

# **WELCOME!**

## **Friday Men's Breakfast**

**January 15, 2021**







# The Life of the Apostle Paul

#1 – “Who Was Paul?”

*Acts 7:58-8:3; 9:1-19a*

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# Who Was Paul?

## 1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

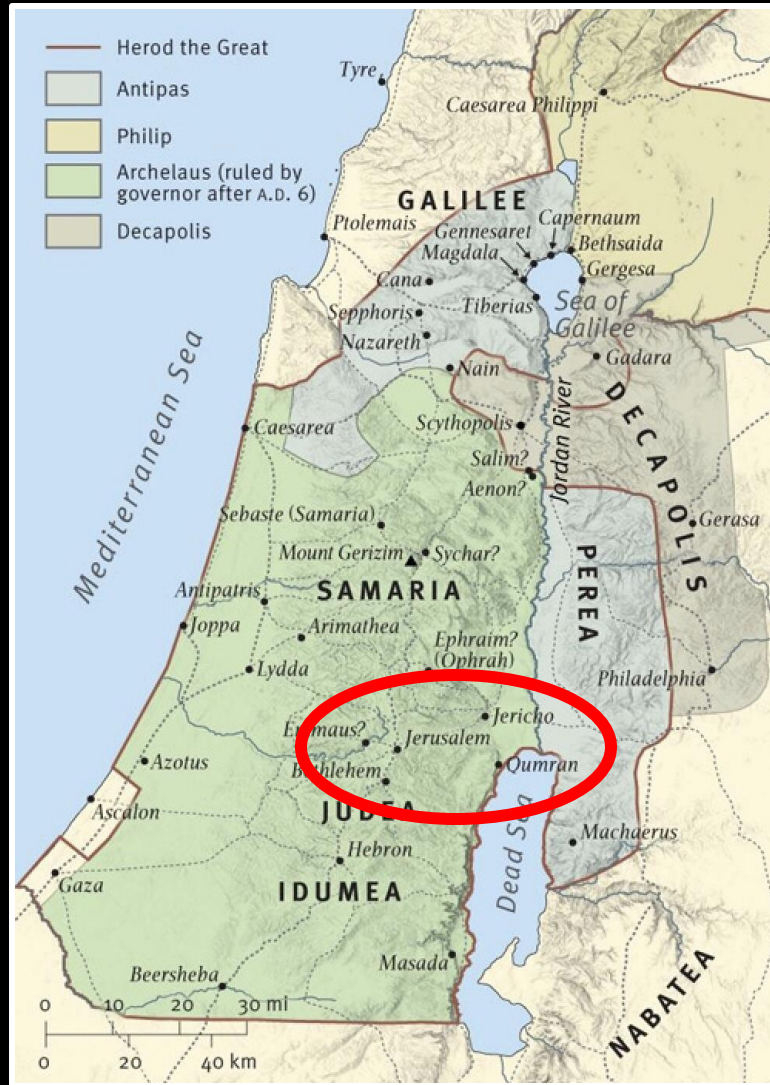
## Philippians 1:21

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

## Big Idea:

Paul modeled a life *surrendered* to Jesus Christ for us to follow.

# Context for Acts Chs. 7-9





## Context for Acts Chs. 7-9

- Stephen = first martyr of the Church.
- Saul = Birth name of Paul
  - שְׂאוּל (Hebrew) = “asked for/questioned”
- c. A.D. 33/34 (*See handout*)

# Saul's Beginnings (Acts 7:58-8:3)

- Born into the tribe of Benjamin (*Philippians 3:5*).
- Born a Roman citizen in Tarsus of Cilicia (*Acts 22:3*).
- Educated in the Jewish law by Gamaliel (*Acts 22:3*).
- A member of the Pharisee party (*Acts 26:5*).

# Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-19a)



“Without question, the story of Saul’s ‘conversion’ is one of the most important events, if not the most important event, that Luke records in Acts.”

- Timothy J. Ralston





***“The Conversion of St. Paul”***  
by Caravaggio (c. 1601)

# Acts 9:1-19a – *What Can We Learn?*

1) Jesus is sovereign over the salvation of His people.

*“Lord” (x7) ... “name” (x3)*

## Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

## **Acts 9:1-19a – *What Can We Learn?***

- 1) Jesus is sovereign over the salvation of His people.**
- 2) Jesus is personally present when His people are persecuted (*Acts 9:4-5*).**



# Tom Constable

“Jesus’ question made Saul begin to appreciate the intimate union that Christians enjoy with Jesus, the Head of the body, the church. ***He was in His disciples***, not just with them or ruling over them, by His Spirit ... ***What they suffered He suffered*** ... Jesus’ self-revelation totally shocked Saul who until then had regarded Jesus as a blasphemous pretender to Israel’s messianic throne. Saul now discovered that Jesus was God or at least with God in heaven, yet ***He was in some sense also present in His followers*** whom Saul was persecuting.”

## **Acts 9:1-19a – *What Can We Learn?***

- 1) Jesus is sovereign over the salvation of His people.**
- 2) Jesus is personally present when His people are persecuted (*Acts 9:4-5*).**

### **Matthew 28:20b**

**And behold, *I am with you always*, to the end of the age.”**

## **Acts 9:1-19a – *What Can We Learn?***

- 1) Jesus is sovereign over the salvation of His people.**
- 2) Jesus is personally present when His people are persecuted (*Acts 9:4-5*).**
- 3) Jesus calls His people to difficult tasks (*Acts 9:11-14; 15-16*).**

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

**Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus *will be persecuted.***



# Who Was Paul? (*Acts 9:1-19a*)

## 1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## Philippians 1:21

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

## Big Idea:

Paul modeled a life *surrendered* to Jesus Christ for us to follow.

# Discussion Questions

- 1) Have you ever thought about Christ's presence with His people (especially during persecution)? How does this truth impact you?**
- 2) Is there a "difficult task" that Jesus is calling you to carry out? Share about it and pray for one another at the end of your time together.**

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