

Timeless lives from the God-Story

PAUL: HEART SET FREE

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-17

Of all the choices a person would make for his or her life, the road Saul of Tarsus travelled would be way down on the list. He experienced deep joy and deep pain - often beaten and abandoned - and he followed his path until it's final destination!

Perhaps the fire in Paul's heart came from the fact that he had been such a zealous, feared Pharisee. He had thought nothing of chasing down, persecuting, and locking up loyal Christ-followers. In encountering Christ He had grasped Jesus' words "He who has been forgiven much - forgives much" (Luke 7:47).



Acts 9

What was Paul's disposition at the beginning of this chapter? What does that tell you about what is going on in his heart? Why did Saul/Paul need to have such an animated encounter with Jesus? Why was Ananias' situation so difficult? How long did it take Paul to follow though on his face to face with Jesus?

2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

Why would anyone question Paul's legitimacy as a Christ-follower? What had Paul's life been like since he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus many years earlier? What had Paul experienced in subsequent encounters with God? What helped Paul keep his ego in check? What does this teach us about how God works?

Philippians 3:1-17

As Paul writes to this early church community it is obvious that he has made huge transitions in what he does or doesn't value. What do you learn about this transition from these verses? What kept him going? What were his core values? How did these values impact the choices he made for his life?

Paul experienced conviction, joy, and intense challenges. He shouldered this as the "normal" life for someone who wished to leave everything and follow Him! Do you feel you have this kind of freedom of heart!?

My conclusions from this study...
