

Divin' In – Wednesday Night Bible Study

THE CHURCH OF THE SPRINGS – 6/26/24

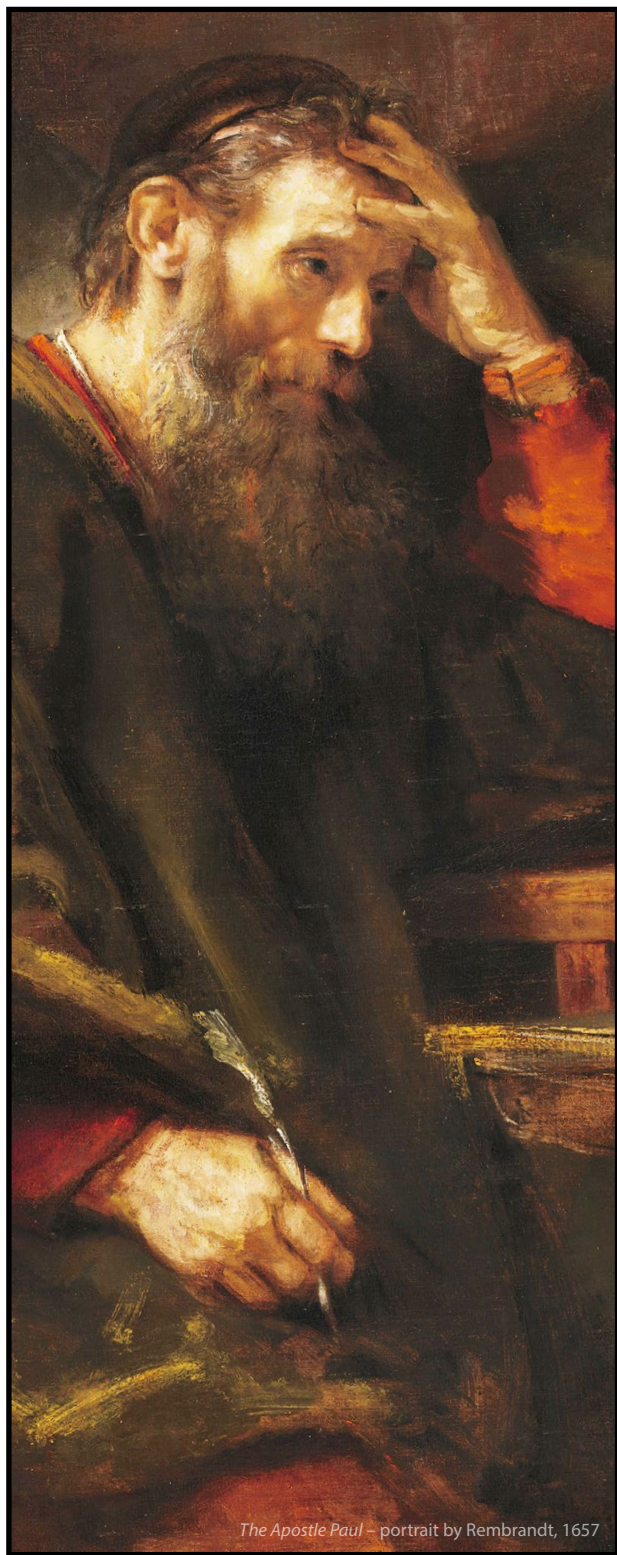
Paul's Jewish name was "Saul", perhaps after the biblical King Saul, the first king of Israel and, like Paul, a member of the Tribe of Benjamin; the Latin name "Paulus," meaning small, was a second name for use in communicating with a Greco-Roman audience.

[from James Dunn, 2003, The Cambridge Companion to St. Paul]



ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Chief of sinners



The Apostle Paul – portrait by Rembrandt, 1657

From 2 Corinthians 11:21b-30 ESV

"But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that....Are they offspring of **Abraham**? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless **beatings**, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was **stoned** [Lystra]. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in **danger** from rivers, **danger** from robbers, **danger** from my own people, **danger** from Gentiles, **danger** in the city, **danger** in the wilderness, **danger** at sea, **danger** from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches....If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."

1 Timothy 1:15 NLT

"This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**'—and I am the **worst** of them all!"

2 Corinthians 10:9-10 ESV

"I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. For they say, 'His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is **weak**, and his **speech** of no account.'"

Romans 1:1 NLT

"This letter is from Paul, a **slave** of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to **preach** His Good News."

Acts 21:30b-32, 34b-37, 39b NLT

"Paul was grabbed and **dragged** out of the [Jerusalem] Temple....they were trying to kill him, and word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped **beating** Paul....[Roman commander] ordered that Paul be taken to the fortress. As Paul reached the stairs, the mob grew so **violent** the soldiers had to lift him to their shoulders to protect him. And the crowd followed behind, shouting, 'Kill him, kill him!' As Paul was about to be taken inside, he said to the commander, 'May I have a word with you?' 'Do you know Greek?' the commander asked, surprised....Paul replied, 'I am a Jew AND a **citizen** of Tarsus in Cilicia, which is an important city. Please, let me talk to these people.'"

Acts 7:58, 8:1 NLT, NASB1995

"They dragged him out of the city and began to **stone** him. His accusers [official witnesses] took off their **coats** and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul....Saul was in hearty **agreement** with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

From Acts 19:10-12 [Ephesus], 20:7-10, 11b [Troas] NLT

"[Discussions] went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the Word of the Lord. God gave Paul the power to perform unusual **miracles**. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were **healed** of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled....Paul was preaching [in Troas], and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until **midnight**....as Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his **death** below. Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. 'Don't worry,' he said, 'he's **alive**!...' Paul continued talking to them until dawn, and then he left."