

# **The Life of the Apostle Paul.**

## **Part 1 - From the Persecutor to the Persecuted.**

Introduction: Anyone vaguely familiar with Christianity has heard of Paul.

What comes to mind when you think of the Apostle Paul?

Missionary; Writer; Apostle to the Gentiles.

I. Then Persecutor.

Acts 8:1-3

Saul's story begins with blood and torture.

Acts 9:1-2

Acts 9:13, 14.

Acts 9:20-21, 26.

Charles Swindoll "The first pen portrait of Paul (whom we first meet as Saul of Tarsus is both brutal and bloody. If an artist were to render with brush and oils, not one of us would want it hung framed in our living room. The man looks more like a terrorist than a devout follower of Judaism.. To our horror, the blood of the

first (NT) martyr splattered across Saul's clothes while he stood nodding in agreement, an accomplice to a vicious crime."

I Timothy 1:15. The hater of the Way became the Apostle of Grace.

Hymn and background, Amazing Grace.

Newton, a former slave ship captain, is most famous for writing the lyrics to the hymn "Amazing Grace". He wrote the words in 1772, though it wasn't paired with the melody we know today until much later.

Newton's life experiences, including his time in the slave trade and his conversion to Christianity, deeply influenced the hymn's themes of redemption and grace.

Here's a more detailed look:

- John Newton's Life: Newton had a tumultuous early life, including a period as a slave trader. His experiences with the sea, including a near-fatal storm, led him to embrace Christianity.

- "Amazing Grace": The hymn reflects Newton's personal journey from a life of sin to one of faith and redemption. It speaks of the transformative power of God's grace and the joy found in salvation.
- Impact and Legacy: "Amazing Grace" has become one of the most beloved and enduring hymns in the world, used in both religious and secular contexts. Newton's story, particularly his shift from slave trader to abolitionist, adds another layer of significance to the hymn