SAINTS & SINNERS

Grantham Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

SUMMER 2023 SERMON SERIES

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Paul: By Grace Through Faith in Christ

Part 12 of 12

Acts 22:3 NLT

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did..."

Philippians 3:5-6 NLT –
Saul of Tarsus, the Pharisee

5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

Acts 7:54-60

Acts 9:1-31

Acts 9:15-16 NLT
Jesus Speaks to Ananias in a Vision

"But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

Berean Bible Society

The TIMELINE of PAUL'S MINISTRY

AD 35*
Paul's Conversion
The Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9)

AD 38
First Visit to Jerusalem
(Acts 9:26-29; Gal. 1:18)

AD 45
Second Visit to Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30)

AD 46-48
First Apostolic Journey
(Cyprus and Galatia)
(Acts 13:1-14:28)

AD 49-52
Second Apostolic Journey
(Galatia, Macedonia, Greece, Asia Minor)
(Acts 15:40-18:22)

AD 49
Third Visit to Jerusalem, Jerusalem Council
(Acts 15:1-29; Gal. 2:1)

AD 53-57
Third Apostolic Journey
(Galatia, Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece)
(Acts 18:23-21:14)

AD 57-59
Arrest in Jerusalem, Trials and Imprisonment in Caesarea
(Acts 21:15-26:32)

AD 60-63
Voyage to Rome, Roman Imprisonment
(Acts 27:1-28:31)

AD 63-67
Release and Further Work

AD 67-68
Final Imprisonment and Death

AD 35 38-39 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58-60 61-62 63 64-66 67 68

AD 35 38-39 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58-60 61-62 63 64-66 67 68

AD 35-39
- Goes to Damascus (Acts 9:6-19)
- Visits Arabia (Gal. 1:17)
- Returns to Damascus (Gal. 1:17; Acts 9:20-25)
- Goes up to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-29; Gal. 1:18)
- Goes to Tarsus (Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:21)

AD 45-48
- Aid sent to Jerusalem (Acts 11:29-30)
- Sent out with Barnabas (Acts 13:2-3)
- Ministry in Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13:14-14:23)

AD 49 GALATIANS
AD 51 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
AD 54 1 CORINTHIANS
AD 56 ROMANS
AD 55 2 CORINTHIANS

AD 49-52
- Joined by Timothy (Acts 16:1-5)
- Macedonian vision (Acts 16:6-10)
- In prison in Philippi with Silas (Acts 16:16-40)
- Ministry in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth (Acts 17:1-18:17)

AD 53-57
- Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41)
- Ministry in Macedonia, Greece, and Troas (Acts 20:1-12)
- Exhorts the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:15-38)

AD 57-59
- Before Governor Felix (Acts 24:1-27)
- Before Governor Festus (Acts 25:1-12)
- Before King Agrippa (Acts 25:22-26:32)

AD 61-63
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
PHILEMON

AD 64
1 TIMOTHY
AD 65
TITUS

AD 67
2 TIMOTHY

AD 61-63
- Preaches two years in rented house (Acts 28:30-31)

AD 63-67
- Released from Roman imprisonment
- Further apostolic work

AD 67-68
- Second Roman imprisonment
- Martyrdom under Nero

"...we turn to the Gentiles." (Acts 13:46)

"...from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles." (Acts 18:6)

"...the salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it." (Acts 28:28)

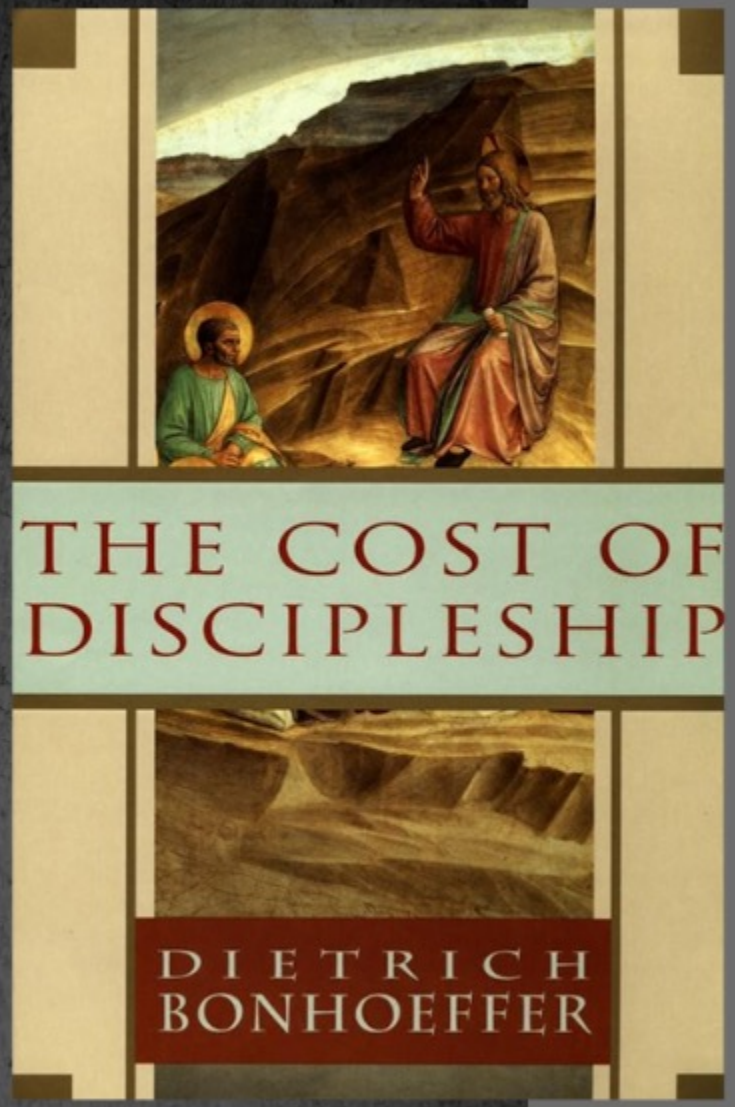
*All dates are approximate

ITALY
Rome
Three Taverns
Forum of Appius
Puteoli
Rhegium
Syracuse
Melita (Malta)
MACEDONIA
Black Sea
PONTUS
BITHYNIA
GALATIA
CAPPADOCIA
Thessalonica
Philippi
Berea
Troas
Samothrace
MYSIA
ASIA
Pergamum
ACHAIA
LYDIA
PHRYGIA
Antioch
Smyrna
Iconium
Chios
Ephesus
Lystra
Tarsus
Athens
PISIDIA
Laodicea
Corinth
PAMPHYLIA
Derbe
CILICIA
Miletus
Perga
Antioch
LYCIA
Patmos
Myra
Cnidus
Rhodes
Cyprus
Salamis
SYRIA
Crete
Paphos
PHOENICIA
Sidon
Fair Havens
Damascus
Tyre
Ptolemais
Mediterranean Sea
Caesarea
Samaria
Joppa
Jerusalem
Gaza
Cyrene
Alexandria
N
KEY
First Journey
Second Journey
Third Journey
Journey to Rome
LIBYA
EGYPT
Kilometers
0 100 200 300 400

Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV
By Grace Through Faith in Christ

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

ROMANS 6:1-7



“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
The Cost of Discipleship

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son."

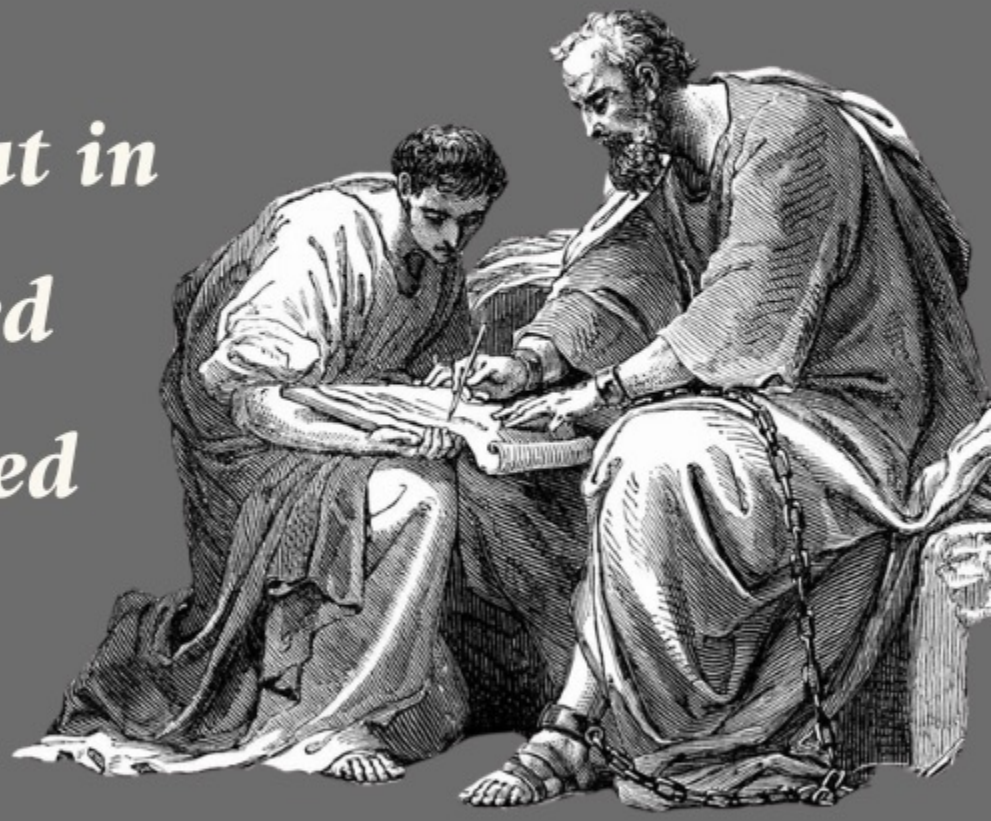
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Corinth
Athens
PHTHIOTIS
OTHRYS
TYMPHRESTUS
SPERCHIUS
CARNANIA
AETOLIA
ACHELOUS
IVENUS
OETE
DORIS
LOCRIS
PHOCIS
PARNASSUS
CEPHISSUS
COPAIS
LOCRIS
HELICON
BOEOTIA
DULICHION
CORINTHIAN GULF
ACHAIA
ALCYON ISLUNOSA
CITHAERON
PARNES
MEGARIS
ATTICA
ELIS
PENEIUS
ARCADIA
ARGOLIS
SARONIC GULF
SALAMIS
SWAMP OF LERNA
PELOPONNESE
MESSENIA
TAYGETUS
LACONIA
EUROTAS
SCYROS
CHIOS
EUBOEA
DELPHYS
AEGEAN SEA
ANDROS

2 Corinthians 11:1-33

vs.23

"I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again."



2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

Paul, 1 Timothy 1:14-16 NIV

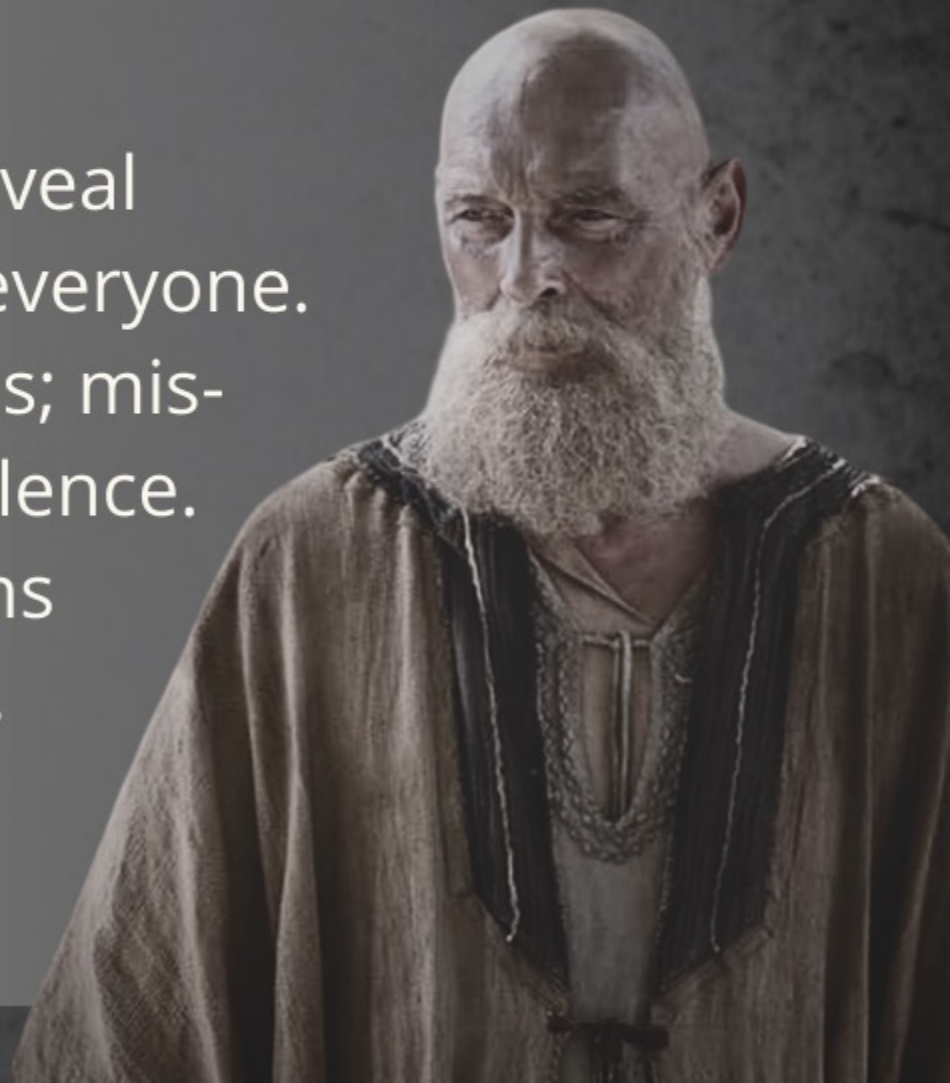
14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am *the worst*. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, *the worst of sinners*, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

LESSONS FROM PAUL

What can we learn from Paul's story?

- We all need encounters with Christ that reveal his holiness, our sin, and God's grace for everyone.
- Be zealous for the God who looks like Jesus; misplaced zeal leads to idolatry, hate, and violence.
- God's grace saves us, sustains us, and turns sinners into saints as we live out our faith.
- God's power works best in our weakness.
- Paul was both a saint *and* a sinner.



By Grace Through Faith in Christ

SAINTS & SINNERS

Questions for reflection and response:

By Grace Through Faith in Christ

SAINTS & SINNERS

Questions for reflection and response:

1. Can you see yourself in Paul? If so, how?

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Questions for reflection and response:

1. Can you see yourself in Paul? If so, how?
2. Like Paul, we all have a "thorn" in our flesh.
   Will you accept that God's grace is enough for you?

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Questions for reflection and response:

1. Can you see yourself in Paul? If so, how?
2. Like Paul, we all have a "thorn" in our flesh.
   Will you accept that God's grace is enough for you?
3. As you reflect on the *Saints & Sinners* series,
   how is the Spirit inviting you to respond in faith?

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