



The Life of St. Paul

James Stalker , Wilbert W. White (Introduction)

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The Life of St. Paul Details

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From Reader Review The Life of St. Paul for online ebook

Bendick Ong says

Did a module on the life and epistles of paul in seminary and this is the most enjoyable read in the textbooks list. 150 pages, a good summary of everything that has to deal with paul, complete with a guide for teachers and bible study group leaders.

Aaron says

A fun, whimsical view of what Paul's life was like, with so much speculation, it borders on historical fiction.

Chris Comis says

Sound biblical chronology. Impressive.

David says

About 40-ish years ago, one of my Bible college professors made us buy this book. Then he told us we should read it, but would not be graded on it.

I immediately set it aside and did not pick it up again (except to add to a moving box now and then).

40-ish years later, my wife is making me downsize our stuff. I found the book in a box. It's fairly skinny, and I thought it would be a quick way to help reach my Goodreads goal of books to read this year.

Turns out, this is a terrific account of the life of (probably) the second most important person in the history of Christianity.

The author describes the places Paul went, the cultures and traditions of the times and integrates these into the narrative of his life (as we know it through the book of Acts and Paul's epistles). In doing so, he created a fascinating account, showing the likely thoughts and reasons behind his (and others') actions.

It's a skinny book, but it helped me understand much more about Paul's life and motives, as well as some of the conflicts and growing pains of the early church.

I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

Lillie says

This short little book is packed with information about the life of St. Paul. Much of it is derived from the book of Acts and Paul's epistles in the New Testament; some of it is from tradition. Acts ends with Paul imprisoned in Rome, but this book speculates that he was released from prison, later imprisoned again, and beheaded. What I found most fascinating was the author's perspective on Paul's life and ministry, especially his writings.

Kingue Georges says

A life lived for God

This concise note is eye opening on the life of Paul. Recommended to every student of the Bible. Praise God.

Scott says

Fourteen of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament have traditionally been attributed to Paul. I was always curious about who really was St Paul; this book is a historical biography.

Pete F says

I really enjoyed this book and so gave it five stars, which is very generous for me, especially for a book so old, because I usually find old books of theology and biography dreary. But although written in the language of a hundred years ago (it was originally published in 1912), and in a style possibly enthused by the Holy Ghost(!), I found it riveting. However, some of it must have been speculation. The historical St Paul, the Paul of the Bible and his theology can be gleaned from his epistles and the Acts of the Apostles, but there is stuff here that can only be conjecture based on what we know of him. For example, we don't know for sure of his fate. The final letters of Paul were written from prison, and the sudden end of Acts tells us he was placed under house arrest by the Romans where he lived for two years. It says nothing of his execution, so this can only be conjecture. Traditionally, he was thought to have been beheaded but there is no concrete evidence of this.

This criticism aside, it is one of the best biographies I have read in a long time. It looks at Paul the man, and his training to be a rabbi, and his pharisee years, his persecution of Christians, his conversion to Christianity, the time spent in Arabia (again, a subject of speculation, as there is very little about this in the New Testament), his work as an apostle, his missionary journeys, his letters (or epistles as they are referred to in the King James Version of the Bible and in this book), and the persecution by his fellow Jews and imprisonment by the Romans, his place in history and his character. As the author says, he must have had a strong character and constitution to withstand the punishments meted out to him and the imprisonments, not to mention his long journeys through Asia Minor, the Middle East and the Mediterranean countries.

Paul was very much a man of his time but also a man ahead of his time. His instructions on how women should conduct themselves sound quaint at best and bigoted at worst to modern sensibilities, and his denunciations of homosexual acts also sound bigoted to modern ears. But the Paul who was ahead of his time was a radical, who believed in the equality of Jews and Gentiles, who opposed circumcision, opposed the idea that Gentiles had to become Jews before they could become Christians, and whose attitudes to women,

though seeming quaint today, were better than the attitudes prevailing at the time. Notwithstanding the aforementioned attitudes to homosexuality (note that I have used the word homosexuality rather than homosexuals), I greatly admire Paul. Without him there would be no Christianity, and no epistles, which are also great works of literature as well as being inspiration for Christians through the ages and around the world.

This book is a great introduction to the life of St Paul for its time. It is available as a free download on Kindle and also as an ebook on Project Gutenberg.

Kathy says

I just finished studying Acts at Bible Study Fellowship. So the story of Paul was very interesting.
