

BEST FRIENDS & WORST ENEMIES!

PAUL'S ENEMIES AND ALLIES – CLASS 5



WHO WAS PAUL'S "BEST FRIEND" ?



- BARNABAS
- SILAS
- AQUILA & PRISCILLA
- TIMOTHY
- TITUS
- APOLLOS
- JESUS





WHO WAS PAUL'S "WORST ENEMY" ?

- THE JEWS – BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS
- THE PAGANS
- ALEXANDER
- DEMETRIUS
- ELYMAS THE SORCERER (BAR-JESUS)
- HIMSELF



PAUL – HIS OWN WORST ENEMY!!! (ROMANS 7)

- ROMANS 7:15 FOR THAT WHICH I DO I ALLOW NOT: FOR WHAT I WOULD, THAT DO I NOT; BUT WHAT I HATE, THAT DO I.
- (NIV) I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I DO. FOR WHAT I WANT TO DO I DO NOT DO, BUT WHAT I HATE I DO.

PAUL – HIS OWN WORST ENEMY!!! (ROMANS 7)

- ROMANS 7:18-19 FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS, IN MY FLESH,) DWELLETH NO GOOD THING: FOR TO WILL IS PRESENT WITH ME; BUT HOW TO PERFORM THAT WHICH IS GOOD I FIND NOT. FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD I DO NOT: BUT THE EVIL WHICH I WOULD NOT, THAT I DO.
- (NIV) FOR I KNOW THAT GOOD ITSELF DOES NOT DWELL IN ME, THAT IS, IN MY SINFUL NATURE. FOR I HAVE THE DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS GOOD, BUT I CANNOT CARRY IT OUT. FOR I DO NOT DO THE GOOD I WANT TO DO, BUT THE EVIL I DO NOT WANT TO DO—THIS I KEEP ON DOING.

PAUL – HIS OWN WORST ENEMY!!! (ROMANS 7)

- ROMANS 7:23-25 BUT I SEE ANOTHER LAW IN MY MEMBERS, WARRING AGAINST THE LAW OF MY MIND, AND BRINGING ME INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE LAW OF SIN WHICH IS IN MY MEMBERS.
- O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?
- I THANK GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. SO THEN WITH THE MIND I MYSELF SERVE THE LAW OF GOD; BUT WITH THE FLESH THE LAW OF SIN.

THAT IS WHY HE NEEDED JESUS AS HIS BEST FRIEND!!

- PHILIPPIANS 4:13 I CAN DO **ALL** THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
- CONTEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:11-12 NOT THAT I SPEAK IN RESPECT OF WANT: FOR I HAVE LEARNED, **IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT**. I KNOW BOTH HOW TO BE ABASED, AND I KNOW HOW TO ABOUND: EVERY WHERE AND IN ALL THINGS I AM INSTRUCTED BOTH TO BE FULL AND TO BE HUNGRY, BOTH TO ABOUND AND TO SUFFER NEED.

THE DAMASCUS ROAD – A COMBINED ‘FIRST PERSON’ ACCOUNT
(*ACTS 9:3-8 – ITALIC. ACTS 22:6-11 – BOLD.* ACTS 26 – NORMAL)

AND AS [I] JOURNEYED [AND] CAME NEAR DAMASCUS, AT **ABOUT** MIDDAY, I SAW SUDDENLY IN THE WAY A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN, ABOVE THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SUN, SHINING ROUND ABOUT ME AND THEM WHICH JOURNEYED WITH ME.

AND WHEN WE WERE ALL FALLEN TO THE EARTH, I HEARD A VOICE SPEAKING UNTO ME, AND SAYING IN THE HEBREW TONGUE, SAUL, SAUL, WHY PERSECUTEST THOU ME? IT IS HARD FOR THEE TO KICK AGAINST THE PRICKS.

AND I SAID, WHO ART THOU, LORD?

AND *THE LORD* SAID, I AM JESUS **OF NAZARETH** WHOM THOU PERSECUTES: *IT IS HARD FOR THEE TO KICK AGAINST THE PRICKS.* BUT RISE, AND STAND UPON THY FEET: FOR I HAVE APPEARED UNTO THEE FOR THIS PURPOSE, TO MAKE THEE A MINISTER AND A WITNESS BOTH OF THESE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN, AND OF THOSE THINGS IN THE WHICH I WILL APPEAR UNTO THEE; DELIVERING THEE FROM THE PEOPLE, AND FROM THE GENTILES, UNTO WHOM NOW I SEND THEE...

... TO OPEN THEIR EYES, AND TO TURN THEM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, AND FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, AND INHERITANCE AMONG THEM WHICH ARE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH THAT IS IN ME.

AND [I] TREMBLING AND ASTONISHED SAID, LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, ARISE, AND GO INTO THE CITY, AND IT SHALL BE TOLD THEE WHAT THOU MUST DO.

*AND THE MEN WHICH JOURNEYED WITH [ME] **SAW INDEED THE LIGHT, AND WERE AFRAID***
*[AND] **STOOD SPEECHLESS, HEARING A VOICE, BUT SEEING NO MAN.***

*AND [I] **AROSE FROM THE EARTH; AND WHEN [MY] EYES WERE OPENED, [I] SAW NO MAN FOR THE GLORY OF THAT LIGHT: BUT THEY THAT WERE WITH [ME] LED [ME] BY THE HAND, AND BROUGHT [ME] INTO DAMASCUS.***

(ACTS 9:3-8 – *ITALIC*. ACTS 22:6-11 – **BOLD**. ACTS 26 – *NORMAL*)

THE DAMASCUS ROAD!

ACTS 9:6 AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, ARISE, AND GO INTO THE CITY, AND IT SHALL BE TOLD THEE WHAT THOU MUST DO.

- PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER SAUL MUST ACT IN FAITH!
- BLINDED SO THAT HE COULD SEE!
- HEBREWS 12:6 THE LORD DISCIPLINES THE ONE HE LOVES, AND HE CHASTENS EVERYONE HE ACCEPTS AS HIS SON. (NIV)
- PROVERBS 27:5-6 OPEN REBUKE IS BETTER THAN SECRET LOVE. FAITHFUL ARE THE WOUNDS OF A FRIEND; BUT THE KISSES OF AN ENEMY ARE DECEITFUL.

WALKING WITH THE LORD

AFTER THE DAMASCUS ROAD EXPERIENCE PAUL THINKS HE'S GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT!

- [JESUS SAID] UNTO ME: MAKE HASTE, AND GET THEE QUICKLY OUT OF JERUSALEM: FOR THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THY TESTIMONY CONCERNING ME.
- AND I SAID, LORD, THEY KNOW THAT I IMPRISONED AND BEAT IN EVERY SYNAGOGUE THEM THAT BELIEVED ON THEE: AND WHEN THE BLOOD OF THY MARTYR STEPHEN WAS SHED, I ALSO WAS STANDING BY, AND CONSENTING UNTO HIS DEATH, AND KEPT THE RAIMENT OF THEM THAT SLEW HIM.
- AND HE SAID UNTO ME, DEPART: FOR I WILL SEND THEE FAR HENCE UNTO THE GENTILES.

ACTS 22:18-21

JESUS ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT IS BEST, EVEN WHEN IT IS COUNTER INTUITIVE TO US!!

WALKING WITH THE LORD

IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS MISSIONARY JOURNEY WHEN THINGS WERE GETTING TENSE!

- THEN SPAKE THE LORD TO PAUL IN THE NIGHT BY A VISION, BE NOT AFRAID, BUT SPEAK, AND HOLD NOT THY PEACE: FOR I AM WITH THEE, AND NO MAN SHALL SET ON THEE TO HURT THEE: FOR I HAVE MUCH PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.
- AND HE CONTINUED THERE A YEAR AND SIX MONTHS, TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD AMONG THEM.

ACTS 18:9-11

WE HAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT 'OUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD'!

LOOKING FOR THE LORD SPEAKING TO US THROUGH 'COINCIDENCES'!

WALKING WITH THE LORD

IN PRISON, WONDERING HOW THIS COULD POSSIBLY WORK OUT FOR
THE “FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL!”

- AND THE NIGHT FOLLOWING THE LORD STOOD BY HIM, AND SAID, BE
OF GOOD CHEER, PAUL: FOR AS THOU HAST TESTIFIED OF ME IN
JERUSALEM, SO MUST THOU BEAR WITNESS ALSO AT **ROME**. ACTS 23:11

➤ HOW DO WE SEE THE LORD GUIDING OUR STEPS?

➤ HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE OPEN DOORS AND CLOSED DOORS?

“WALKING WITH GOD”

AND **ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD**: AND HE WAS NOT; FOR GOD TOOK HIM.
GENESIS 5:24

THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF NOAH: NOAH WAS A JUST MAN AND PERFECT
IN HIS GENERATIONS, AND **NOAH WALKED WITH GOD**. GENESIS 6:9

AND HE [AMON] FORSOOK THE LORD GOD OF HIS FATHERS, AND **WALKED NOT**
IN THE WAY OF THE LORD. 2KINGS 21:22

“WALKING” IN FAITH. “WALKING” WITH GOD.

ACTION & FAITH

GENESIS 48:15 AND HE BLESSED JOSEPH, AND SAID, GOD, **BEFORE WHOM MY FATHERS ABRAHAM AND ISAAC DID WALK**, THE GOD WHICH FED ME ALL MY LIFE LONG UNTO THIS DAY,

DEUTERONOMY 5:33 YE SHALL **WALK IN ALL THE WAYS WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD HATH COMMANDED YOU**, THAT YE MAY LIVE, AND THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YE MAY PROLONG YOUR DAYS IN THE LAND WHICH YE SHALL POSSESS.

MICAH 6:8 HE HATH SHEWED THEE, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOTTH THE LORD REQUIRE OF THEE, BUT TO DO JUSTLY, AND TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH THY GOD?

{WALK....: HEB. **HUMBLE THYSELF TO WALK** }

“WALKING” IN FAITH. “WALKING” WITH GOD.

ACTION & FAITH

EPHESIANS 2:10 FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD **WALK IN THEM**.

COLOSSIANS 1:10 THAT YE MIGHT **WALK WORTHY** OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING, BEING FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK, AND INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

APPEALING TO THE LORD IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

- LEST I SHOULD BE EXALTED ABOVE MEASURE THROUGH THE ABUNDANCE OF THE REVELATIONS, THERE WAS GIVEN TO ME A THORN IN THE FLESH, THE MESSENGER OF SATAN TO BUFFET ME, LEST I SHOULD BE EXALTED ABOVE MEASURE.
- FOR THIS THING I BESOUGHT THE LORD THRICE, THAT IT MIGHT DEPART FROM ME.
- AND HE SAID UNTO ME, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE: FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.
- MOST GLADLY THEREFORE WILL I RATHER GLORY IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. THEREFORE I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES, IN REPROACHES, IN NECESSITIES, IN PERSECUTIONS, IN DISTRESSES FOR CHRIST'S SAKE: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG.

2CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

LESSONS FROM HAVING JESUS AS OUR FRIEND!

- ✓ WE CAN BE OUR OWN WORST ENEMY
 - ✓ DON'T GET FRUSTRATED – TRUST IN THE LORD
 - ✓ LET YOUR OWN WEAKNESSES HUMBLE YOU TO BE EMPATHETIC TO OTHERS!
- ✓ SEE JESUS AS YOUR BEST BEST-FRIEND!
 - ✓ TRUST HIM
 - ✓ FOLLOW HIM
 - ✓ LOOK FOR HIS GUIDANCE IN YOUR LIFE
 - ✓ LOOK FOR HIM IN YOUR FRIENDS AND THEIR GODLY ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT
 - ✓ ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS AND LISTEN TO HIS WORDS