

## The Life and Achievements of Paul I.

### His Greatness

- “...it was Paul more than any other single person who ensured that the new movement stemming from Jesus would become a truly international and truly intellectually coherent religion” (James Dunn).
- Paul’s mission was “unique in the ancient world” and “an unprecedented happening in terms both of the history of religion in antiquity and of later church history” and that as a result of what he did Paul “has remained unparalleled over the subsequent 1900 years.” (Martin Hengel).
- Paul was “a first class intellectual” who had “a brilliant philosophical mind. (Anthony Flew).
- Paul, inventor of the individual (Siedentop — 2014).

Named after Paul: whole cities, great cathedrals, university colleges

### His Critics (who loved Jesus, hated Paul)

Paul hijacked Jesus made him a dying and resurrected redeemer.

William Wrede (1906) followed by Gandhi, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Bultmann.

G.B. Shaw blamed Paul for “Crosstianity”. Kazantzakis, *Last Temptation of Christ* — book, movie.

However: Jesus said his death *a ransom* — i.e., redemptive (Mark 10:45).  
The “received” tradition — Christ died *for (hyper)* our sins (1 Cor 15:3)  
— ‘my body [broken] for *(hyper)* you (1 Cor 11:23)

### Dates

Born c. AD 5 in Tarsus died by execution (beheading?) in Rome c. AD 65.

#### I. The pre-Christian Paul (AD 5–34):

*Tarsus* (5–17)

- Strict Jewish family (Philippians 3:5); Saul exposed to Greek version of Old Testament (LXX).
- By *birth* Saul a Roman citizen; also, a citizen of Tarsus. Wealth and privilege. Learned tentmaking?

*Jerusalem* (17–34)

- Star pupil of Gamaliel 1 (leading rabbi); further exposure to Greek Old Testament.
- Hatchet man of high priest in attacks on Christians; then to Damascus to extradite fleeing disciples.

### Damascus

Paul not the ‘inventor’ of Christianity but innovative applier of

(a) the *apokalypsis* from Jesus, (b) the *paradosis* from the apostles (Gal. 1:18–19), (c) Q, L, M.

II. The Christian Paul (34–65)	Letters	from
•Damascus-Arabia-Damascus (34-37)		
•Paul in Jerusalem (37)		
•Paul back in Syria-Cilicia (37–47)		
•Mission in Cyprus, Pisidia, Lycaonia (48)	Galatians	Antioch
•Mission in Macedonia, Achaia (50–52)	1 & 2 Thessalonians	Corinth
•Mission in Asia (53–56)	Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon	Ephesus Ephesus
	1 Corinthians	Ephesus
•Mission in Macedonia, Achaia (56-57)	2 Corinthian, Romans	Berea, Corinth
•Prison in Palestine and Rome (57–62)	Philippians, 1 Timothy	Rome
•Release, reimprisonment, execution (63–65)	Titus, 2 Timothy	Nicopolis, Rome

### Strategy

- Selected cross-roads cities (Antioch in Pisidia), port cities (Corinth, Ephesus).
- Chose capable lieutenants — Timothy, Titus, Luke, Silvanus, Priscilla/Aquila.
- Creation of daughter churches out of nodal centres. Example: Epaphras.
- Pioneered Pastoral Letter to reinforce “Traditions”; also new questions, issues.

