

Workshop 1 Homework

Day 1

From the search of **Saul** that we began together in blueletterbible.org (BLB), continue this research by following the other passages given concerning our Saul, **until his name changes to Paul consistently**. Always read the context – open the verse, or find it in your own bible and read until you understand what is happening in that passage. Keep a running page of **very brief** notes from this research. Ask yourself what is **most important** to remember about this passage – **one or two words, or a simple sentence**.

This will give you a good biographical backstory sketch of the man writing this letter. (You are welcome to continue your research of Paul, but that work is exhaustive and will take significant time! If you want to make a start on that, you can consider reading the rest of the book of Acts from where Saul becomes Paul, or at least up to the point of his current context as he writes – in Rome, under house arrest. In a pinch, you can find more of his biographical information in Acts 22 and one pertinent fact in 23.)

Use the instructions given for the **Character Study Worksheet** down to the point where they ask you to summarize – save that for tomorrow. We completed the first step together.

Day 2

Pick up in the instructions for the **Character Study Worksheet** and consider the questions under the section asking you to summarize. These questions are repeated on the worksheet itself, but use these to think through the implications first and make your own notes.

Transfer your conclusions about Saul/Paul onto the **Character Study Worksheet** in the **Basic Biographical Sketch** box. If you feel you can, also make a start on the **Basic Outline of their Biblical Story**.

Do not make this hard. Think about Paul as a real life person that you are just getting to know. What did you learn about him? How would you describe him to a friend at this point? Be factual, and answer off the top of your head. **Don't over think!** Plenty of time to mull all this over as we continue to study.

You're gathering basic data, and drawing first-glance conclusions. We will be doing more work with this next week, so your conclusions here are not expected to be exhaustive or complete. Remember that the objective here is to learn the skill of doing this research and not so much about the results at this point. Learn HOW now so you can learn MORE later.

Day 3

Continue the research we began in Workshop.

In your notes:

-Make a list of the people Paul mentions in the farewell of this letter.

-Find the **cross-references in your Study Bible** (NOT THE FOOTNOTES – PLEASE DO NOT READ THE FOOTNOTES. Cross-references are other **scripture addresses** where you will find more information about this person. If you are reading something that is not scripture, you're in the footnotes. Stop reading and find the cross-reference instead!)

- list the addresses of those cross references next to each person they pertain to

-Notice any similarities – where are there overlapping cross-references? Maybe asterisk them (*).

-Follow the cross-references and read in context what you learn about each person – make notes.

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-When you've finished, make connections, draw conclusions, consider the possible reason Paul mentions these people, here, now. And/or consider what it adds to your study to know this information.

This work should not take you more than 30 minutes (unless you just want it to!). Don't make it hard!

Day 4

Do a **Plain Reading of Philippians**. This is a companion book to Colossians, and it informs Colossians'

Literary Context.

Record what you learn further about our man, Paul (and add it to the **Character Study Worksheet**)

See if you can spot any similarities between the Letter to the Philippians and the one to the Colossians – make notes.

Don't make it hard!! You are learning so much just as you read. Trust the process!

Day 5

Read the article here: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/word-study-fallacies> in preparation for next week's workshop. (If the hyperlink doesn't open it, copy and paste the address above into your browser.)

*At this point I'd like to recommend the following Commentary for you to consider adding to your library. It is an affordable and sound choice for a succinct overview of the New Testament books. If you order it now, you may get it before we reach the point at the end of our work where we will be consulting the experts. If you order it and get it early – DO NOT READ AHEAD! **This resource is NOT required, but I do endorse it, and it is the condensed version of a set that Fellowship Mosaic pastoral staff uses. This is just a helpful resource for you to consider.**

<https://faithgateway.com/products/the-expositors-bible-commentary-abridged-edition-new-testament?variant=33624857247880>