



January 10, 2016      **Chapter 1**

## **Called to Follow Christ: Paul's Background, Conversion, and Early Ministry**

### **Goals**

- Begin to form a picture of the Apostle Paul.
- Explore how the early experiences and influences in Paul's life were formational.
- Begin to make connections between the life and message of Paul and your own life and faith.

**Biblical Texts** (*Acts 22:3a, 21:39b, Philippians 3:5, Acts 22:3b, Galatians 1:4a, Acts 22:4*)

*[And Paul said,] "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia . . . a citizen of an important city . . . circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews . . . brought up in [Jerusalem] at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God . . . I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age. . . . I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison."*

### **Outline**

- Puzzle Pieces of Saul's Life - *How God Uses the Puzzle Pieces of Our Lives*
- Saul the Persecutor (Acts 7:58-60, 8:1-2)
- "It is Hard to Kick Against the Goats" (Acts 26:14)
- The Importance of Ananias (Acts 9:1-19)
- Beginning to Preach in Damascus (Acts 9:19b-22, Acts 26:19-23)
- Jesus' followers in Jerusalem Afraid of Paul (Acts 9: 23-30)
- Paul's Sojourn in Arabia and Back in Damascus (Acts 13; Galatians 1:11-17)
- Peter and Paul: An Uncomfortable Relationship (Galatians 1:18-19; 2:1-14; Acts 9:26-27; 28-30)
- The Gospel Unleashed in Syrian Antioch, Paul's Commissioning (Acts 13:1-3)
- The In-Between Time (Galatians 1:11-17)
- The Role of Barnabas - *Who's Your Barnabas?* (Acts 4:36-37; Barnabas = son of encouragement)



AD. 67 Paul's Death



5 B.C. - AD. 10 Paul is Born (est.)

- AD. 38-48 Paul in Tarsus and region (est.)
- AD. 38 Paul meets Peter and James in Jerusalem
- AD. 35-38 Paul in Arabia, then Damascus
- AD. 35 Paul is converted on road to Damascus (est.)
- AD. 32 Paul arrests Jesus followers in Palestine (est.)
- AD. 16-22 Paul begins study in Jerusalem (est.)
- 5 B.C.-AD. 10 Paul is born (est.)