - keep living for GOD
6. Seeking to know Jesus more – leads to a greater understanding of His ways and His plans
7. The Holy Spirit will empower and lead you in the work of kingdom building – He will give you the courage you need to stand firm
8. Encountering Jesus will change your life! Your plans! Your direction!
9. He was willing to serve – even through the hardships, challenges, and life-threatening situations; he persevered and remained focus on the work of GOD
10. He mentored and became a spiritual father to many – passing his knowledge onto others to continue the work
11. He was willing to confront boldly difficult situations in the church – speaking truth to power often
12. GOD has a purpose for every one of us - which can lead to a real adventure for those that are willing to cooperate
13. He was obedient and sensitive to the leading of the Spirit
14. He developed a genuine love for GOD – serving Him fully

Think about it

- What was your life changing experience that you knew only GOD could have turned you around?
- Who are you mentoring – who are you sharing the knowledge you've received with? How are you sharing your knowledge and love of GOD?

- What part of Paul's ministry work has caused you to rethink what you can do in the kingdom?

\*(Who was the Apostle Paul – by Ryan Nelson – internet article 2-28-19)

## **Part 4      Paul's Letters**

The Apostle Paul wrote 13 letters to different churches, pastors, or individuals, in order to guide, encourage, and correct them. Most of these letters or epistles served a specific purpose or addressed a specific question or problem. Many, if not all, of the letters, were circulated among the churches

"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren." 1 Thess. 5:27

As we see from Paul's own letters, he was highly respected in the increasingly scattered Christian communities, many of which he started himself. His letters frequently addressed problems and questions these churches wrote to him about. \*

Brief review of each letter in chronological order

### **GALATIANS**

- Written as early as AD 48 or 49; or as late as AD 54 or 55; from Antioch
- To the churches in Galatia (founded on 1<sup>st</sup> journey to Iconium, Lystra, Derbe); to all Christians
- To warn against legalism and to defend the belief of justification by faith not works
- To affirm Paul's authority as an Apostle
- Outline by chapters:
  - 1-2 Paul's Defense of Apostolic Authority
  - 3-4 Justification by Faith
  - 5-6 Living the Christian Life
- Key Verses – Galatians 5:22-23; 5:1
- The book of Galatians is the charter of Christian freedom. In this letter Paul proclaims the reality of our liberty in Christ – freedom from the law and the power of sin and freedom to serve our Lord. Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus only – and is for all people – Jews and Gentiles

Concern – new converts, non-Jews adherence to the Mosaic Law

### **1 THESSALONIANS**

- Written around AD 50 -52 – church was established during his 2<sup>nd</sup> journey
- First of two letters to the church at Thessalonica – written from the city of Corinth
- To emphasize Christ's return
- To stress the importance of commitment and to strengthen the Christians in their faith
- To challenge the believers to godly living
- Outline by chapters:
  - 1-3 Faith and example
  - 4 Living for God

## 4-5 Christ' Return

- Key Verses: 1 Thess. 5:16-22; 4:14
- He wrote this letter to encourage the young believers that was a part of the church. He wanted to assure them of his love, to praise them for their faithfulness during persecution, and to remind them of their hope in the sure return of the Lord Jesus. Paul offers practical advice for Christian living and reminder to be prepared for the Lord' second coming. He also offers comfort to those who loved ones had died before Christ' return
- Of note He sends Timothy to encourage them in the faith.

Concern: Young Christians, dealing with persecution and death. The delayed return of Christ

## 2 THESSALONIANS

- Written around AD 50 -52 – church was established during his 2<sup>nd</sup> journey
  - Second of two letters to the church at Thessalonica – written from the city of Corinth
  - To emphasize Christ's return
  - To stress the importance of commitment and to strengthen the Christians in their faith
  - To encourage the believers
  - Outline by chapters:
    - 1 Praise and encouragement
    - 2 To clear up confusion about Christ's Return
    - 3 Believers' commitment to pray and work
- Key Verses: 2 Thess. 3:4-6
  - He wrote this as a follow up letter a few months after 1 Thessalonians to continue his encouragement of the young believers. He also sent this letter to help correct the confusion surrounding the return of Jesus. Many in the church had misunderstood his earlier message and thought he meant that Christ' return would be immediate; so some had stop working and were idle – using Paul' teaching to support their idleness.
  - This letter intended to give further instructions concerning the second coming and to point out that a number of events would occur before then. Paul also exhorts the readers to be prepared for His coming by working to spread the gospel, helping those in need and building the church. He also praised them for their patience and steadfastness during persecution.

Concern: Young Christians, dealing with persecution and death. The delayed return of Christ

## 1 Corinthians

- Written around AD 55-56 – the church was established during his 2nd journey
- First of two letters to the church at Corinth – written from the city of Ephesus
- To address division in the church
- To deal with the issues of immorality and idolatry
- To encourage the believers to love each other and show forth unity
- Outline by chapters:

1-4 Divisions and Disorders in the church

5-11 Answers to the questions of morality and idolatry

## 12-14 Instructions on Public Worship

## 15-16 Instructions of the Resurrection

- Key Verses: 1 Cor. 1:10, 13:4-5
- Paul wrote this letter to help the believers deal with their environment; Corinth was a large, corrupt city. Many of the members were Gentiles and were having a hard time aligning their faith with the visible display of sinfulness – many felt pressure to adapt and did.
- Paul’s letter responds to the questions sent to him about the struggles the church was having – he provided solutions and teachings to help the believers live for Christ. He cautioned the readers not to blend in with the world and accept its values and lifestyles, but to live Christ-centered lives; loving and caring for one another.
- He also gave instructions on spiritual matters concerning worship and the roles and action of the leaders and members.

Concern: Corruption, Sexual immorality, idolatry, public worship, spiritual immaturity, and division among members

## 2 Corinthians

- Written around AD 56 – the church was established during his 2nd journey
- Second of two letters to the church at Corinth – written from the city of Philippi (Macedonia)
- To defend Paul’s authority as an Apostle
- To deal with the false teachings; to address deceivers
- To encourage giving
- Outline by chapters:
  - 1-7 Apostolic Characteristics – explanation of his actions
  - 8-9 The Organization and Collection of Funds; Matters of Financial Support
  - 10-13 Paul’s Defense
- Key Verses: 2 Cor. 5:20, 12:9
- Paul had written three letters before this one (two are “lost”)
- Paul wrote this letter to address those that were denying his authority in the Corinthian church. Most of the members had received Paul’ response to the church issues with the right spirit – but there were some stirring up confusion and twisting the truth.
- Paul addresses these individuals in this letter with a listing of his credentials. He denounces the false teaching trying to invade the church and charges the believers to be committed to the truth of GOD’s word and to be wary of false teachers. He also focuses on the issue of collecting money for the poor Christians in Jerusalem and their ability to show love and contribute.
- In this letter Paul was willing to be transparent – many see this letter as a personal, autobiographical account of his ministry and relationship with GOD.

Concern: Deception and slander, false teaching, affirmation of his apostleship, issue of financial support

## Romans

- Written around AD 57 – the church was established by Jewish believers
- Written to the church at Rome – written from the city of Corinth

- To illustrate the elements of the Law
- To share what the Gospel meant concerning Faith, Salvation and Righteous Living
- To introduce himself to the congregation and to give a sample of his message before he arrived
- Outline by chapters:
  - 1-8 Christian Gospel – The Good News
  - 9-11 How Israel fit into GOD's plan
  - 10-13 Living the Christian Life
- Key Verses: Rom.5:1, 10:9-10, 12:1-2
- The NKJV Bible Commentary says that Paul wrote Romans as an organized and carefully presented statement of his faith; it does not have the form of his typical letters. Paul did not establish this church but felt a bond with the believers and desired to visit with them. He sends this letter as an introduction to who he was and his faith or belief in the Gospel.
- He lays out the facts of the Gospel and his allegiance to it. He also points out to the church the necessity of GOD's intervention on behalf of sinful mankind. He lets them know that salvation offered by GOD through Jesus is for everyone, regardless of their identity, sin, or heritage. That we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Paul talks about the freedom in Christ, that Christians were no longer bound to the domination of the law – but, he cautioned, that freedom came with responsibility to God and each other. Paul shares with the church the need for unity – the Roman church was mostly Jewish but contained a great number of Gentiles.
- The final chapters talk about what it means to live the Christian life. Paul loved the believers in Rome and hoped to visit with them while traveling to Spain after first stopping in Jerusalem to deliver the collection he had for the church there.
- Many have referred to this letter as the Roman Road To Salvation!

Concern: Introduction to an unknown congregation, explaining the tenets of the Gospel, Harmony and Unity

## Philemon

- Written around AD 60-62 – one of four letters written during this same period
- Written to Philemon a member of the Colossian church
- Written from the city of Rome – while Paul is a prisoner (his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment)
- To appeal to Philemon to forgive and receive Onesimus, a runaway slave, as a brother in the faith
- A personal letter to a friend
- Outline by verses: (one chapter)
  - 1-3 Greetings to Philemon
  - 4-7 Recalling Philemon' Love and Faith
  - 8-22 Paul's Appeal / Request
  - 23-25 Paul's Final Greetings and Farewell
- Key Verses: Philemon 15-6, 17-19
- The NKJV Commentary points out that Roman, Greek, and Jewish cultures were filled with barriers; not the kind that are made of wood, wire or stone but personal obstructions that block people from

each other and GOD. These societal barriers assigned people to classes, status, gender, wealth, religion, and nationality or culture.

- But Paul preached a Gospel message that said Jesus has broken down these barriers or walls. That there was no difference in Christ; for Christ was all and in all. (Col. 3:11) His message was a radical one in his day and even somewhat now! Paul's personal letter was written to persuade a rich slave owner to forgive and extend mercy and lovingkindness.
- Paul acknowledges Onesimus wrong and sin but shares with Philemon that he had received Christ and forgiveness and was now a believer. In his appeal Paul is asking Philemon to take him back not just as a slave but as a brother – to open his heart to reconciliation and Christian fellowship. We also point out that though slavery is condemned in this day – it was a common practice in Paul's day.

Concern: Reconciliation and Forgiveness

## **Colossians**

- Written around AD 60-62 – one of four letters written during this same period
- Written to the church at Colossae
- Written from the city of Rome – while Paul is a prisoner (his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment)
- To counteract heretical teachings / teachers
- To encourage and exhort the believers
- Outline by chapters:
  - 1 Thanksgiving
  - 1-2 Work of Christ
  - 3-4 Finish the Race
  - 4 Final Greetings
- Key Verses: Col. 1:9, 2:9-10
- Heretical – unorthodox teachings and doctrines, were very detrimental to the new Christian faith. Paul in his letter to the church at Colossae was exposing the false teachings that was trying to creep into the church – these teachings were a mixed bag of misconceptions concerning Christ. One in particular that Paul combated, said that it took special knowledge to be accepted by GOD – Paul disputes this in his writing and tells the church that it's "not what we know that brings salvation but **whom** we know – that knowing Christ is knowing GOD."
- Paul also commends the Colossians for their faith, love, and hope – three main components of Christianity. Paul finishes his letter with exhortations to stay connected and in union with Christ through prayer and to remember that in Christ we have all that we need for salvation and to live the Christian life. Paul sends multiple greetings from those that were with him – this included Epaphras, who founded this congregation.
- Epaphras, was a member of the Colossian church, who knew Paul while he lived in Ephesus. Epaphras was converted and returned to his hometown to start the church. Paul also shares in this letter that he is sending Onesimus back to Colossae.

Concern: To combat false teachings; heresy

## **Ephesians**

- Written around AD 60-62 – one of four letters written during this same period
- Written to the church at Ephesus

- Written from the city of Rome – while Paul is a prisoner (his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment)
- To show believers what it means to be a follower of Christ
- To encourage them in their spiritual walk
- To explain the nature and purpose of the church – the body of Christ
- Outline by chapters:

### 1-3 Spiritual Blessings

### 4-6 The Christian Life

- Key Verses: Eph. 2:8-9, 4:4-6
- The church of Ephesus was established in AD 53, while Paul was headed toward Jerusalem at the end of his second journey. Paul returns a year later and spends 3 years with the church – preaching and teaching. He was very close to this local congregation.
- Paul wrote this letter to encourage the church – to strengthen their faith. He sent the letter by Tychicus who was with Paul while he was in Rome – as mentioned in Colossians. Paul writes of the blessings showered on believers in Christ.
- He writes of the unity of the church, using the comparison of the human body as an example of the importance of being connected. He uses other “pictures” of the church, comparing it to a temple, mystery, new man, bride, and a soldier. He reminds the believers of their responsibility as Christians, as individuals, as family members and as church members.
- Paul stresses the need to be prepared for spiritual battle – and to stay prayerful, praying for all.

Concern: No specific problem noted

## **Philippians**

- Written around AD 60-62 – one of four letters written during this same period
- Written to the church at Philippi
- Written from the city of Rome – while Paul is a prisoner (his 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment)
- To express Paul’s love and affection for the Philippian church
- To thank the church for their generosity
- To strengthen the believers in the joy of the Lord in living the Christian life
- Outline by chapters:

### 1 Joy of Life

### 2 Humility of Christ

### 3 Finish the Race

### 4 Thankfulness

- Key Verses: Phil. 2:14-15, 4:4
- Paul and his companions began the church on his second journey – it was the first church established on the European continent – in Macedonia (modern day Greece)
- NKJV Bible Commentary calls this letter Paul’s “Joy” letter. He found great joy in being connected to them and wrote them a personal expression of his love and affection. It is also considered a joyful book because it emphasizes the real joy of the Christian life. The concept of joy or rejoicing appears 16 times in the letter.
- This special letter of rejoicing contrast sharply with Paul’s life of sometimes great hardships, suffering and pain. However, he also shared with the Philippian church that whatever his circumstances – he had learned contentment. Finding joy as he focused on Christ and not his

surroundings or circumstances. He even wrote this joyful letter while enduring his stay in a Roman prison!

- Paul found joy in knowing Christ and expressed this in his letter to the Philippians. The pages of this letter radiate his positive message.

Concern: To caution the believers about humility, unity, and other potential problems – such as relationships and reconciliation

## **1 Timothy**

- Written around AD 62-66 – possibly from the city of Rome (or Macedonia)
- Written to Timothy – a young leader / pastor in the church at Ephesus
- To deal with and to remove false doctrine
- To outline proper leadership and protocol in the church
- To confront false teachers
- To encourage and counsel Timothy
- Outline by chapters:

    1 Trouble in Ephesus

    2-3 Public Worship and Church Leadership

    4 False Teachers

    5 Exercise Discipline / Pastoral Care

    6 Paul's Advice to Timothy

- Key Verses: 1 Tim. 4:12-13
- Timothy, Paul's protégé, companion, and son-in-the-ministry. Timothy' mother and grandmother were also a great influence in his life. Paul wrote this letter to encourage and instruct Timothy in matters of the church.
- He offered practical advice for Timothy to help handle the multitude of pressures, conflicts, and challenges from the church and the environment. In the letter he affirms their relationship and offers fatherly advice.
- He also warns Timothy of false teachers and exhorts him to hold on to his faith. Paul shares with Timothy the need to recognize false teachers and how to respond to them. Paul also addresses the practices of public worship – stressing the need of prayer and order. And, He also lays out the specific standards for the offices (officers) of the church.
- In his final words to Timothy he tells him to look out for members of the congregation with love and care – but he also emphasizes the need for Timothy to live above reproach. To guard his motives, to minister faithfully and to stand firm in the faith.
- This personal letter to a young leader in the church offers us many practical lessons to apply and adhere to. Some view this letter as a handbook of church administration and discipline.
- Interesting note – Paul wrote this letter probably just prior to his final imprisonment in Rome. Paul was most likely released from his first imprisonment, when he had appealed to Caesar to hear his case, and during the next few years traveled – it was during this time that he penned the letter to Timothy. Following Rome's intense persecution of Christians, he was thrown back into prison for the final time.

Concern: Confronting false teachers, advice and counsel for a young leader, church protocol

## Titus

- Written around AD 64-66 – possibly from the city of Rome (or Macedonia)
  - Written to Titus – a young leader in the church
  - To instruct and advise Titus on his responsibility of supervising the churches at Crete
  - To encourage the church to do good works
  - To assist Titus in his training and development of leaders in the church
  - To offer counsel on how to minister to various age-groups in the children
  - Outline by chapters:
    - 1 Instructions and Guidance
    - 2-3 Living the Faith
    - 3 Final instructions of Discipline
- Key Verses: Titus 1:5, 3:4-7
  - Titus, like Timothy was a young minister under Paul's wing and guidance. He was a Greek believer, taught and nurtured by Paul. His life was an example of what Christ was doing among the Gentiles. He also was a trusted companion and friend. He was sent by Paul to the island of Crete to represent and to oversee the churches there.
  - Paul's letter, like the one to Timothy laid out instructions and guidance in organizing the church. Paul lists the qualities of being an elder. He also identifies the responsibilities of Titus in leading the church and of those he would later appoint and train as leaders.
  - Mindful of the people' history, Paul would emphasize the discipline, and maturity of Christian living; he reminds them that obedience is important.
  - This letter to Titus gives us not only insight into the organization and life of the early church, but principles and structure that can be apply to modern day.

Concern: Instruction, Guidance, Discipline, Maturity, Encouragement

## 2 Timothy

- Written around AD 66-67
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> of two letters written to Timothy – from the city of Rome (probably during Paul's final imprisonment)
  - To encourage Timothy to remain faithful in ministry – even in suffering
  - To give final instructions and guidance
  - To pass the torch of leadership to the next generation of leaders (A Farewell)
  - Outline by chapters:
    - 1 Thanksgiving
    - 2 A Call to Remain Faithful
    - 3 The Authority of GOD's Word
    - 3-4 Leading a Godly Life
- Key Verses: 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:15-17
  - 2 Timothy is Paul's final letter – written at the end of his well-spent life, while languishing in a cold, Roman cell. He sensed that his end was near and penned this letter to Timothy to share his last

thoughts to his spiritual son. In the letter he reminds Timothy of what is important in life, encouraging his faith, and passing on the mantle of leadership (Reminds one of Elijah – Elisha)

- He also shares with Timothy what qualities are needed in a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, to remember his call and to use his gifts with boldness, to keep to the truth and sound doctrine, to prepare others to follow, to be ready and disciplined to endure hardship, to stay focus on Christ, to live upright and to study to prove himself a good steward of the word and to preach the word, readily.
- Paul also in his final words issues several warnings to Timothy: to be prepared for self-centered individuals who bring opposition to the church; to guard against false teachings; and to reject error and avoid idle babbling.
- Paul expresses his love for Timothy, his loneliness, and needs – making a list of requests to the Timothy, including asking him to come see him before the start of winter. As the NKJV Bible Commentary notes, Timothy was Paul's living legacy, a product of his teaching, discipleship, and example.

Concern: Encouragement in Leadership, Final guidance, Awareness of Opposition

## **Part 5                    Other Items of Interest**

Paul's letters had many similarities, including his trademark opening with a personal greeting and a statement of thanksgiving for their faith.

**Features of Paul's Letters:**

- 1) Introduction with his name**
- 2) Prayers for readers**
- 3) Answers to questions**
- 4) Addressing Issues**
- 5) Things to believe**
- 6) Things to put into practice**
- 7) Final Greetings/Salutations**

Salutations is from the Latin word *salutare, salus* it's literal meaning is "wish health to"

At the beginning of 9 of the 13 letters, Paul identified himself as an "Apostle of Christ. "**Apostle**" means in Greek "**to send.**"

Frequently in his opening address Paul called himself a **doulos**, meaning in Greek a "**slave**" for Christ: (see Romans 1:1 and Titus 1:1)

The letters were named for the individuals who were to receive them or for the location of where it was being sent. (usually where the church was located)

The Apostle Paul who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament in epistle form used an enhanced style of the Greco-Roman model of his day.

Rather than just say, greetings and identify himself, Paul also taught his recipients as he addressed them

His letters are didactic (informative and instructive) rather than just informational. The body of Paul's letters make up much of the theology of the Christian church.

One always sees the love and care Paul has for the people in the churches he established. In his personal letters to Timothy and Titus, one feels the tenderness of a good father. This kind of love is noticeably absent from ancient letters.

Paul dictated some of his letters and did have a problem with his eyes, but that may NOT have been his “thorn in the flesh.” (Read examples of others that “wrote” on behalf of Paul: Romans 16:22; II Thessalonians 3:16,17 also Gal 6:11)

Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” has been a subject of debate over a millennia.

The endings of Paul’s letters differ completely from ancient Greco-Roman endings; Only a handful of ancient letters displayed Paul’s love and affection shown in his letters. (Read II Corinthians 13:12; I Thessalonians 5:26; Ephesians 6:23, 24)

Love and concern and affection leap off the pages of Paul’s non-classic **benedictions**. Blessings issued at the end of his letters.

Through his letters we have one of the earliest information about Jesus. All his letters were written before the Gospel was penned.

Paul’s three (3) letters to Timothy and Titus are considered instructional in church leadership and organization and are referred to as **Pastoral Letters**.

**What about Hebrews?** - Early Church tradition teaches that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews, until around the 1800s, when the authorship was disputed as being Paul. Many still believe that Paul wrote this book and the debate continues as to who is the author of this important book.

### The Gentile Preacher of Jewish Roots – The Apostle Paul

**One of the most knowledgeable, influential, and beloved men of history is the Apostle Paul. He was a man of deep faith, undying love, constant hope, tenacious conviction, and profound insight. And He was inspired by the Holy Spirit to give us God’s message and he did. Fulfilling Jesus’ call – “This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel”**

**Paul withstood hardships, trials, persecution, and imprisonment in his quest to present the Gospel to the world. He understood his purpose and responsibility to kingdom building declaring:**

**“God has given me the responsibility of serving His church by proclaiming His entire message to you.”**

**We thank GOD for the life of the Apostle Paul.**