



MZBMP

Sunday School – Teens Class
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TITLE:

Paul's Background (Part 2)

TEXT:

Acts 22:3

PAUL'S EDUCATION

- Paul had two types of education. First, he learned like any other Jewish boy. Second, he received special education to become a Rabbi.

From Birth:

- He grew up in the home of a strict Pharisee - Deuteronomy 6: 7-8.
- He would have been taught:
 - The Shema - Deuteronomy 6:4-9.
 - The Hillel - Psalms 113-118.

At Age Five:

- He would go to the "House of the Book" (the synagogue) to learn.
- He would also learn:
 - Latin.
 - Greek — Acts 21:37.
 - See: 1 Corinthians 14:18; Acts 21:40; 22:2.

At Age Ten:

- He would attend the "School of the Mishna."
 - The Mishna was an explanation of the Talmud (Oral Laws).
 - Talmud a compilation of ancient teachings regarded as sacred and normative by Jews
 - Paul knew what a schoolmaster was and did - Galatians 3:24; 4:1-2.
- He would also learn his father's trade.
 - Every Jewish boy was expected to have a trade.
 - The Talmud commands a father to do three things for his son:
 1. Circumcise him.
 2. Teach him the law.
 3. Teach him a trade.
 - Paul's trade was tent-making - Acts 18:3.
 - It is most likely this was his family's business.
 - See: Acts 20:34.

At Age Thirteen:

- He would have his Bar Mitzvah - "Son of the Commandment."
 - A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a coming of age ceremony for Jewish boys and girls when they reach the age of 12 or 13. This ceremony marks the time when a boy or girl becomes a Jewish adult. This means that they are now responsible for their own actions and can decide for themselves how they would like to practice Judaism.
- Paul was probably sent off to Rabbinical College at this time.
- The expression "from my youth" (Acts 26:4) indicates the age of 13.
- He attended the finest school in Jerusalem - Acts 22:3.
- His tutor was the celebrated Gamaliel - Acts 5:34.
 - Gamaliel was the eminent Rabbi of the School of Hillel.
 - Hillel was Gamaliel's grandfather.
 - The two dominant Rabbinical schools were those of Shammai and Hillel.
 - The School of Shammai held tradition to be superior to the Law.

- Gamaliel was known to be more liberal. Ascriptions to him:
 - Candor and honesty of judgment.
 - A willingness to study and make use of Greek.
 - A keen and watchful enthusiasm of the Law.
- Gamaliel died in 52 A.D..