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Who is Paul?

**1) Conversion: From Persecutor to Preacher**

- a. Jewish Heritage - Philippians 3:4-6
  - i. Of the tribe of Benjamin
  - ii. Hebrew of Hebrews
  - iii. As to the law a Pharisee
  - iv. As for zeal, persecuting the church

FF Bruce ‘If Stephen argued, “The new has come; therefore the old must go”, Paul [sic] for his part argued, “The old must stay; therefore the new must go”. Hence the uncompromising rigour with which he threw himself into the work of repression.’<sup>1</sup>

- b. Roman Citizen

Acts 22:25-29

Acts 25:10-12

- c. Conversion

**2) Apostleship**

- a. Independent calling, same gospel.
  - Galatians 1
- b. Unique ministry to Gentiles
  - i. Spearheaded the Gentile mission
  - ii. Grasped the multinational implications of the gospel
    - Galatians 2:11-16

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<sup>1</sup> FF Bruce. *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, 70



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## Paul the Missionary

- c. Preaching
  - i. Centrality of the cross
    - 1 Corinthians 1:22-24
    - 1 Cor 9:20-23
    - 1 Cor 9: 11-18
  - ii. Glory of God
    - Romans 1:5
    - Ephesians 1:13-14
- d. Writing: the missionary writer
  - 1 Thess 3:7-10

## Application questions

- 1) Are we ultimately concerned about God's glory?
- 2) To what extent are our lives and decisions driven by the one overarching concern of how we can further the ministry of the gospel?
- 3) Do we see Paul's letter's as a great resource for evaluating ways in which the centrality of the gospel might be displaced in our own lives?