

# Paul

*A Journey Through the World, Mind, and Heart of the Apostle*

Wednesday Night Series — Spring 2026

## What We're Doing

Over the next several months, we're going on a pilgrimage. Not a sprint through Paul's letters, but a slow, careful journey into the mind and world of the man who shaped so much of what we believe.

We'll discover that Paul wasn't writing fortune-cookie theology. He was a trained rhetorician, a philosopher, a pastor wrestling with real communities and real problems. And when we reread his letters after knowing who he was, it changes much of what we see there.

## Why It Matters

Somewhere along the way, many of us absorbed the idea that Christian faith arrives fully formed—that the moment you believe, you should have it all figured out.

**That isn't true. And Paul proves it.**

Paul's own understanding evolved over decades. His earliest letters are urgent and breathless. His later letters are deep and settled. If Paul's faith grew and changed, yours can too. That's not weakness, that's maturity.

## The Journey Ahead

Phase One	<b>Paul's World</b> The political reality of Roman occupation. The intellectual climate of Greek philosophy. The religious landscape of first-century Judaism. His teacher Gamaliel. His hometown Tarsus as a hotbed of merging thought and faith.
Phase Two	<b>Paul's Themes</b> The great ideas Paul developed across his letters, not book by book, but theme by theme. Justification. Participation. The body of Christ. The already and not yet. We'll watch these ideas emerge and evolve.
Phase Three	<b>Faith in Action</b> How these themes landed, and often crashed into, actual communities. Corinth with its chaos. Galatia with its identity crisis. Philippi with its quiet tensions. We'll use those ancient communities as mirrors for our own.

## An Invitation to Journal

Throughout this series, you'll be invited to keep a journal. Not a diary, you don't have to write every day. But at key moments, you'll receive a question to sit with.

This is for you. No one else will read it. At the end of this journey, you'll have evidence in your own handwriting of how far you've traveled.

### Your First Journal Question

*Who do you think Paul is?*

Write honestly. Maybe for you he's just the guy who wrote most of the New Testament. Maybe he's a hero of the faith. Maybe he's that difficult apostle who seems to contradict himself. Maybe you don't have strong feelings at all. Whatever it is, write it down.

This is your starting point, whether it's a few words or several pages it will be valuable to look back at this answer a few months from now and see what may have changed.

*"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing (wrestling/contemplating)..." — Romans 10:17*