

Missionaries – Part 11

Paul: his background and call

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Missionaries. Our topic today: Paul: his background and call.

Scripture Theme Song: “You are a Chosen Generation” (1 Peter 2:9)

- 1) Saul of Tarsus
 - a) Born in Tarsus in Cilicia, on the trade route between Syria and western Asia.
 - b) A Roman citizen – Acts 22:25-28
 - c) Had a sister and nephew – Acts 23:16
 - d) Studied under the famous rabbi Gamaliel – Acts 22:3
 - e) Was a member of the Pharisees – Phil 3:5
 - f) Was a tent maker by trade – Acts 18:3
 - g) Personality
 - i) Acts 9:1
 - ii) Acts 26:9-11
 - iii) Phil 3:5-6
- 2) From Saul to Paul
 - a) Acts 9:1-6a – what is Saul thinking at this moment?
 - b) Acts 9:6b-9 – what was Saul doing during these days in Damascus?
 - c) Acts 9:10-19 – how does this part of the story reveal the mercy of God?
 - d) How soon after his encounter with the Risen Jesus does Saul/Paul begin his missionary activity? Acts 9:20-22
 - e) What was his mission? It was given to him directly by Jesus. Acts 26:14-18 (especially v. 18)
- 3) Paul’s missionary activities
 - a) It’s scope: Romans 15:19
 - i) 1st missionary journey – Acts 13:4-14:28
 - (1) Cyprus – Acts 13:4-12**
 - (2) Antioch in Pisidia – Acts 13:13-52
 - (3) Iconium – Acts 14:1-7
 - (4) Lystra – Acts 14:8-19**
 - (5) Derbe – Acts 14:20-21 – revisiting the cities where they had stoned and rejected!
 - (6) Acts 14:22-28 – returning to Antioch
 - ii) 2nd missionary journey: Acts 15:36-18:22
 - iii) Derbe, Lystra, Antioch, Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Antioch.
 - iv) 3rd missionary journey: Acts 18:23-21:15 regions of Galatia, Phrygia, Greece, back to Jerusalem
 - b) It’s focus:
 - i) Christ-centered:
 - (1) 1 Cor. 1:22-23; 1 Cor 2:2-5; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:15-18. Why is a Christ-centered message so vitally important?
 - ii) Comprehensive:
 - (1) Col. 1:27-29 (see Matt. 28:19)
 - (2) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - iii) Contextualized: 1 Cor. 9:19-23