

The Apostle Paul, Servant of Christ

WELCOME

Lorin Cranford

Session Six

Topics 2.2.0-2.2.3

What the study tonight is about:

- **Paul's conversion from Paul's view (2.2.0)**

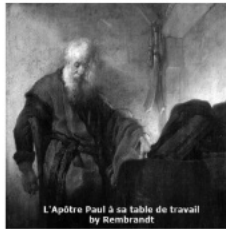


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The Apostle Paul, Servant of Christ

The Apostle Paul, *Servant of Christ*

An Overview Survey of the Contributions of this Christian Leader



by

Dr. Lorin L. Cranford

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- ♦ Unit I: Paul the Person
- ♦ Chapter Two: Paul's Conversion
 - ♦ **2.1.0 Conversion**
 - ♦ **2.1.1 Luke's view**
 - ♦ **2.1.1.1 The Event at Damascus (Acts 9)**
 - ♦ **2.1.1.2 Paul's 1st recollection (Acts 22)**
 - ♦ **2.1.1.3 Paul's 2nd recollection (Acts 26)**
 - ♦ **2.2.0 Paul's view**
 - ♦ **2.2.1 Direct References**
 - ♦ **2.2.2 Indirect References**
 - ♦ **2.2.3 Comparison of Paul & Luke**



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- **Session Six:**

- Taken from Chapter Two of the book
- Emphasis on Paul's religious conversion
- How did Paul come to Christ?

- **Learning Goals:**

- 1. Learning about his conversion from scripture
- 2. Understanding how this information has been interpreted



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- **2.2.0: Paul's View**
- **2.2.1: Direct References**
 - **2.2.1.1 Galatians 1:13-17**
 - **2.2.1.2 Philippians 3:4-17**



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- **2.2.1 Direct References**
 - **Gal. 1:13-17**
 - **Context important to understand**
 - **Letter Body: 1:11-6:10**
 - **Claim to be an apostle: 1:11-2:21**
 - **Core claim: 1:11-12**
 - **Evidence One: 1:13-17**
 - **Evidence Two: 1:18-20**
 - **Evidence Three: 1:21-24**
 - **Evidence Four: 2:1-10**
 - **Evidence Five: 2:11-14**
 - **Summation: 2:15-21**



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- **2.2.1 Paul's View: Gal. 1:13-17**

13 You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. 14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. 15 But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.



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- **Observations from Galatians 1:13-17**

- **vv. 13-14, Prior to Christ**

- 1) καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν,
 - 2) καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτὴς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων.

- **vv. 15-16a, Encountering Christ**

- 1) ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ
 - 2) ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ
 - 3) ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν,



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- **Observations from Galatians 1:13-17 continued**
 - **vv. 16b-17, Paul's response**
 - εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι,
 - οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους
 - ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν
 - καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν.
- **Summation**
 - **1) Focus on theological, rather than historical aspects**
 - **2) Primary emphasis on independence of his calling from human authorization**
 - **3) Follows standard BC / AD pattern of conversion depictions in NT.**



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- **2.2.1 Direct References**
 - **Phil. 3:4-17**
 - **Context important to understand**
 - **3:1-3 set up a warning against false teachers**
 - **3:4-17 presents Paul's experience as counterpoint to the false teachers**
 - **3:18-4:1 continues warning and ends with appeal to follow Paul's example**



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- **2.2.1 Paul's view: Phil. 3:4-6, Prior to Christ**

4 even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

4 καίπερ ἐγὼ ἔχων πεποιοῖθαι καὶ ἐν σαρκί.

Εἴ τις δοκεῖ ἄλλος πεποιοῦναι ἐν σαρκί, ἐγὼ μᾶλλον· 5 περιτομῇ ὀκταήμερος, ἐκ γένους Ἰσραὴλ, φυλῆς Βενιαμίν, Ἑβραῖος ἐξ Ἑβραίων, κατὰ νόμον Φαρισαῖος, 6 κατὰ ζῆλος διώκων τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, κατὰ δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐν νόμῳ γενόμενος ἄμεμπτος.

- **Observations:**

- **1) Comparison to false teachers (vv. 2-3) from his days as a Pharisee, v. 4**
- **2) Listing of his Jewish credentials, vv. 5-6**



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- **2.2.1 Paul's view: Phil. 3:7-11, Encountering Christ**

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have 7 Ἀλλὰ ἅτινα ἦν μοι κέρδη, ταῦτα ἡγήμαι διὰ
come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 τὸν Χριστὸν ζημίαν. 8 ἀλλὰ ῥενοῦνγε καὶ
More than that, I regard everything as loss ἡγοῦμαι πάντα ζημίαν εἶναι διὰ τὸ ὑπερέχον
because of the surpassing value of knowing τῆς γνώσεως Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ κυρίου μου
Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have δι' ὃν τὰ πάντα ἐζημιώθην, καὶ ἡγοῦμαι
suffered the loss of all things, and I regard ῥσκύβαλα ἵνα Χριστὸν κερδήσω 9 καὶ
them as rubbish, in order that I may gain εὔρεθῶ ἐν αὐτῷ, μὴ ἔχων ἐμὴν δικαιοσύνην
Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a τὴν ἐκ νόμου ἀλλὰ τὴν διὰ πίστεως Χριστοῦ,
righteousness of my own that comes from τὴν ἐκ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην ἐπὶ τῇ πίστει, 10
the law, but one that comes through faith in τοῦ γνῶναι αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν τῆς
Christ, the righteousness from God based ἀναστάσεως αὐτοῦ καὶ ῥκοινωνίαν
on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the παθημάτων αὐτοῦ, ῥσυμμορφιζόμενος τῷ
power of his resurrection and the sharing of θανάτῳ αὐτοῦ, 11 εἴ πως καταντήσω εἰς τὴν
his sufferings by becoming like him in his ἐξανάστασιν ῥτὴν ἐκ νεκρῶν.
death, 11 if somehow I may attain the
resurrection from the dead.

- **Observations:**



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• 2.2.1 Paul's view: Phil. 3:12-17, Subsequent to conversion

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. 16 Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

12 Οὐχ ὅτι ἤδη ἔλαβον ἢ ἤδη τετελείωμαι, διώκω δὲ εἰ καὶ καταλάβω, ἐφ' ὃ καὶ κατελήμφθην ὑπὸ Χριστοῦ. 13 Ἰησοῦς ἔμαυτὸν οὐ λογίζομαι ἑαυτοῦ ἔχειν, ἀλλὰ ἓν ἔχω: ὃ ὅτι ἐπιλανθάνομαι τὰ ὀπίσω καὶ ὁρῶ ἔμπροσθεν εἰς τὸ ἔμπροσθεν, 14 διώκω τὸ βραβεῖον τῆς ἁνῶς κλήσεως τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. 15 ὅσοι οὖν τέλειοι, τοῦτο φρονώμεν· καὶ εἴ τι ἕτερος φρονεῖτε, καὶ τοῦτο ὁ θεὸς ὑμῖν ἀποκαλύψει. 16 πλὴν εἰς τὸ ἄρτι ἔσται ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἐφθάσαμεν, τῷ αὐτῷ ἵστοιχεῖν.

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us

17 Συμμιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε, ἀδελφοί, καὶ σκοπεῖτε τοὺς οὕτως περιπατοῦντας καθὼς ἔχετε τύπον ἡμᾶς.



• Observations:

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- **Summation of Phil. 3:4-17**
 - **1) Follows standard BC / AD structure**
 - **2) Stresses the theological over the historical**
 - **3) Underscores profound inner experience in contrast to superficial external religious show of false teachers.**



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- **2.2.0: Paul's View**
- **2.2.2: Indirect References**
 - **2.2.2.1 First Corinthians 9:1**
 - Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?
 - Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἐώρακα; οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ;
 - **Observations:**



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- **2.2.0: Paul's View**
- **2.2.2: Indirect References**
 - **2.2.2.2 First Corinthians 15:8-10**

- 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
- 8 ἔσχατον δὲ πάντων ὥσπερ εἰς τὸ ἐκτρώματι ὤφθη κάμοι. 9 ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμι ὁ ἐλάχιστος τῶν ἀποστόλων, ὃς οὐκ εἰμι ἰκανὸς καλεῖσθαι ἀπόστολος, διότι ἐδίωξα τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ. 10 χάριτι δὲ θεοῦ εἰμι ὃ εἰμι, καὶ ἡ χάρις αὐτοῦ ἡ εἰς ἐμὲ οὐ κενὴ ἐγενήθη, ἀλλὰ περισσότερον αὐτῶν πάντων ἐκοπίασα, οὐκ ἐγὼ δὲ ἀλλὰ ἡ χάρις τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ σὺν ἐμοί. 11 εἴτε οὖν ἐγὼ εἴτε ἐκεῖνοι, οὕτως κηρύσσομεν καὶ οὕτως ἐπιστεύσατε.

- **Observations:**



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- **2.2.0: Paul's View: 2.2.2: Indirect References: 2.2.2.3 First Timothy 1:12-17**

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful ἡσοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν, ὅτι πιστόν με ἡγήσατο and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I θέμενος εἰς διακονίαν, 13 τὸ πρότερον ὄντα was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a βλάσφημον καὶ διώκτην καὶ ὑβριστήν· **ἀλλὰ** man of violence. **But I received mercy because I ἡλεήθην, ὅτι ἀγνοῶν ἐποίησα ἐν ἀπιστίᾳ, 14 had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the ὑπερεπλεόνασεν δὲ ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the μετὰ πίστεως καὶ ἀγάπης τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.** 15 The ἡσοῦ. 15 πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that ἄξιός, ὅτι Χριστὸς ἡσοῦς ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ἁμαρτωλοὺς σῶσαι· ὧν πρῶτός εἰμι ἐγώ, 16 —of whom I am the foremost. 16 **But for that ἀλλὰ διὰ τοῦτο ἡλεήθην, ἵνα ἐν ἐμοὶ πρῶτω very reason I received mercy,** so that in me, as ἐνδείξεται (Χριστὸς ἡσοῦς) τὴν ἅπασαν the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the μακροθυμίαν, πρὸς ὑποτύπωσιν τῶν μελλόντων utmost patience, making me an example to those πιστεύειν ἐπ' αὐτῷ εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. 17 τῷ δὲ who would come to believe in him for eternal life. βασιλεῖ τῶν αἰώνων, ἀφθάρτῳ, ἀοράτῳ, ἴμόνῳ 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the θεῷ, τιμὴ καὶ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων· only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. ἀμήν.
Amen.

- **Observations:**



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- **2.2.3 Comparability of Luke and Paul**

- **Commonalities:**

- **BC / AD structure**
 - **Conversion & Calling link**
 - **Emphases grow out of different context**

- **Differences:**

- **Luke more historical / Paul more theological**
 - **Luke stresses Paul's contact with apostles / Paul stresses independency from them**

- **How does Paul's religious experience compare to yours?**



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- **NEXT WEEK:**
 - **Topic 2.3.0 with sub topics in chapter two**
 - **Paul's Theology of Conversion**
 - **2.3.1 The vocabulary of Conversion**
 - **2.3.2 The concept of Conversion**
 - **2.3.3 Paul's Ideas in comparison to others**



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Thank You for Coming!
Gracias por venir esta noche!
Until Next Week!
Hasta la próxima semana!
Have a safe trip home!
Tener un hogar seguro viaje!



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