**Truth Sowers Life Group**

February 3, 2013

**Who Was the Apostle Paul?**

**Paul Returns**

**Introduction:**

As we left Saul last week, he had had two attempts on his life and finally he went back to his home town of Tarsus in Cilicia and apparently stepped out of ministry for we see no letters or mention of him preaching for a complete seven years. Finally we see Barnabus going to get him and from that moment on, Saul’s life takes on a whole new life. He was about 40 years old at this time.

Our key scripture for this study is:

**1 Thess 5:12, 13**

*12And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

**Acts 11:19-28**

*19Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. 22Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 25Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. 27And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

1. Paul is not heard of for Seven years after the last attempt on his life.
2. Peter continues to share the gospel and takes the gospel to the Gentiles.
3. He also sees Gentiles (House of Cornelius) baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 10).
4. Gospel spreads to the Hellenists (They were the ones who wanted to kill Saul).
5. The church in Jerusalem sends Barnabus to Antioch (Not far from Tarsus).
6. Barnabus goes on and picks up Saul. (Acts 11:25)
7. Saul and Barnabus stayed in Antioch for one year and taught a GREAT many people.
   1. This is the first time people were called “Christians.”(Around 47a.d.)
8. Agabus prophesied there would a great famine.
   1. The brethren took an offering and sent it to Judea at the hands of Barnabus and Saul.
9. About this time Herod began to persecute the church. Before, he had persecuted the Jews.
   1. James, the brother of John was killed.
   2. Peter was arrested and thrown in prison.
   3. He was set free by angels.
   4. Herod dies a terrible death, eaten by worms.
10. Barnabus and Saul return to Antioch with John Mark. **Acts 13**
11. Barnabus and Saul are “separated” through prayer and fasting and go on their **first missionary journey.**

**Acts 13:1-5**

*Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. 4So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia* (Near modern day Baghdad)*, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.*

1. Saul and Barnabus crossed over Cyprus to Paphos.
2. Acts 13:9 This is the first time **Saul is called PAUL**.
3. Bar-Jesus wants to hear the gospel but withstands Saul and Barnabus.

**Acts 13:6-12**

*6Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.*

1. Next stop was Perga in Pamphylia.
   1. John Mark went back to Jerusalem.
2. Paul and Barnabus go back to Antioch.
   1. Are invited to preach in the synagogue.

**Acts 13:13-15**

*13Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. 14But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. 15And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”*

1. Paul’s Sermon

**Acts 13:16-41**

*16Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: 17The God of this people Israel[*[*b*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27380b)*] chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. 18Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. 19And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. 20“After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. 21And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David[*[*c*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27385c)*] the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’[*[*d*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27385d)*] 23From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—[*[*e*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27386e)*] 24after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.’ 26“Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent. 27For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. 28And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. 29Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. 30But God raised Him from the dead. 31He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. 32And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. 33God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:*

*‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’[*[*f*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27396f)*] 34And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’[*[*g*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27397g)*] 35Therefore He also says in another Psalm: ‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’[*[*h*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27398h)*] 36“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. 38Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. 40Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: 41‘Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you.’”*

1. **Acts 13:42-52**

*42So when the Jews went out of the synagogue,[[j](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+13&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-27405j" \o "See footnote j)] the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. 43Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. 44On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. 45But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,  
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’” 48Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. 50But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. 52And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

1. The Jews OPPOSED Paul and Barnabus but the Gentiles wanted MORE!
2. Paul and Barnabus took the gospel to the Jews first but it was rejected by them.
3. Once again the Jews raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabus but they shook the dust off their feet and moved on to the city of of Iconium.