

In Transit Week of January 24

*“Paul”* Rev. Kyle Gatlin

* **Paul’s Transition – Part 1**

(Acts 8:3) But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

(Acts 26:9-10) “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

(Galatians 1:13-14) For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

(Acts 9:1-2) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest  2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

* **Forget appearances; everyone has a dark side.**

* **No one is beyond hope.**
* **The darkness is there, but there is light in a new beginning with God.**

* **Paul’s Intermission – Arabia**

(Galatians 1:15-17) But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

* **Paul’s Transition – Part 2**

(2 Corinthians 11:23b-28) … I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

(Philippians 4:11b-13)… for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

(Philippians 4:13; Good News Translation) I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me.

(Philippians 4:13; the Message) Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.