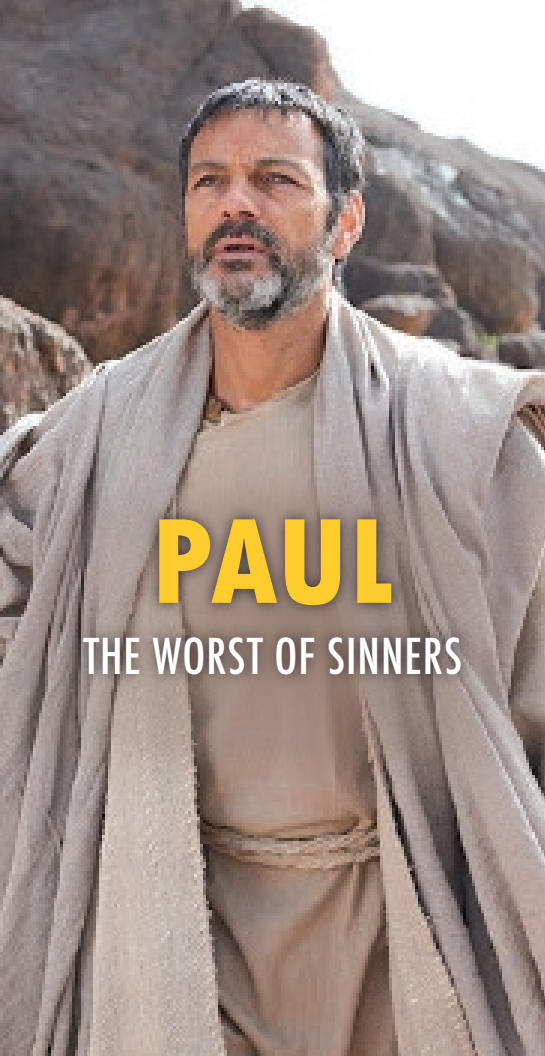




PAUL

THE WORST OF SINNERS

Don't you find it interesting that the apostle Paul wrote: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3.23 NKJV)? "All" means he included himself. But, if you read about Paul's life, you will realize that he was an extremely religious man and—in terms of zeal—unmatched. Paul would later write, in 1 Timothy 1.15, that of sinners: "I am chief" that is, the worst.

Let's examine his life. Paul said: "*I am indeed a Jew... brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God,*" and "*according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee*" (Acts 22.3; 26.5 NKJV).

What was Paul's terrible sin? Listen to his own testimony. "*Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against*

them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities” (Acts 26.9-11 NKJV).

Paul was not a pagan who offered sacrifices to false gods, nor was he involved in acts of immorality, nor immersed in the vices of this world. Paul fell into the error of his nation: *“For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Romans 10.2-4 NKJV).*

In short, Paul ignored the Scriptures and their message, despised the person of Jesus Christ, and hated believers in Jesus Christ, causing them much pain and suffering.

What changed Paul’s way of thinking? It was seeing the Lord Jesus Christ glorified, that is, seeing Him after His resurrection and exaltation to Heaven (Acts 9, 22, 26). Please understand that Jesus was not a liar, or a fraud, when He called Himself the Son of God, but was really the Messiah, whom they had rejected and crucified.

In 1 Corinthians 15.3-4 Paul writes: *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”* (NKJV).

“This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them! But here is why I was treated with mercy: so that in me as the worst, Christ Jesus could demonstrate his utmost patience, as an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life.” (1 Timothy 1.15,16 NET).

Isaiah Frazier



Publicaciones Pescadores
publicacionespescadores@gmail.com