

PAUL: A PURPOSE STUDY

A Closer Look at What We Know About the Apostle Paul, a Man of Purpose

1. Paul made tents for a living, but he never saw himself as a “tent maker.” What did he have to say about his purpose? In every epistle he wrote, he referred to what he had been born to do and *never* did he write that it was to make tents. He was clear enough to talk about his purpose every chance he had. Look at the verses below to see what I mean:

- Romans 1:5, 13, 16
- Romans 15:7-29
- 1 Corinthians 1:17,24
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-15
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
- Galatians 1:15-16
- Galatians 2:2, 7-9
- Ephesians 3:1-10, 7-12
- Philippians 1:12-18
- Colossians 1:27-29
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
- 1 Thessalonians 2:16
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-4
- 1 Timothy 2:5-7
- 2 Timothy 4:17
- Titus 1:1-3

If you have some knowledge about the Bible, you’ll say, “Hey, wait a minute! Paul wrote 13 epistles and there are only 12 listed above. I thought you said he referred to his purpose in all 13?”

Well, I did write that. And it’s true. While Paul did not specifically mention his purpose in his epistle to Philemon, he was writing about an escaped slave who was now a Christian. The whole letter addressed a problem that was unique to the Gentile world, which was Paul’s sphere of ministry.

2. The book of Acts, which chronicles life and ministry in the early church, spends a great deal of time relating stories of Saul or Paul and his purpose.

- Acts 9:15
- Acts 13:1-4
- Acts 13:47
- Acts 14:27
- Acts 15:3,7
- Acts 21:11, 19-21
- Acts 20:24
- Acts 22:14-21
- Acts 26:16-19

3. On six separate occasions, Paul had a vision or supernatural visitation. It is of interest that on each occasion, the visitation was to reveal or encourage him in his purpose.

- Acts 9:1-9
- Acts 16:9-10
- Acts 18:9-11
- Acts 22:17
- Acts 23:11
- Acts 27:24