

Paul's First Missionary Journey
Acts 14: 19-28
October 11, 2023

This great missionary, one time persecutor of the church, was introduced briefly in Acts 7:58 and 8: 1-3, in connection with the stoning of the first martyr of the church, Stephen. Saul was born into a Jewish family in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3). Saul's family was of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5). Saul was named after the most prominent member of the tribe, King Saul. The vocational background of Saul was that of a tentmaker, a trade he would have learned from his father. Apparently the business was a thriving one, and history suggests that Saul's family was of some wealth. Saul was born a Roman citizenship and there have been several suggestions concerning how he obtained that citizenship. One of the most prominent suggestions is that his grandfather was granted Roman citizenship because of some special service he rendered to a Roman proconsul. None the less he was a Roman citizen (16: 35-40). Saul was educated and trained by one of the most prominent Rabbi's, Gamaliel. Prior to his conversion Saul was a great persecutor of Christians. Saul and Paul are one in the same. It was the custom of the day to have dual names (Abram/Abraham; Jacob/Israel). God chose Saul as the missionary to the Gentiles and thus he used his Roman name, Paul.

Paul's Traveling Companions: Barnabas and John Mark
Main Route: Cyprus and Turkey
Miles traveled: Approximately 1400

Scripture References: Acts 14: 19-28; Acts 5: 40-42; John 16:33; Ephesians 16:33

The Stoning of Paul: **Acts 14: 19, 20**

Strengthening the New Converts: **Vv. 21-28**

Small Group Discussion:

- 1) Who stoned Paul and why?**
- 2) Did Paul die from the stoning and was then raised from the dead?**
- 3) What did God do to Paul after he was stoned and left for dead (v. 20)?**
- 4) Through what did the apostles say “we must enter the kingdom of God” and why?**
- 5) Why did Paul and Barnabas return to cities that they had already visited?**
- 6) Is it important to share with other believers what God is doing in and through them? Why?**
- 7) Can one expect persecution when he/she is sharing the Good News?**
- 8) How should a believer respond when faced with persecution?**

Next Week: Second Missionary Journey
Acts 15: 35 – 16: 5