

## SAUL OF TARSUS

1. What do we know about Paul's family background? about his education?
2. Under what conditions does he first appear upon the historical scene? How can we account for the fact that this able and aristocratic young Jew should be so greatly concerned about the obscure little group of Christians?
3. Read the seventh chapter of Romans in the light of the experiences dealt with in this course. Does it seem to you in any sense autobiographical? To what extent would an inner struggle of this sort explain his zeal in persecuting the Christians?
4. Examine the accounts of Paul's experience on the road to Damascus, beginning with his own account in Galatians 1: 11 - 23 and I. Corinthians 15: 1 - 11. Consider also the three accounts in Acts. Just what seems to have happened? What light do our cases throw upon this experience? The Acts accounts tell us that he heard a voice. Paul himself states that he received a special revelation of the Lord. What would be the psychological process involved? If we should call it an "hallucination", what would that imply as to the validity of the experience?
5. Paul tells us that after this experience he went into Arabia and stayed there three years. Do we have any indication of what he was doing during this period?
6. What were the central features of his new message and of his new task?
7. What was Paul's teaching with reference to the second coming of the Lord? with reference to his own role? with reference to the experience of regeneration? with reference to the Holy Spirit and its manifestations?
8. Consider Paul's doctrine of the Spirit and against the Law in the light of present-day psychotherapeutic experience.
9. Have our cases thrown any light upon the experience described in II. Corinthians 12?
10. What is your estimate of Paul and of his influence upon the development of Christianity?
11. In view of the fact that Paul regarded the appearances of the risen Lord to the disciples as in no wise different from the appearance to himself on the road to Damascus, what inferences are we to draw as to the nature of the resurrection experience?
12. To what extent would Paul be likely to identify Christ with God? How far would he in such a matter be controlled by the Jewish tradition?