

# Paul

When God called Saul on the road to Damascus, He changed a mighty and powerful man into a servant, a servant of Christ. The persecutor is now the persecuted. His name was changed to Paul, which means "little." "Little," is a fitting name for a servant of the most High God.

In II Corinthians 11:22-33, we read Paul's summary of his sufferings as a servant of God.

1. 5 times, 39 stripes (Acts 16:23)
2. Once stoned (Acts 14:19)
3. 3 times shipwrecked, one night and day floating (Acts 27)
4. Always traveling
5. Dangers:
  - On Water
  - With robbers
  - With own people
  - With heathen (snake bit – Acts 28)
  - In city
  - In wilderness
  - On sea
  - With false brethren
6. Paul suffered:
  - Weariness
  - Pain
  - Sleeplessness
  - Hunger
  - Thirst
  - Fasting
  - Cold and Naked

Beside all of this, he carried the burden of caring for the churches he helped to establish. Paul's life was in constant jeopardy of imprisonment, yet he continued to push ahead and serve Christ. In prison with Silas, they sang and won the jailor to Christ. In prison, in Rome, he continued to serve the churches through his writings.

In case we think that all he suffered was due to the fact he was an Apostle, it is not. Paul was an example of a servant. Paul was a servant of Christ and exhorted us to follow Him as he followed Christ.

(I Corinthians 4:14-17) Paul became "little" that Christ would become much. (II Cor. 4:5)

## Lessons to Learn:

1. A servant cares only for his master's desire.
2. A servant doesn't allow suffering to change their purpose.
3. A servant of Christ never stops serving.