



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of June 24 – June 30, 2017
Lesson #1 of **“The Gospel in Galatians”**



Paul: Apostle *to the Gentiles*

Memory Text: *“When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, ‘Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.’ ”*
([Acts 11:18 KJV](#)).

Read and Meditate for This Week’s Study:

*Acts 6:9-15, 9:1-18, 11:19-21, 15:1-5, 22:6-21, 26:12-19; 1 Samuel 16:7;
Matthew 7:1-2; Romans 1:16-21*

Main Thought for the Week: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe. This includes taking a man like Saul of Tarsus - who thought that he was in harmony with the law of God through his own efforts, and serving God by persecuting God’s people - and turning him into a powerful advocate for the Gospel. It is God’s plan to offer this same life-altering power to each and every one of us through the blood of Jesus Christ, and the agency of His Holy Spirit. This week, we will begin to see how the Gospel changes lives, empowers believers, and gives us a blessed hope. We will also see how conflict is always attempting to shadow the Gospel.



Persecutor of Christians

Sunday's Summary – June 25:

1. What charges were brought against Stephen? (**Acts 6:9-15**) _____

2. Where have we heard similar charges before? (**Matthew 26:59-61**) _____

Discuss/Consider: Convinced that he was right, Saul was willing to put those whom he thought wrong to death. What was wrong with that thought process? How can we avoid it? _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Paul was certain that he was doing the right thing in God's sight by putting these Jewish heretics (like Stephen) to death. Only later did he come to realize that he was only fulfilling the prophecy that Jesus had uttered shortly before His own crucifixion. **"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."** John 16:2-3 KJV While we need to be rooted and grounded in what we believe, we need to be careful with what actions we take on account of our beliefs. Our actions must be just as Biblical as our beliefs are. We should question any beliefs that lead to unChristlike actions.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Saul's Conversion

Monday's Summary – June 26:

1. How was God's grace manifest in Saul's conversion?

(Acts 9:10-15) _____

(Acts 22:14-16) _____

(Acts 26:16-18) _____

ILLUMINATION: "But the Saviour never passed by one soul, however sunken in sin, who was willing to receive the precious truths of heaven. To publicans and harlots His words were the beginning of a new life. Mary Magdalene, out of whom He cast seven devils, was the last at the Saviour's tomb and the first whom He greeted in the morning of His resurrection. It was Saul of Tarsus, one of the most determined enemies of the gospel, who became Paul the devoted minister of Christ. Beneath an appearance of hatred and contempt, even beneath crime and degradation, may be hidden a soul that the grace of Christ will rescue to shine as a jewel in the Redeemer's crown."

– Ellen G. White, **Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing**, p. 129

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Saul in Damascus

Tuesday's Summary – June 27:

1. What was God's plan for Saul of Tarsus? (Acts 9:10-14) _____

2. How did God's people respond to Saul of Tarsus? (Acts 9:26-30) _____

3. What mistake is common among God's people? Why? (1 Samuel 16:7; Isaiah 55:9)

Discuss/Consider: Why do we find it so easy to judge unrighteously (whether too favorably or too unfavorably)? What is the solution for this problem? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles

Wednesday's Summary – June 28:

1. Where was the first Gentile church established? (Acts 11:19-21, 26) _____

2. What led to the expansion of the church? (Acts 8:1; Acts 9:1-2) _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: The persecution that broke out in Jerusalem after Stephen's death caused a number of Jewish believers to flee three hundred miles north to Antioch. As capital of the Roman province of Syria, Antioch was second only to Rome and Alexandria in significance. Its population, estimated at five hundred thousand, was extremely cosmopolitan, making it an ideal location not only for a church with large numbers of both Jews and Gentiles but as the starting base for the worldwide mission of the early church.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Conflict Within the Church

Thursday's Summary – June 29:

1. How did certain believers from Judea try to counteract Paul's work with Gentile Christians in Antioch? (**Acts 15:1-5**) _____

2. What was this conflict ultimately about? (**Galatians 5:1-6**) _____

Discuss/Consider: What are some of the conflicts that we see in the church today that counteracts or undermines the work of the Gospel? What is the solution? _____

Appeal: Take a moment today – and every day – to ask for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life and that of your brethren so that you may be able to experience what Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-23 – true oneness with the Godhead (in Spirit and in Truth).

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Wrapping It All Up...

Friday's Summary – June 30:

ILLUMINATION: “Paul had formerly been known as a zealous defender of the Jewish religion and an untiring persecutor of the followers of Jesus. Courageous, independent, persevering, his talents and training would have enabled him to serve in almost any capacity. He could reason with extraordinary clearness, and by his withering sarcasm could place an opponent in no enviable light. And now the Jews saw this young man of unusual promise united with those whom he formerly persecuted, and fearlessly preaching in the name of Jesus.

A general slain in battle is lost to his army, but his death gives no additional strength to the enemy. But when a man of prominence joins the opposing force, not only are his services lost, but those to whom he joins himself gain a decided advantage. Saul of Tarsus, on his way to Damascus, might easily have been struck dead by the Lord, and much strength would have been withdrawn from the persecuting power. But God in His providence not only spared Saul's life, but converted him, thus transferring a champion from the side of the enemy to the side of Christ. An eloquent speaker and a severe critic, Paul, with his stern purpose and undaunted courage, possessed the very qualifications needed in the early church.” – Ellen G. White, **The Acts of the Apostles**, p. 124

Final Thoughts: We at Metro New York World Ministry are committed to preaching and teaching the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The life-changing benefits of the Gospel are available to every person that will surrender his or her life to God, repent of his or her sins, and accept the new life of Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are “**not ashamed of the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” (**Romans 1:16-17**).

