

## CEC Bible Study: Romans

Session 1: (Re-)Introducing the Apostle Paul  
Aug. 5, 2020  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Cape Girardeau, MO

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### Group Introductions

- Name
- Favorite book or tv show
- Your experience with Paul: Positive? Negative? Non-existent? You don't have to be an expert. I'm curious about *your* understanding.

Opening Question: How do we know what we know about Paul?

### Introduction to Paul

- Paul in Acts
  - The Stoning of Stephen ([Acts 7:54 – 8:3](#))
  - Paul's "Conversion" ([Acts 9:1–30](#))
    - Put yourselves in the shoes of the early Christians for a moment.
    - Put yourselves in Paul's shoes.
    - How would you feel in each of these situations?
  - Other biographical details:
    - Paul was from Tarsus, and remains Jewish after his conversion ([Acts 21:39](#))
    - Paul studied in Jerusalem under Rabbi Gamaliel ([Acts 22:3](#))
    - Paul remains a Pharisee, presumably for the rest of his life ([Acts 23:6](#))
  - Paul Gets into Hot Water in Jerusalem ([Acts 21:17–28](#))
    - Why?
      - [Acts 21:21](#)
      - [Acts 21:28](#)
    - Paul has developed a reputation as an abrogator of Jewish law.
- Paul in his own words
  - Persecutor of the Church ([Gal. 1:13–24](#))
  - Relationship with Peter ([Gal. 2:11–14](#))
  - Paul's Autobiography ([2 Cor. 11:21–33](#))
  - An Out-of-Body Experience? ([2 Cor. 12:1–10](#))
  - "Hebrew of Hebrews" ([Philipp. 3:4b–7](#))
  - Paul's Self-Perception in [Rom. 1:1–6](#)

### On the Trustworthiness of Acts?

- Compare and Contrast:
  - [Acts 9:1–22](#) vs. [Gal. 1:11–24](#)
  - [Acts 15:1–29](#) vs. [Gal. 2:1–10](#)