



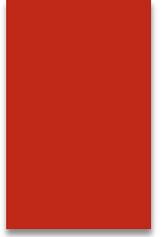
# Paul's Ten Year Internship

*GALATIANS 1:10-24*

**LEARNING:**

**SERVICE – SOLITUDE – SILENCE**

# Castaway



# *Paul's Castaway*

- ▶ **What I Once Was**
- ▶ **What I Became**
- ▶ **What I Now Must Do**

# Paul's Former Life

## ► What I Once Was: *Man-Pleaser*

Gal. 1:10 “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

Gal. 1:13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

1:14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

# Paul's New Life

## ► What I Became: God-Pleaser

Galatians 1:

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

# Paul's Apostleship Training

## ► What I Now Must Do: Be Mentored

Gal. 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

# The Hard Task Ahead

## ▶ “Mr. Paul - Tear Down That Wall !”

Gal. 1:16 “... to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles”

Eph. 2:14-17 “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

# The Ten Year Internship

## ▶ Passive – or – Active? Possibilities

Paul's Inward Struggles as "*the chief of sinners*" – I Tim. 1:15

Paul's Need For Revelation & Training:

1. Gal. 1:11-12 "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.
2. Gal. 1:16-17 "I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

# God's Internships

## ▶ Training Men For Their Calling

1. Joseph (age 17) --- preparation for 13 years (age 30)

2. Moses (age 40) --- preparation for 40 years (age 80)

3. Joshua ("young man" – Exo 33:11) --- preparation 40 years

4. David ("young man" – I Sam 17:56,58) --- preparation 13 years

5. Jesus ("twelve" – Lk. 2:42,52) --- preparation 18 years (age 30)

# Paul's Internship

## ▶ Time For Maturing

From Haughty - - - To Humble (takes time)

Short Preaching Period in Damascus (Acts 9:19-22)

Three Years of Reflection & Revelation in Arabia (Gal. 1:10-17)

1. From Somebody ("gain")
2. To Nobody ("loss")

Philippians 3:7 *"But what things were gain to me,  
these I have counted loss for Christ.*

# Nabatean Kingdom at Petra 36 AD

Mediterranean



## Aretas IV King of Arabia

"In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped" (2 Cor 11:32-33)



"Aretas king of Arabia" (Jos., Wars 1.124)  
 "Aretas king of Arabia Petraea" (Ant. 17.287)  
 "Aretas reigned over Coele-Syria, having been appointed by those living in Damascus, because they hated Ptolemy Menneus."  
 (Josephus, Antiquities 13.391)

## Nabatean Arabia Petraea

# New Testament Arabia

**Key**

- Nabatean Kingdom of Arabia
- Nabatean archeologically excavated city
- Nabatean trade route

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# 2 Corinthians 11:32-33

## ▶ King Aretas of Arabia (Nabatean Kingdom)

### **2 Corinthians 11:32-33**

“In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”

# Internship – Ready!

## ▶ Back to Damascus – *Death Threats*

**Gal. 1:17** “... but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus”

**Acts 9:22-25** “But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, **proving that this Jesus is the Christ**. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

# Paul's Internship

## ▶ Then to Jerusalem – sees Peter & James

**Gal. 1:18-19** “Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

**Acts 9:26-29** “And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

# Paul's Internship

## ▶ Then to Tarsus (Cilicia) – *homecoming*

### **Galatians 1:19,21**

“Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. ... Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

### **Acts 9:30-31**

“When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus. Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

# 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

## ► Catalogue of Sufferings --- When? Where?

- 23 ... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.
- 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.
- 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;
- 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;
- 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness--

# Lessons Learned

## ▶ Paul's Internship / Mentoring Years

### 1. We Must Learn SERVICE

- a. From "Gain" to "Loss" to "Bondservant"
- b. Where Paul learned from Jesus (Philippians 2:5-8)
- c. Where do I go to learn service?



Not here:  
(flight to Arabia)

But here:



**Philippians 2:3-11**  
**3:4-11**

# Lessons Learned

## ▶ Paul's Internship / Mentoring Years

1. We Must Learn **SERVICE**
2. We Must Learn **SOLITUDE**
  - a. From Tarsus (Father) & Jerusalem (Gamaliel)
  - b. To Shepherds, Bedouins, Camel drivers, desolation
  - c. Where do I go to learn solitude?

# The Mountain Song

O Lord, I need a mountain to climb on,  
Just a quiet place to go and know You're there.

O Lord, I need to spend some time with You,  
Spend the night with You, dear Lord, in prayer.

O Lord, I thought the day would never dawn,  
When I'd lay my burdens down and walk with You,  
But this morning as I met the rising sun,  
I felt, dear Lord, my dreams had all come true.

Chorus:

And the greatest friend you'll ever find  
Is on a lonely mountain.

And the highest high you'll ever feel  
Is when you kneel to pray.

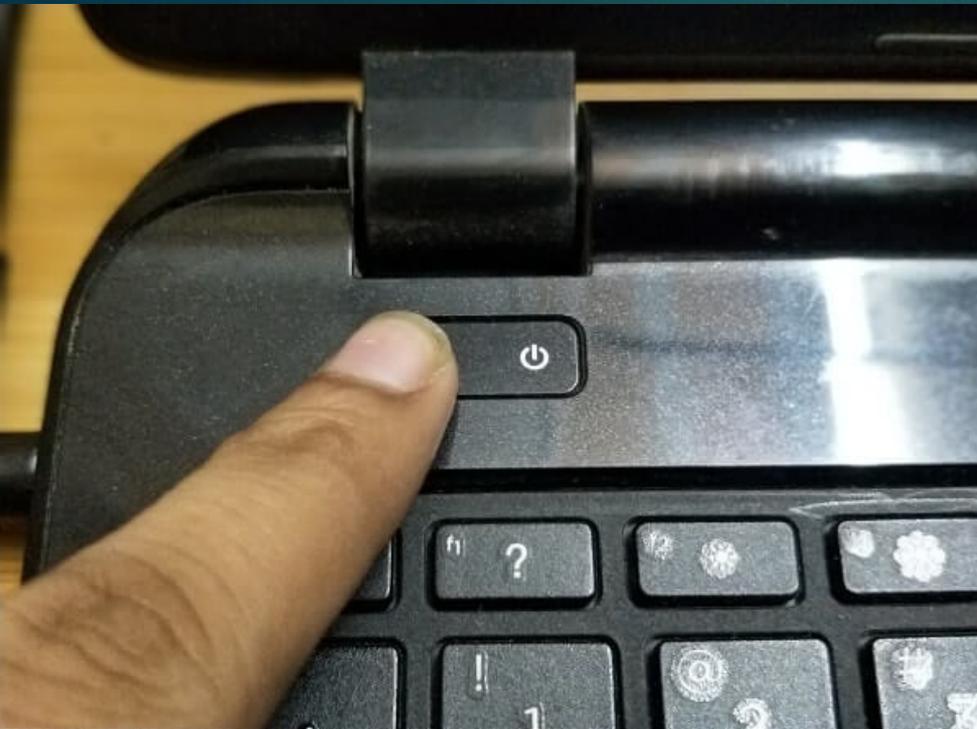
And the brightest light you'll ever see  
Is when you close your eyes,

O Lord, You are my first love,  
At last I realize.

# Lessons Learned

## ▶ Paul's Internship / Mentoring Years

1. We Must Learn **SERVICE**
2. We Must Learn **SOLITUDE**
3. We Must Learn **SILENCE**
  - a. From Elijah's strong wind, earthquake, fire (action/noise)
  - b. To Elijah's "still small voice" (quietness, words of revelat.)
  - c. Where do I go to learn **silence** (hear God speak) ?



# Revival via Meditation

*Psalm 143*

- 4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;  
My heart within me is distressed.
- 5 I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all Your works;  
I muse on the work of Your hands.
- 6 I spread out my hands to You;  
My soul longs for You like a thirsty land.