

DOES GOD HOLD GRUDGES?

Learning from the life of Paul

1. Before he met Jesus, the apostle Paul was a zealous Israelite. **What do these verses teach us about Paul's pre-Christian life?**

Acts 22:3-4, Galatians 1:13-14 & Philippians 3:4-6

2. Read *Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-2 & 21, 22:19-20*. **What were some of the violent acts Paul committed against Jesus' followers?**

3. And yet... God chose to forgive Paul, to wipe away his sin and to make him a partner in the work of restoring sinners. Read Paul's later description of his conversion in *Acts 22:6-21* (*Acts 9* retells the same story, with some extra details).

- **What do you think he was thinking about before Ananias appeared?**
- **Do you think you'd have Ananias's faith to go to known persecutor to speak God's Word?**
- **What's involved in becoming a believer according to Ananias (v. 16)?**
- **What was God's mission for Paul? (vss. 14-16, 21).**

4. **Why would God do that?** Read Paul's insight in *1 Timothy 1:15-16*.

- **Who did Christ come into the world to save?**
- **Is there a limit to His salvation?**
- **Why would He save even the worst of sinners?**

5. **Does Paul dwell on his past sins?** Read *Philippians 3:13-14*. **What does he do instead?**

6. Based on Paul's experience, what do you think? **Does God hold grudges?**

7. **What do this mean for you?**

8. Once you've worked through these questions yourself, you can hear my reflections at <https://youtu.be/qxZ3Dz2gVww>.