

Jewish history. When **Stephen** was stoned to death he was there on the spot, guarding the clothes of the Jews who stoned Stephen. We read about this in Acts 7:58.

And cast him [Stephen] out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was **Saul**.

In Acts 8: 1-3, Luke writes

And **Saul** was consenting to his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the **church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for **Saul**, he made havoc of the **church**, entering into every house, and hauling men and women committed them to prison.

Then , in Acts 9:1-5, Luke continues:-

And **Saul**, yet breathing out threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the **Lord**, went to the high priest, and desired letters from him to **Damascus** to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly a **light from heaven** shined round about him: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying to him, **Saul, Saul**, why are you persecuting me? And he said, Who are you, **Lord**? And the **Lord** said, **I am Jesus whom you are persecuting**:

This was how the breathing out threatening and slaughter of **Saul** against the **Christians** was stopped by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Was **Saul** an ungodly man ? No - not at all. He was a strong believer in the **God** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all his forefathers. He was a Hebrew and a Pharisee of the stock of **Israel** and was circumcised on the eighth day. But was a brilliant religious fanatic in keeping the **Law of Moses**.

He was also a great man of wisdom and a **Greek** scholar. But the name of Jesus disturbed him greatly. He thought that **Jesus** was a blasphemer in saying He is the son of **God**. So, he, with Jewish zeal and belief wanted to destroy Christianity once for all. But on his way to Damascus the **Lord Jesus Christ** appeared to him and stopped him from all his Jewish activities.

Dear readers, when he saw the great **light** shining from Heaven he knew that it was **God**, the **God** of **Abraham, Isaac** and **Jacob**. He thought he was right in persecuting and killing all **Christians**. He thought that he was doing this for the **God** of Heaven. But, when he heard that **voice** - "**Saul, Saul**, why are you persecuting me?" - he was greatly confused. So he asked "Who are you, **Lord**?" Then, the answer that came from that great light, disturbed him very deeply. He never would have imagined or thought that such an answer would be given to him then. The answer was "**I am Jesus whom you are persecuting**". He was completely nonplussed.

What happened then? Luke gives the details in Acts 9: 6

And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what will you have me to do?** And the **Lord** said to him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told you what you must do.

As he lay there the **Lord Jesus** told Saul He had work for him to do. This is recorded in Acts 26:16-18

But rise, and stand on your feet: for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of these things which you have seen, and of those things in which I will appear to you; Delivering you from the people, and from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith that is in me.

What happened afterwards? In verse 8 of Acts 9 we are told:

Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nobody: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

When he opened his eyes he could see nothing with them. He had lost his sight. Then when he had been brought into the city of Damascus the Lord instructed a Jewish man of faith, named **Ananias**, to go to **Saul** and to get him to be baptized and to open his eyes. So **Ananias** that devout Jew came to **Saul** and placing his hands on him prayed and **Saul's** eyes were opened. Then **Ananias** told **Saul**:-

And now why do you wait? arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the **Lord**. [Acts 22:16]

Thus the man **Saul** was baptized into **Christ** for the forgiveness of his sins - that very day. He became a **new creature**. Old things were passed away and all things had become **new** in his life. He is now a believer in **Jesus Christ** and he then knew in whom he had believed! And immediately he began to preach **Jesus Christ**, giving a strong testimony that **Jesus** is the **Son of God**.

During his **conversion**, **Saul** [whose Roman name was Paul] had seen the glory and power of the **Lord Jesus Christ**. He did not see **Jesus** as the lowly **Son of Man** who walked about on this earth. Instead he saw **him** in the form of a great **light**, shining above the brightness of the **sun**! He with his physical eyes could not see **him** and his eyes were blinded by that great **light** from the heaven. When he heard the voice of the **Lord of glory** speaking unto him, he shuddered and trembled at his voice.

Dear readers, such was the power and might of the Lord Jesus Christ then, that Paul knew that God as Jesus Christ, was speaking to him. He then knew in whom he had believed! That is why he wrote in 1.Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifest in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
preached to the Gentiles,
believed on in the world,
received up into **glory**.

Paul says that the mystery of Godliness is that **God** was revealed in the flesh. In other words he says **God** revealed **himself** in the form of man, and was justified in the spirit and seen by **angels**.

When **Jesus** was in the world **he** was seen by **angels** and this was a evidence that **God** became a Man. Then **he** was preached to the Gentiles. Then **he** was believed on in the world as **the Son of God**. Then after **his** death, burial and resurrection he was received up into **glory** - He ascended into **Heaven!**

Dear readers, this was how **Paul** believed **Jesus Christ** and he knew in whom he had believed.

Then, in 2.Timothy 1:12 he says he is not ashamed of all the sufferings and humiliation he had undergone because, he says that he knew in whom he had believed. His **faith** was in **Jesus Christ** and he was sure that his loving Saviour is able to keep what he had committed to him against that **day**.

He writes in II Timothy 4:7,8:-

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
From now on there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the **Lord**, the righteous judge, shall give me at that **day**: and not to me only, but to all those also who love his appearing.

CONCLUSION

Dear readers, we have so far seen how and why **Paul** says that he knew in whom he had believed. He believed **Jesus Christ** and he knew what and who **Jesus Christ** is.

Dear readers, do we believe on the **Lord Jesus Christ** as **Paul** did? Are we willing to suffer for Him? as **Paul** suffered ? Do we have that Faith that was in **Paul**. Think on these things.

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"I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me**" **Paul**
[Galatians 2:20]

- He Believed Jesus Christ -

A monotheistic fundamentalist believed Hazrat Isa

2 TIMOTHY 1:12

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day."

"FOR I KNOW HIM WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED"

INTRODUCTION

The most brutal and awful persecution of **Christians** by the Emperor **Nero** of **Rome** was in full progress. One of the victims of this persecution was the Apostle **Paul**. He was brought to **Rome** and imprisoned the second time. It was during this imprisonment awaiting his death, which was in A.D. 68, that he wrote his last letter, the second Epistle to Timothy. He tells him that he is living in the expectation of being "offered up" but through it all is the note of Christian triumph, the statement of the man who knows whom he has believed and to whom he is committed in his life and his death.

BODY

Despite the sufferings, troubles, dangers and agonies, **Paul**, while in the prison of Rome made this statement "I know whom I have believed" He tells Timothy that he knows who **Jesus Christ** is, in whom he has believed.

Who is **Jesus Christ**? and how did **Paul** believe in Him?

What was his belief or faith in **Jesus Christ**?

To answer this question we must go back to his old life as the Hebrew man, **Saul** of Tarsus.

He was a disbeliever of **Jesus Christ**. He did not believe Him to be the **Son of God** nor the Messiah who was to come into the world. He thought and believed, as did all the other Jewish Pharisees, scribes and High Priests, that **Jesus** was a blasphemer and a liar. He, like those **Jews**, hated **Jesus** and His teachings. He thought, **Jesus** of Nazareth, was just an ordinary man who was speaking words against **God**, the God of **Abraham**, **Isaac** and **Jacob**. Like most prominent Jews, he would have very much wanted to have Him executed.

When **Jesus** was crucified on the cross, **Saul** was in **Jerusalem** and apparently did not care to go and see Him. It seems he was quite nonchalant about **Jesus** then. He had no interest in the death and burial and the **resurrection** of **Jesus Christ**. In fact he did not believe that **Jesus** rose from the dead on the third day, even though the resurrection news echoed around the city of **Jerusalem**.

When many people began to believe on the Lord **Jesus Christ**, he did not like it and in fact, he wanted to kill all those believers. He wanted to wipe out the name **Jesus** from the