



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 53:
"The (Wo)Man God Uses to Change the World: Why Paul
was so Great"

Community Group Study Questions
Selected passages

1. Paul was a modeled a Christ-centered life for the rest of us (*1 Corinthians 11:1*). When your life is over, what do you hope people say and write about you? How does God want to change you between now and the day of your death?
2. How important was humility to Paul's success as a "servant/slave" who made an impact for Jesus Christ (*Romans 1:1; 6:18; 1 Corinthians 4:1; Philippians 2:3-4*)? Would others describe you as a humble servant of Christ? Why or why not?
3. What was Paul's all-consuming purpose in life (*Acts 9:15; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Timothy 2:10*)? Do you see this as your purpose in life as well? What often holds you back from living with this purpose in mind? How can you re-align priorities to change this?
4. Paul refers to himself as a "soldier" who endures "hardship" (*2 Timothy 2:3*). Should we expect to endure the same kinds of hardship that he did (*2 Corinthians 11:23-28*)? What does Paul mean by being involved in "civilian affairs" (*2 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 2:20; Ephesians 6:11-12*)?

5. Paul also uses the imagery of an athlete (*2 Timothy 2:5; 4:7*). How is the Christian life like an athletic competition (*1 Corinthians 9:23-27; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews 12:1*)? When Paul writes about winning the “prize,” is he talking about salvation or something else (*Philippians 3:14*)?

6. Finally, Paul references the farmer (*2 Timothy 2:6*). Paul labored for the gospel (*1 Corinthians 15:10*), but what was Paul’s “harvest” expectation (*1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:8*)? Do you labor for the gospel too? Do you share the same hope as Paul? Why or why not?

7. As we conclude the Life of Paul series, think back over the previous messages and studies. What are some of the most significant things you have learned through our nearly two years of study? How specifically has your life been changed? Can you say with authenticity that for you “to live is Christ and to die is gain” (*Philippians 1:21*)?

Memory Verse:

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.’”
(Acts 9:15, NASB)