

STRENGTHENING THE DISCIPLES AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO REMAIN TRUE TO THE FAITH. "WE MUST GO THROUGH MANY HARDSHIPS TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD," THEY SAID. ACTS 14:22 NIV

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SAUL/PAUL Christ's Chosen Apostle to Gentile & Jew

Saul, a man with ancestry going back to the Hebrew tribe of Benjamin, was born in Tarsus, a City of Asia Minor., was well Educated. He learned at the feet of Gamaliel, a prominent Rabi in Jerusalem, Israel. He was familiar with even the Greek Poets, as a Student in Balance with Religion and World thought. He also had Roman Citizenship and later Christ's Apostleship conferred upon him! So while the Pope of the Catholic Church claims to be the only Apostolic Church, we see another Apostle (with great Authority covering the Christian non Catholic Church) parallel to the Apostle Peter.

He, like so many today, took a stand against Jesus Christ, defending **what he believed** as the one true God.

In the first mention of **Saul**, he is one of the bystanders during the Stoning death of STEPHEN, a disciple of Jesus Christ: Acts 7:58 "and they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named **Saul**. 59And they stoned Stephen,..." 8:1 "And **Saul** was consenting unto his death. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²And devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him. ³But **Saul** laid

waste the church, entering into every house, and dragging men and women committed them to prison." 9:1 But **Saul**, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ²and asked of him letters to Damascus unto the synagogues, that if he found any that were **of the Way**, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: ⁴and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul,



Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:** ⁶but rise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷And the men that journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but beholding no man. ⁸And **Saul** arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing; and they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And he was

three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink." Just a few years after the death of Jesus Christ, around 38 AD to be more precise, on one of Saul's 'missions of persecution' of Christian Believers, He himself met **THE RESURRECTED CHRIST** while on the road to Damascus, Syria: 10Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and **the Lord** said unto him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹And **the Lord** said unto him, Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named **Saul**, a man of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth; ¹²and he hath seen a man named Ananias coming in, and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many of this man, how much evil he did to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call upon thy name. ¹⁵But **the Lord** said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel:" -ASV.