



# BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **9th Grade | Unit 4**

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# BIBLE 904

## The Pauline Epistles

INTRODUCTION |3

### 1. PERSONAL PROFILE 5

---

THE MAN |6

THE APOSTLE |9

THE WRITER |13

SELF TEST 1 |17

### 2. EARLY EPISTLES 19

---

FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS |19

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS |22

ROMANS |24

GALATIANS |27

SELF TEST 2 |30

### 3. PRISON EPISTLES 33

---

EPHESIANS |33

PHILIPPIANS |37

COLOSSIANS |39

PHILEMON |42

SELF TEST 3 |44

### 4. LATER EPISTLES 47

---

FIRST TIMOTHY |47

TITUS |49

SECOND TIMOTHY |52

SELF TEST 4 |56



**LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet.** Please remove before starting the unit.

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# The Pauline Epistles

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## Introduction

Studying this LIFEPAAC® you will learn more about the writer who wrote most of the New Testament books. A look at Paul as a person will help you to understand the tremendous mind which God molded and shaped for a dynamic destiny. The very trade in which Paul was trained turned out to be a means by which the Lord was able to further the Gospel. Paul's strong and potentially **volatile** temperament was harnessed by Jesus and directed as a powerful force against the opponents of the Gospel message.

As you study Paul, you will see how the Lord directed the course of his life in preparation for his calling and transformation. As Moses stands out in the Old Testament, a personality trained and equipped for the ministry prepared for him, so Paul's life and training prepared him for the demands of an effective and extensive ministry throughout the Roman world. The insights you gain into Paul's background will enable you to appreciate and to understand the depth of his Epistles and the complexity of his writings.

Paul's Epistles have been grouped into three divisions—the early Epistles, the prison Epistles, and the later Epistles. An examination of the place, purpose, tone, and analysis of each of his letters will enhance your knowledge and appreciation of both the writer and the Lord who chose him to be the Apostle to the Gentiles.

## Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Give details concerning Paul's background, conversion, ability, and style of writing.
2. Describe aspects of the early Epistles of the apostle Paul and his reasons for writing them.
3. Give information about the four prison Epistles written by Paul, including details concerning the ones receiving them.
4. Tell about the later Epistles of Paul and the men to whom they were written.

# 1. PERSONAL PROFILE

In this section of your LIFEPAC you will study the personal profile of the writer of New Testament Epistles. Facts about Paul's origin, trade, and temperament will add to your knowledge of this **prolific** writer. You will become familiar with aspects of his conversion and call to apostleship, and the tremendous influence he exerted as a writer with unique ability, method, and style.

The complexity of Paul's style and the depth of the truths he teaches in his Epistles require us to probe carefully into his background and training. For this reason, you will first examine the man to see what molded his mind and sharpened his abilities. Next, you will become acquainted with how God intercepted Paul to bring him into his apostolic position. Finally, you will become familiar with the writer's qualities which make him the most outstanding contributor to the New Testament.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have finished this section, you should be able to:

1. Give details concerning Paul's background, conversion, ability, and style of writing:
  - 1.1 Give details about the writer's place of birth and occupation.
  - 1.2 Describe the apostle Paul's personality both before and after his conversion.
  - 1.3 Explain the extent to which the writer's influence reached.
  - 1.4 Give details concerning the apostle's ability in the literary field.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**aristocracy** (ar' u stok' ru sē). Ruling class of nobility or title.

**choleric** (kol' ur ik). Easily irritated; inclined to anger.

**cosmopolitan** (koz' mu pol' u tun). Belonging to the whole world; not national or local.

**inference** (in' fur uns). A deduction or logical conclusion.

**optimum** (op' tu mum). The best or most favorable degree.

**Asian** (ā' shen). Native of the East. Turks, Arabs, Iranian, Indians (India), and Chinese are Asians.

**parenthetical** (par' un thet' u kul). Giving qualifying information or explanation.

**prolific** (pru lif' ik). Turning out many products of the mind.

**volatile** (vol' u tul). Full of spirit, changeable, or fickle.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: **h**at, **ā**ge, **cā**re, **fā**r; **l**et, **ē**qual, **tē**rm; **i**t, **ī**ce; **h**ot, **ō**pen, **ō**rder; **o**il; **o**ut; **c**up, **pū**t, **rū**le; **ch**ild; **l**ong; **th**in; /ʒh/ for **th**en; /zh/ for **m**easure; /u/ represents /a/ in **a**bout, /e/ in **t**aken, /i/ in **p**encil, /o/ in **l**emon, and /u/ in **c**ircus.

## THE MAN

The apostle Paul was also known by the name Saul. The **inference** of Scripture is that he was short of stature and could be easily lowered over a wall in a basket to escape persecution (Acts 9:25 and 2 Corinthians 11:33). He was probably of medium build and displayed boundless energy and zeal in any task he undertook. You will study Paul's birthplace, his trade, and his temperament in the first part of this section.

**Origin.** Saul was born in the city of Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia. He was proud of his birthplace, not just as a resident, but as a Roman citizen of that great **cosmopolitan** city. The capital city was located on the river Cydnus in a wide plain area with the snow-covered Taurus Mountains as a scenic backdrop. Its earliest residents were possibly Greeks and **Asians**, and it became a Roman city containing also a Jewish colony.

Tarsus, during the reign of Augustus, was noted as a city whose life and citizens were greatly influenced by the Tarsian University there. The atmosphere of enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge among the students must have had a profound effect upon Saul as he grew up. The university climate of Tarsus would give him a natural education in the social, political,

Read Acts 21:30-39 and 22:1-29.

intellectual, moral, and religious life of the Greek and Roman world.

Saul was not only a resident of Tarsus, but also was a Roman citizen by birth. This carried with it privileges not afforded others who merely came under Roman rule. He would be guaranteed protection by Rome from the injustices of local magistrates and would be assured of a speedy passport to any distant land under Roman rule (Acts 16:36-39; 22:29). Paul used his privilege as a Roman citizen to escape from his Jewish persecutors. He also makes allusions to privileges associated with Roman citizenship in his Epistles.



| Tarsus



### Write true or false.

- 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was also known as Saul.
- 1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was probably very tall and easily noticed in a crowd.
- 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul displayed energy and zeal in any task he undertook.
- 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ The Tarsian University had a great influence in the city of Tarsus.
- 1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul did not have the privileges of Roman citizenship.



### Complete these statements.

- 1.6 Saul was from the city of a. \_\_\_\_\_, which was the capital of  
b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.7 It was located on the river a. \_\_\_\_\_ in sight of the snow-covered  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains.
- 1.8 Roman citizenship guaranteed Paul a. \_\_\_\_\_ from injustices and a  
speedy b. \_\_\_\_\_ to any distant land under Roman rule.
- 1.9 Paul used his a. \_\_\_\_\_ citizenship to escape his b. \_\_\_\_\_ persecutors.

Read Acts 18:1-11,  
20:28-35, and  
1 Thessalonians 2:9.



Having noted this man's origin, let us look at his trade.

Trade. As citizens of Rome, Saul and his family would occupy positions of prominence above the common people, being a part of the **aristocracy** of Tarsus. Not only would Paul be afforded the best education offered in the university there, but as a young Jewish boy he would also be equipped to carry out the family's trade, learning the skills that were required for it.

On his second missionary journey, Paul used his trade of tentmaking to support himself and others who helped him in his ministry. He even reminded the church at Thessalonica that he worked day and night to provide the Gospel message freely to them. Because Paul had set them such an example, he could warn them that if any man did not work, neither should he be allowed to eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10-15). Paul was not against accepting support for his work in the ministry, since he received support

from the Philippians while he preached the Gospel and worked in Thessalonica (Philippians 4:15-19). Paul used the word "communicated" in connection with material support of his ministry. He instructed Timothy, a young pastor, that the laborer is worthy of his reward and that those who labor in the Gospel should receive support from it (1 Timothy 5:18). Paul's trade of tentmaking became a means of his own support, and it provided an example of the Christian's attitude toward work.



| Tentmaker

**Complete this activity.**

**1.10** Using Paul as an example and the Scriptures you have just studied, write a two hundred word essay on the Christian’s attitude toward work. Your teacher will help you evaluate the assignment.

**TEACHER CHECK**



\_\_\_\_\_ initials

\_\_\_\_\_ date

**Read Acts 7:59–8:4, 9:1–2, Philippians 3:1–7, and 1 Timothy 1:12–16.**



Having noted Paul’s trade of tentmaking, let us turn now to the apostle’s temperament.

**Temperament.** With all the records of Scripture about Saul of Tarsus and the confessions from his own mouth as an apostle, this man’s temperamental tendencies are easy to determine. He was **choleric** in temperament and had a hard, demanding nature which showed itself in the way he drove himself and those who worked with him. He watched without any sympathetic feelings as Stephen was stoned to death for the testimony of Jesus. So strong-willed was Saul that he hunted down Christians of all ages, both men and women, and threw them into prison. His determination and zeal were so strong that he even acquired official

permission from the high priest to persecute Christians beyond Jerusalem. Paul recounted to the Philippians that he was a proud, arrogant, zealous, and extremely religious Pharisee who prided himself on his own self-righteousness. He explained to Timothy that God showed him mercy because he did all this persecution in ignorance and unbelief against the Lord Jesus Christ. Even while Christ was dying on the Cross He prayed that God, His Father, would forgive His murderers because they did it in ignorance (Luke 23:34). Stephen uttered the same forgiveness when he died at Saul’s feet. Paul called himself the least of all saints (Ephesians 3:8) because his violent temperament had driven him to murderous acts against Christians until the Lord stopped him on the road to Damascus. If we have a temperament prone to anger, as Paul’s was, we need to ask the Lord to bring it under control so that we do not lash out at others around us and do damage to them.



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ Saul was melancholic in temperament.
- 1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ Saul’s hard, demanding nature drove himself and others.
- 1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ Saul showed a great deal of sympathy when Stephen was stoned.
- 1.14 \_\_\_\_\_ Saul persecuted Christians beyond Jerusalem, having obtained official letters from the high priest to do so.
- 1.15 \_\_\_\_\_ Saul was a proud, religious Sadducee.





### Complete these statements.

- 1.16** Saul hunted down a \_\_\_\_\_ of all ages and threw both  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ and c. \_\_\_\_\_ into prison.
- 1.17** Paul told a \_\_\_\_\_ that God showed him mercy because he did all this  
in b. \_\_\_\_\_ and c. \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.18** According to Matthew 12:31, Jesus taught His disciples that all manner of  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ would be forgiven men.
- 1.19** Words of forgiveness concerning their murderers at the time of their deaths were spoken by  
Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.20** Paul called himself a. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” because his  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ temperament had driven him to murderous acts against the  
Christians of his day.

## THE APOSTLE

Now that we have observed the apostle Paul as a man with respect to his origin, trade, and temperament, we can apply ourselves to learning about him as an apostle, in relation to his calling, transformation, and influence.

The Lord Jesus denounced the sect of the Pharisees more than any other religious group, and Saul the Pharisee seemed the least likely candidate for apostleship. Not one of the previous twelve apostles was of a professional religious occupation. Paul, formerly the notorious Saul, proclaimed (Romans 5:20) that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. You will study God’s grace toward Paul when He called him, transformed him, and made him the greatest influence possible among the Gentile world.

**Calling.** Saul had official letters from the high priest in Jerusalem to the religious leaders in synagogues around Damascus granting permission to arrest Christians so that he might bring

Read Acts 9:1–22,  
22:1–16, and 26:1–20



them to Jerusalem to be punished. At this time Christians were known as “followers of that way.” That is the “way” which Jesus taught. Jesus saw in Saul a dynamo of energy who would be an effective force in preaching the Gospel to the Jews, but mostly to the Gentiles. Nothing short of divine intervention would halt Saul in his zealous persecution of the Church.



| Saul on the road to Damascus

Thus, the Lord Jesus appeared to Saul in such brilliant light that he was blinded and fell to the ground. Jesus informed Saul that persecuting believers was in actuality persecuting Him. Matthew 25:40 says, “And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” The stunned Saul acknowledged Jesus as Lord and asked for new instructions from Him, since the instructions from the high priest were no longer of importance to him. As a result, a believer by the name of Ananias was told in a

vision from the Lord to go and lay hands on Saul for his restoration of sight. The Pharisees called only each other “brother,” but Ananias called Saul a brother because he was now a believer in Jesus. The Lord’s touch through Ananias brought sight to blinded Saul, and the term “brother” took on new meaning to this converted Pharisee. Paul related his conversion experience on two other occasions—once in Jerusalem before a mob at the temple and once before Herod Agrippa and Festus when he was being tried because of the desire of the Jewish religious leaders to have him executed.



**Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.**

- 1.21** Jesus denounced the sect of the \_\_\_\_\_ more than any other group.  
 a. Herodians                      b. Sadducees                      c. Pharisees  
 d. Romans                        e. Asmoneans
- 1.22** Saul was on the way to \_\_\_\_\_ when the Lord spoke to him.  
 a. Jerusalem                      b. Damascus                      c. Antioch  
 d. Rome                            e. Tarsus
- 1.23** Christians at this time were known as followers of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. the Bible                        b. the Law                        c. the Prophets  
 d. that Way                        e. the Lord
- 1.24** Paul’s mission was to be especially to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Gentiles                        b. Jews                            c. Romans  
 d. Palestinians                    e. Greeks
- 1.25** A believer by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ was instructed by the Lord to lay hands on Saul to restore his sight.  
 a. Aquila                            b. Barnabas                        c. Apollos  
 d. Agrippa                            e. Ananias

**Complete these activities.**

**1.26** Record what the Lord Jesus told Saul to do when he was stopped on the road to Damascus.

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**1.27** Record what Ananias told Saul when he was in Damascus. \_\_\_\_\_

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Now that we have looked carefully into his calling, let us take time to note the transformation which took place in this apostle's life.

**Transformation.** Immediately after his conversion and baptism, Paul began to preach Jesus with authority and power from the Holy Spirit. Not only had the scales fallen from his physical eyes, but the blindness of his unbelief in the spiritual realm was gone. The sum of all his rigorous religious training now found its full meaning in the Person and Gospel of Jesus who was both Lord and Christ. Because of his effective arguments concerning Jesus, he had to flee Damascus and return to Jerusalem. His powerful testimony there concerning Christ also put his life in danger, and he fled to his home town of Tarsus. Barnabas later brought him back to Antioch in Syria, where for a year they taught the young converts in the church there.

**Read Acts 9:23-31,  
11:19-26, and 13:1-3.**



Believers were first called Christians in Antioch. This term depicted them as “little Christ’s” or as imitators of Jesus, who was called the Christ.

Paul’s effectiveness in teaching the Gospel developed well because, while at Antioch, the Holy Spirit spoke through certain prophets concerning his future ministry. He, along with Barnabas, was to begin missionary journeys throughout the Roman world. Saul is first referred to in the Scriptures as Paul on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:9). Thus, after his transformation, Saul was immediately and completely consumed in the Lord’s work as he previously had been in the traditions of his father as a Pharisee.



**Answer true or false.**

- 1.28 \_\_\_\_\_ Many years after his conversion, Paul began to preach.
- 1.29 \_\_\_\_\_ Because of persecution Paul fled from Damascus to Jerusalem.
- 1.30 \_\_\_\_\_ From Jerusalem Paul fled to the city of Antioch.
- 1.31 \_\_\_\_\_ Believers were first called Christians in Jerusalem.
- 1.32 \_\_\_\_\_ At Antioch the Holy Spirit spoke through prophets concerning Paul's missionary journeys and the future ministry.
- 1.33 \_\_\_\_\_ Along with Silas, Paul began missionary journeys throughout the Roman world.

Having seen the tremendous transformation which took place in the life of the apostle Paul, we can observe the influence he had on his generation.

**Influence.** Jesus said that there was no greater love on earth than that a man would lay down his life for a friend, as Jesus laid down his life for us (John 15:13). Although Paul's commission from the Lord was directed mainly to the Gentiles, he nevertheless had the same unselfish love toward all men. Paul said that he would give up heaven for the salvation of the Jews if it were possible (Romans 9:1-5; compare to Moses in Exodus 32:30-33).

Everywhere Paul went on his missionary journeys, he entered the Jewish synagogues first, desiring to give the Jews an opportunity to accept the gospel truth about Jesus before preaching to the Gentiles. Mainly the unbelieving Jews were the ones who persecuted Paul or turned the Gentiles against him. He taught that there was no longer any difference between

**Read Acts 13:13-52.**



Jew and Gentile with respect to God's grace in salvation (Galatians 3:28). Nevertheless, Paul acknowledged that the Jews' position in the Old Testament and their responsibility were ahead of the Gentiles because of their privileges as a nation (Romans 2:9-11; 3:1-2).

Paul's influence was so extensive that he testified before Jews and Gentiles. In Jerusalem he gave witness to Jesus in the temple before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious council, and at Caesarea before the Gentile rulers. In Rome he testified before the emperor and taught freely all who came to his own hired house while he awaited trial. Paul's total influence and ministry was so great that he could say near the end of his life that he was free from the blood of all men because he had been faithful to Jesus' call and commission (Acts 20:26-27).

# SELF TEST 1

**Complete these statements** (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.01** Saul was from the city of a. \_\_\_\_\_, the capital of b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.02** Roman citizenship guaranteed Paul a. \_\_\_\_\_ from injustices and a speedy b. \_\_\_\_\_ to any distant land under c. \_\_\_\_\_ rule.
- 1.03** In Jerusalem Paul gave witness before the a. \_\_\_\_\_, the Jewish b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.04** Saul's teacher in Jerusalem was a. \_\_\_\_\_, a respected scholar and b. \_\_\_\_\_ of his day and a Jewish c. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law.

**Match these items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |                 |  |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ Stephen   | a. Jewish religious council                            |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Pharisees | b. doctor of Law in Jerusalem who taught Saul          |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ Ananias   | c. spoke forgiveness for his enemies when dying        |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Sanhedrin | d. religious party most denounced by Christ            |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ Areopagus | e. accompanied Paul on second missionary journey       |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ Gamaliel  | f. father of Timothy                                   |
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ Damascus  | g. believer who laid hands on "brother" Saul           |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ Silas     | h. highest court of Athens located on Mars Hill        |
| <b>1.013</b> | _____ Barnabas  | i. river on which the city of Tarsus was located       |
|              |                 | j. city to which Saul was going when Jesus stopped him |
|              |                 | k. disciple who brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch    |

**Write in each blank the correct answer** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.014** Saul received letters from the \_\_\_\_\_ to persecute the Christians as far as Damascus.  
 a. Roman governor    b. high priest    c. Caesar Augustus  
 d. Christian church    e. Pontius Pilate
- 1.015** The disciples were first called Christians at \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Jerusalem    b. Rome    c. Antioch  
 d. Caesarea    e. Samaria
- 1.016** In his Epistles Paul quoted mainly from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. poets    b. Old Testament    c. philosophers  
 d. Apocrypha    e. Jewish tradition

**1.017** A word meaning “turning out many products of the mind” is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. volatile                      b. prolific                      c. choleric  
d. cosmopolitan              e. dynamic

**1.018** Paul used his Roman citizenship to escape his \_\_\_\_\_ persecutors.  
a. Jewish                      b. Egyptian                      c. Syrian  
d. Asian                      e. Samaritan

**Complete these activities** (each numbered answer, 5 points).

**1.019** State the four languages with which Paul was familiar in his day.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_                      b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_                      d. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.020** List five adjectives used in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_                      b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_                      d. \_\_\_\_\_  
e. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.021** State five facets of the apostle Paul’s style in his Epistles.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
e. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.022** Give Paul’s method of writing and approach in these Epistles.  
a. Romans \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Corinthians \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Galatians \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Philippians \_\_\_\_\_  
e. Philemon \_\_\_\_\_

**1.023** State the names of five cities in which Paul preached at some time.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_                      b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_                      d. \_\_\_\_\_  
e. \_\_\_\_\_

|                        |                    |                      |          |      |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------|
| <b>66</b><br><b>83</b> | <b>SCORE</b> _____ | <b>TEACHER</b> _____ | initials | date |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------|



BIB0904 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-184-6



9 780867 171846



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Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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