

PAUL AS A CHURCH PLANTER

- 1. Paul was personally prepared for his church planting ministry.**
 - a. **Ac 11:25-26** 25 Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
 - b. **2 Co 12:7-9** 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may rest upon me.
 - c. **1 Th 2:1-2** 1 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.

- 2. Paul was an evangelist. He was driven to proclaim Jesus to the lost.**
 - a. **Ac 9:20-22** 20 Immediately [Saul] proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues saying, He is the Son of God. ...22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.
 - b. **Ac 14:1** 1 At Iconium [Paul and Barnabas] entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

- 3. Paul was an entrepreneurial leader.**
 - a. **Ro 15:20-24** 20 I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Messiah has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation. ...23 But now, because I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and because I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain.
 - b. **Ac 16:6-10** 6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, Come over to Macedonia and help us. 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- 4. Paul was supported by a healthy sending church.**
 - a. **Ac 13:1-4** 1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent

them off. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5. Paul was a general who developed a corps of faithful, loyal lieutenants.

- a. **Ac 15:40** 40 Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.
- b. **Ac 16:1-3** 1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him.
- c. **Ac 20:4** 4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied [Paul]; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.
- d. **Tit 1:5** 5 This is why I [Paul] left you [Titus] in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.

6. Paul was adaptable and flexible, according to the situation.

- a. **1 Co 9:19-21** 19 Though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Messiah) that I might win those outside the law.

7. Paul was intensely focused.

- a. **Php 3:13-14** 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

8. Paul cared about people's upward development.

- a. **Ac 14:22** 22 ...Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- b. **Ac 20:31** 31 Be alert, remembering that for three years I [Paul] did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.
- c. **1 Th 2:7-10** 7 We [Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy] were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. 9 For you remember, brothers and sisters, our labor and toil. We worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy, righteous, and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.
- d. **2 Ti 1:2** 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Messiah Jesus our Lord.

9. Paul suffered greatly.

- a. **2 Co 11:23-28** 23 Are they servants of Messiah? I [Paul] am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. A night and a day I was adrift at sea. 26 On frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers, 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

10. Paul empowered others, then moved on.

- a. **Ac 14:21-23** 21 When [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city [Derbe] and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- b. **Ac 16:40** 40 So [Paul and Silas] went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.
- c. **Ac 20:32** 32 Now I [Paul] commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.