

# The Apostle Paul

## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 September 15, 2024

### “Opposition, Suffering, and Death”

Acts 16:25, 20:4, 22-24; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14, 17, 5:1,  
11:23-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 1:12-14;  
Romans 5:3-4, 8:28, 35, 37-39



#### I. Introduction/Review

- A. Paul took \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journeys that are recorded in the Book of Acts.
- B. Every church that Paul was visiting toward the end of his 3rd missionary journey warns him about hardship he is going to face in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Paul’s life is a reminder that life is sometimes \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Suffering and Perseverance

- A. The key that allowed Paul to keep going in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ was “perseverance.”
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ experienced a lot of hardship in his life and he actually describes it in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27.

#### III. Four Keys to Perseverance (Lessons from the Life of Paul)

- A. Paul turned \_\_\_\_\_ God and not away in the midst of the adversity.
- B. Paul saw opportunity behind every \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. There were people who came along side Paul to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- D. Paul believed that death would not have the \_\_\_\_\_ word.

#### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 16-21, 2024*

## INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul continued to spread the gospel of Christ in spite of constant threats on his life, punishment and imprisonment. Paul's life is a reminder that life can be hard. We all go through difficult, and sometimes dark, seasons in our lives. So what lessons can we learn from Paul when we face adversity?

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### Monday: Acts 19:1, 8-10, 18-20, 23-41, 20:13-17, 21:11-13

People who change the world don't quit. As he went to Jerusalem, Paul asked the Ephesian church elders to meet him in a nearby port city. It was an emotional farewell. Paul said, "I'm going to Jerusalem. I don't know what will happen to me there. What I do know is that the Holy Spirit testifies to me from city to city that prisons and troubles await me" (Acts 20:22-23). Where is God calling you to exercise perseverance and hope in the face of difficulty right now?

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### Tuesday: Philippians 1:12-18, 3:10-14

Scholar William Barclay said Paul's word for reaching out in Philippians 3:13 "is used of a racer going hard for the tape. It describes him with eyes for nothing but the goal. It describes the man who is going flat out for the finish." \* How can you live your life in such a way that you are going flat out for the goal of living the life God calls you to? What choices can you make that will empower you to run God's race with eyes for nothing but the prize?

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### Wednesday: Acts 21:27-33, 22:21-29, 23:11-21, 25:4-12

Paul's enemies made exaggerated claims in Acts 21:28. Paul valued his Hebrew heritage. He did not teach "against" the Hebrew people, their law, or the Temple. When have you seen others exaggerate the position of people they disagree with to discredit them? Are you able to differ with someone without overstating or even lying about what that person believes?

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### Thursday: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Romans 8:18-25, 31-39

Paul did not say that "all things" are good - they're not. He said God, who is always good, can bend even bad, painful things to serve a good purpose if we are willing to put them in God's hands. Has God at times brought good out of hard things you have faced? What spiritual "anchors" keep you linked to God's love, hope and peace?

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### Friday: Acts 26:6-8, 19-23, 28:16, 30-31

In Acts 26:8, Paul posed a question to King Agrippa and Roman governor Festus that is still fundamental for Christian witness: "Why is it inconceivable to you that God raises the dead?" Some doubters might say, "I've never seen it happen." True - but we believe all kinds of things about our world and universe that we've never personally observed. Can you trust as strongly in Jesus' resurrection as Paul did? How can you, with caring and love, pose the question he posed?

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## MOVING FORWARD

The key that allowed Paul to keep going in the face of hardship was perseverance. And we learn from Paul's life that there are four keys to perseverance:

- 1) Turn toward God and not away in the midst of adversity,
- 2) God is able to take our suffering and pain and bring something good from it if we allow him,
- 3) We all need stretcher bearers in our life
- 4) Through Jesus Christ, death has been swallowed up in victory.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) three, B) Jerusalem, C) hard. IIA) hardship, B) Paul. IIIA) toward, B) adversity, C) help, D) final.*

\* William Barclay, *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians (Revised Edition)*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1975, p. 67.