

## **Paul** ***Romans 1:1***

***Sermon-in-a-Sentence:*** By His grace and mercy, God is able to turn hopeless and helpless sinners into hopeful and helpful saints.

**Sermon Series:** *The Road to Righteousness: A Study of the Book of Romans.*

**Central Theme:** Righteousness.

**Essential Message:** The road to a right relationship with God—how we may obtain a right relationship with God and what the practical expression of that relationship should look like in our daily lives.

**Outline:**

- 1:1-17 – Introduction
- 1:18-3:20 – Why Righteousness is Needed
- 3:21-8:39 – How Righteousness is Obtained
- 9:1-11:36 – When Righteousness is Rejected
- 12:1-16:27 – How Righteousness is Practiced

The Pharisee Saul, went from being a vigorous persecutor of Christianity (a “religious extremist”) to being a zealous proponent of Christianity, the Apostle Paul; from being a hostile destroyer of Christianity to being a devoted advocate for Christianity.

How did that happen and what lessons can we learn from his spiritual journey?

### **Paul**

- Romans 1:1 – “Paul, a servant (lit. – a bond-servant, a slave) of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God.”
- “The believer who voluntarily takes the position of slave to Christ has no rights or will of his own. He does *always* and *only* the will of his Master” (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1701*).

### **Saul**

- Prior to his conversion, Paul went by his Hebrew name, Saul.
- We are introduced to Saul in Acts 7 at the martyrdom of Stephen, one of the first deacons in the Church.
- Stephen gave an account of God’s dealings with the nation of Israel up to the point of Solomon building the temple of God.
- Acts 7:51-8:3 – Saul was in full agreement and gave his hearty approval to Stephen’s death.
- He began to destroy and ravage the church, showing no mercy to either men or women. (Cp. Acts 26:9-11)

## **Assuming Saul's later conversion, what lessons can we learn from his spiritual journey to this point?**

### **1. No one is beyond the saving grace of God; God can save anyone!**

- 1 Corinthians 1:25-31
- "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

### **2. Saul was zealous for God but not according to knowledge (the revelation of God).**

- Romans 10:1-3
- Sincerity and zeal are not enough.
- God has revealed Himself to us and we must come to Him on His terms, not our own. (Acts 4:12)

### **3. God loves us and takes the initiative in our salvation.**

- God didn't wait for Saul to "turn over a new leaf" or to "get his act together".
- Romans 5:8
- Mark 2:17 – we have to be willing to acknowledge that we are spiritually "sick".

### **4. God saves sinners, certainly for their eternal good, but especially for His own unsurpassed glory.**

- 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14 – "to the praise of His glorious grace."
- Ephesians 2:4-7
- Our salvation is the supreme manifestation of the character of God: His love, grace, mercy, goodness, wisdom, and power.