

# **A BIBLE APP**

## *Apostle Paul Project*

### **A. What did he do?**

1. Was used of the Holy Spirit to write almost half of the New Testament.
2. Was used of God to establish Christianity in much of the world of his day.
3. Provided one of the most reliable examples of the true Christian life ever.
4. Left a legacy of spiritual sons to carry on the work of the Gospel to the world.

### **B. What had he done?**

1. He cast his vote in favor of having Stephen stoned to death, Acts 8:1; 22:20.
2. He entered the houses of Christians, dragging both men and women to prison, Acts 8:3, and had some killed, Acts 22:4; 26:10.
3. Impassioned with menacing and slaughter of Christians, he was on his way to Damascus with letters from the High Priest to bring more Christians to Jerusalem to have them imprisoned and killed, Acts 9:1.
4. He punished Christians when he found them in synagogues, compelling them by force to blaspheme Christ, Acts 26:11.
5. He persecuted and ravaged the church, Gal. 1:13; 1 Cor. 15:9.
6. He was himself a blasphemer, and he enjoyed the pain his arrogant abuse was inflicting, 1 Tim. 1:13.

### **C. What happened?**

1. He was miraculously “arrested” by Jesus on the road to Damascus, Acts 9:3-6.
  2. He was a chosen vessel by Christ, Acts 9:15.
  3. He had been separated from his mother’s womb, Gal. 1:15.
4. He was saved and called with a holy calling according to God’s purpose and grace which was given him in Christ Jesus before the world began, Gal. 1:15; 2 Tim. 1:9.

### **D. What was his new life like?**

“For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed unto death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong, ye are honorable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labor, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.” 1 Cor. 4:9-13.

“Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, By the Word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness, on the right hand and on the left, By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold we live, as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” 2 or. 6:3-10.

“Are they the ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and

nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of the all the churches.” 2 Cor. 11:23-28.

### **E. What was his attitude towards that?**

“But none of these move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24.

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Phil. 3:8.

“Unto me who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,” Eph. 3:8.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Cor. 4:17

### **F. Why was this God’s Plan?**

“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.” 1 Tim. 1:16.

### **G. What is our proper response?**

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” Phil. 3:17

“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” Phil. 4:9.

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” 1 Cor. 11:1.

### **H. Paul’s philosophy of life**

Paul’s philosophy of life was that he did not know whether or not he would live another day, to see another “tomorrow.” So, he was committed to making this day, the one in which he was still alive, count for Christ, as if it might be his last.

Phil. 1:20,21; 2 Cor. 1:9; 4:11; Acts 20:24

### **I. Paul and other professed Christians**

Paul and people: he loved them, but his final confidence was in the UNCHANGING CHRIST, and not in changing people. “Though none go with me, still I will follow.”

2 Tim. 4:10; Gal. 4:16; 2 Cor. 10:10; 1 Cor. 4:18; 2 Tim. 1:15; Gal. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:8