

Eleutheros Newsletter

December 2021

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Is there anything more important to you than your eternal salvation?

Here is your invitation to understand salvation.

You Can Learn at Your Own Pace and Choose the Course of Study

(CURRENTLY OFFERING)

[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 101](#)

[The Ramifications of Our Salvation 102](#)

An online course on I Corinthians!

Thoughts from Romans

1:1 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God.*

In last month's newsletter we looked at some interesting facts about the Apostle Paul. We will continue this discussion in this edition.

Paul's first missionary journey involved ministry to the island of Cyprus and small cities in southeastern Turkey, a region known as Galatia. Several churches were started in spite of the opposition that Paul faced from "Judaizers," false teachers who insisted that salvation is a result of faith PLUS works, especially circumcision, obedience to the Law (which no man except our Lord was able to do), and a great number of man-made rules.

Later, of course, he conducted at least two other missionary journeys, eventually reaching Rome. Some feel he may have traveled to Spain on a fourth journey ([Romans 15:24](#) indicates his desire to go there).

His ministry included healing ([Acts 14:8-10](#)), a resurrection of a man named Eutychus ([Acts 20:9-12](#)), raising money for the poor ([I Corinthians 16:1-3](#)), casting out demons ([Acts 16:16-18](#)), teaching ([Acts 18:1-11](#)), training of leadership ([II Timothy 2:2](#); [Titus 1:5](#)), and prayer ([Colossians 1:9](#)).

He was not a good speaker. "His speech is contemptible" ([II Corinthians 1:10](#); see also [Acts 20:9-12](#)).

He was not physically very strong ([II Corinthians 10:10](#)).

His prayer life was very tearful, persistent, and powerful ([Romans 1:9](#); [Ephesians 1:15-16](#); [Colossians 1:9](#); [I Thessalonians 2:7-8](#); [3:10](#); [II Timothy 1:3](#)).

He was a tentmaker as well as a preacher, author, teacher, and world traveler ([Acts 18:2-3](#)), often working very diligently with his hands.

He eventually learned to trust the Lord, no matter what kind of financial situations he faced: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" ([Philippians 4:12-13](#)).

This trust extended to his physical needs as well as his financial needs: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take

pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, the I am strong" ([II Corinthians 12:7-10](#)).

It is fairly clear that Paul had a pretty serious eye problem. Some feel this may have been the "thorn in the flesh" mentioned in [II Corinthians 12](#). "Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the Gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me ([Galatians 4:13-15](#); see also [Galatians 6:11](#), indicating that Paul had to write the signature to this epistle using large letters, apparently because of an eye problem).

He struggled mightily against sin, speaking of wanting to do right but not always doing it ([Romans 7](#)).

Looking at these facts, it becomes apparent that Paul did not experience or advocate what is today called "the health and wealth gospel! He recognized and took great pleasure in experiencing God's marvelous work in his life and ministry rather than attempting to glorify himself.

He was a man who believed wholeheartedly that God knows better what we need than what we think we need!

We will continue these thoughts in next month's newsletter.