



MZBMP

Sunday School – Teens Class
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TITLE:

Paul's Early Ministry (Part 1)

TEXT:

Acts 9:19-25; Gal. 1:15-18; 2 Cor. 11:32-33;

IN DAMASCUS:

- Paul got saved on the road in Damascus (Acts 9:1-9).
- After encountering Jesus and being blinded, he is taken to Damascus where God sends a man named Ananias to restore his sight. Ananias baptized him (Acts 9:10-18).
- He became a member of the church in Damascus.
- He immediately starts preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, surprising those who knew him as a persecutor of Christians (Acts 9:19-21).

IN ARABIA:

- Paul went to Arabia (Gal. 1:15-18).
- Two purposes have been suggested for why he went to Arabia:
 1. It was a preaching mission to the Arabian/Mesopotamian region east of Damascus.
 2. It was a time for study and prayer in the Arabian wilderness around Mt. Sinai.
- He probably stayed in Arabia for two years.
- This suggests that there was a local church in Arabia, and he probably transferred his membership to it.

IN DAMASCUS:

- Paul went back to Damascus.
- He increased the more in strength and confounded the Jews (Acts 9:22).
- The Jews in Damascus were confused and plotted to kill him (Acts 9:23).
- Other than Jews, the governor and Nabataeans posted at the city gates to arrest Paul (2 Cor. 11:32-33).
- This governor is under King Aretas who is likely acting on behalf of King Aretas IV of the Nabatean Arab Kingdom, who ruled from around 9 BC to 40 AD.
- With the help of the disciples, he was lowered in a basket through an opening in the city wall to escape their plot (Acts 9:24-25).

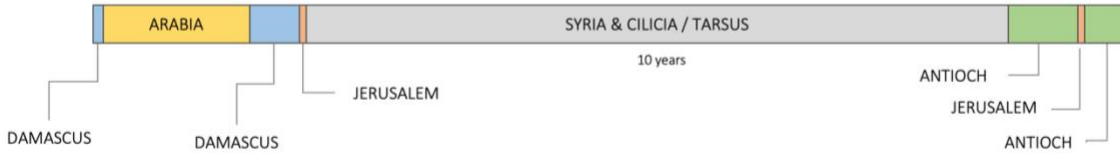
APPLICATION:

- Paul preached (to herald) Christ that he is the Son of God (Acts 9:20). The duty of every believer is to preach Christ.
- Then, he increased the more in strength (ability) proving Jesus is the very Christ (Acts 9:22). Believers should improve their ability to provide evidence for their belief in Jesus Christ through the Bible.
- He understands the significance of the local church and being a member of it. The ministry should always be accomplished in the context of the local New Testament church.
- The disciples help Paul to escape. Believers, especially church members, should support and assist each other in their endeavors to spread the message of Christ.

EARLY MINISTRY – 14 years

AD 33

AD 47



- Paul sent to Damascus
- Paul spends time in Arabia
- Paul returns to Jerusalem
- Paul flees from Hellenists
- Paul and Barnabas travel to Antioch
- Paul and Barnabas sent to Jerusalem
- Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch
- Kingdom of Agrippa I

