

Eleutheros Newsletter

November 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](#)

Thoughts from Romans

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

In this newsletter we will concentrate on the human author, the Apostle Paul. Consider the following basic facts about him:

He was called "Saul" at first ([Acts 8:1](#)) and later called "Paul" ([Acts 13:9](#)).

He was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin ([Romans 11:1](#); [Philippians 3:5](#)).

He was born in Tarsus ([Acts 9:11](#); [21:39](#)), a city of Cilicia in Asia Minor (Turkey). In Paul's day Tarsus was the home of a school of philosophy and was at the crossroad between East and West. The wisdom of the Greeks, the world order of the Romans, and the mysticism of the Orientals, along with his strict upbringing in Judaism, helped to make Paul the cosmopolitan Apostle who ministered in so many first century situations.

He received his credentials as a Pharisee from Gamaliel in Jerusalem ([Acts 22:3](#)). Gamaliel was an eminent doctor of the Old Testament Law, a grandson of Hillel, and the first of only seven rabbis to be given the title of "Rabban."

Paul was a very zealous Pharisee ([Acts 23:6](#); [26:5](#); [I Corinthians 11:22](#)).

He was a Roman citizen ([Acts 16:37](#); [22:25-28](#)).

He was very active in persecuting Christians before his salvation in Christ ([Acts 7:58](#); [8:1](#), [3](#); [9:1](#); [22:4](#)). His conversion took place while he was on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus to kill and persecute Christians there ([Acts 9:1-8](#)).

He spent considerable time in Arabia ([Galatians 1:17](#)) after being saved by God's grace.

He spent 15 days with Peter, three years after he was saved ([Galatians 1:18](#)).

He was called directly by God to be an Apostle (many references).

Depending on how one interprets matters in Galatians 1, it was either 14 or 17 years after his conversion that Paul was finally accepted by the other Apostles ([Galatians 1:18-22](#); [2:1-6](#)).

He was very instrumental in calling for the all-important Council at Jerusalem ([Acts 15](#)).

He was very diligent to care for the poor ([Galatians 2:10](#)).

While the evidence is inconclusive, Paul may have been a married man. Those who believe he had been married point to [I Corinthians 9:1-5](#); [Galatians 1:14](#); [Philippians 3:5](#). The argument for

his being married is that he was, or was about to become, a member of the Sanhedrin. Such phrases as “an Hebrew of the Hebrews” in [Philippians 3:5](#) are cited as support for this view. Others point out that Paul spoke far more about marriage than other New Testament writers. There are difficulties in asserting this view, however. We simply do not know if Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin (also called “Council”) was the highest Jewish tribunal during the Greek and Roman periods. Talmudic literature connects the Sanhedrin with Moses’ 70 elders. Nothing is known about how vacancies were filled, but it was an absolute requirement that its members be married men. All this having been said, we therefore do well to leave the issue about whether Paul was married or not an open question.

Having been summoned by Barnabas to come from Tarsus to Antioch, he taught in Antioch for a year ([Acts 11:25-26](#)). After this teaching ministry the two were chosen, ordained, and sent out by the church to preach the Gospel “whereunto I have called them” ([Acts 13:2](#)). The men were led by the Holy Spirit to preach in Cyprus and towns in Galatia. This was the first missionary journey of Paul.

It is clear that God’s grace was upon Paul even though he was totally misguided by religious tradition, even to the point of persecuting and killing Christians. Surely, we do well to thank God that His grace still saves people in deep sin today ([Romans 5:20](#))!

We will continue thoughts from Romans in next month’s newsletter.