



## MAKING A CHANGE - Paul

*Life is full of change. Sometimes, the changes we make are not good. However, don't forget the positive changes you have made. Let's check out a Biblical case study.*

*Acts 22:1-5 - "Brothers & leaders (he spoke in the Hebrew language), I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city (Jerusalem) at the feet of Gamaliel, taught the strict Law of our Fathers. I persecuted this "Way" (the church of believers) by killing, binding, and imprisonment (both men and women) as authorized by the chief priests and the council of elders (Sanhedrin ). That is why I traveled to Damascus to bring back believers to be punished here in Jerusalem."*

*Philippians 3:4-5 - "If anyone thinks they should be proud of themselves and have complete confidence in their own flesh, abilities, and background, it is more true of me. I was circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day in the Jewish faith of the tribe of Benjamin, a pharisee who believed he was right in supporting the government against the Christians."*

1. How long had Paul believed the way he did? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Though he was born in Cilicia, where was he raised? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Obviously, he had a lot of abilities and intellect. He had the best teachers. He hung out with the powerful people. What kind of a person did he become? \_\_\_\_\_
4.   Y  N Before he became a believer, do you think he was proud of who he was, and that he was important?
5.   Y  N Do you think that, even though he was raised in a very strict religious system of values & conduct, he hated certain people outside of his approved social community?
6. What did the unbelievers in the Roman Empire call the believers? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why would that name for the believers infuriate the Romans?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Since the believers were considered an evil "sect or cult", why would any Roman want to change to that belief? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 22:27-28 - The military commander said to Paul, "Are you a Roman citizen." Paul said "Yes". The commander responded, "I paid a lot of money to become a Roman citizen." And Paul said, "But I was born a Roman citizen."*

*Acts 6:9 - Then there arose some from the Synagogue of the Freedmen arguing with Stephen; they could not compete with Stephen, so they hired men in the crowd to make up accusations and stir the crowd to riotous behavior.*

*Acts 7:58-59 - They threw Stephen out of the town and stoned him. The main witnesses threw their garments at the feet of a man named Saul.*

*Acts 8:1 - Now this man Saul gave consent for Stephen's death.*

*Acts 8:3 - Great persecution continued against the church of believers, and Saul was in the middle of it all. Acts 9:1 - and he threatened & murdered the believers.*

9. Paul had authority and respect from the government. He was feared; he hurt people. It does not appear that he had any desire to change. Why would he not want to change? \_\_\_\_\_
10. He belonged to a religious gang mentioned in Acts 6:9. What was name of that gang? \_\_\_\_\_
11. He was probably a member of the controlling Jewish council. How do we know that? Acts 26:10 - "I cast my vote against the believers".  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_Y\_\_\_N Would a man who had important memberships in groups or gangs need to change anything?
13. \_\_\_Y\_\_\_N Would a man like this have the courage to give up what he had and make a change?

*Galatians 1:13-17 - For you have heard of my former conduct. I persecuted the church; I tried to destroy it. I advanced beyond all my associates. But God has always had a plan for me. I made the decision to change my God to follow God, and I traveled to Arabia to start that journey.*

14. \_\_\_Y\_\_\_N That change gave him the opportunity to share his story and benefit the lives of people.
15. \_\_\_Y\_\_\_N That change gave permission for people to help him.
16. \_\_\_Y\_\_\_N That change fulfilled the purpose of God.