

“Paul’s Bragging Rights”

Intro: When we first meet the Apostle Paul in the Bible, he is called Saul and he’s standing in approval over the execution of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

- I. Saul, the Persecutor (Philippians 3:6; Acts 9)
 - a. Making murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples

- II. Saul’s Pedigree (Philippians 3:4-6)
 - a. Of the tribe of Benjamin; a Pharisee; “faultless”
 - *“Then Saul, who was also called Paul...” Acts 13:9*

- III. Paul, the “Abnormal” Apostle (1 Corinthians 15:8-10)
 - a. The least of the apostles and “abnormally born”

- IV. Paul, the Least of the Lord’s People (Ephesians 3:8-9)
 - a. “This grace was given me: to preach...Christ”

- V. Paul, the Worst of Sinners (1 Timothy 1:15-16)
 - a. Paul’s “regression” is complete

- VI. Paul’s pedigree as spiritually detrimental (Philippians 3:7-11)
 - a. *zemia* = “damage, loss, detriment”
 - b. *skubalon* = “refuse, waste, filthy scraps”

- VII. Paul, crucified to the world (Galatians 6:14)
 - a. What does Paul boast in? The cross of Jesus.

Close: When we last see Paul in the book of Acts, he is preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. History says Paul was beheaded in Rome circa 69 A.D. for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.