

# Paul of Tarsus!

## Contributions!

- Paul spread Christianity into Europe (namely the Mediterranean) and Asia Minor
- He undertook three missionary journeys. Created Christian communities amongst the gentiles. Paul made three missionary journeys over a ten year period to spread the gospel message.
- Wrote letters to the Galatians, Romans, Corinthians outlining instructions through making peace within the world
- Argued that conversion to Christianity shouldn't require circumcision.
- Paul preached the Gospel message primarily to the Romans of the Roman Empire while Peter reached Jewish believers and brought them into the Christian church.
- When Paul revisited the areas that Christianity was still a minority, he clarified the correct way to practice it first
- Historically, Paul was the most important figure in spreading to the wider Roman world the movement that began with Jesus and came to be known as Christianity.
- Paul's strategy was to go to the Jewish synagogues first to teach the Christian interpretation of the scriptures, particularly the prophets
- The groups he formed were *ekklesia* "called out/ together" to be the new covenant people: 1 Cor 3: 10 – 11 Laid a foundation... and that foundation is Jesus Christ
- Lastly, Paul established how these communities should see themselves.
- Paul's writings continue to be used by Christian ethicists alike in their pursuit of providing guidance to believers.
- First organiser of Christian Church and the first significant writer of Christian scriptures.

## Impact!

- Paul's work made Christianity accessible for masses of people.
- Paul wrote some of the most beautiful and important passages in the whole of the Bible, but his works have also been used, among other things, to justify homophobia, slavery and anti-Semitism.
- Paul was the first great Christian theologian.
- Paul's letters contributed to the development of Christianity in Europe. They discussed the basic factors and elements of Christianity and acknowledged the role of Jesus as the foundation of the new religion
- Increase in Christian denomination
- Paul extended Christianity beyond the Jewish community. He allowed Gentiles to convert into the religion, even if they did not have Jewish origins.
- Youth ministers, religious educators, liturgical ministers, outreach ministers, and many others continue this practice of sharing their gifts with the Christian community.
- Paul put Jewish ideas into the language of the gentiles and Christianity grew rapidly because of this.
- Paul created a new tradition in which both dissenting Jews and converted pagans could worship together.
- Paul first wrote extensively about the concept of predestination whereby believers have been called and chosen by God prior even to their conception (Romans 8:29) - these key ideas of grace, justification by faith and predestination are some of the most foundational issues of Christianity for traditional evangelical Christians.