

Sermon Handout

Saul, Called Paul

Acts 13:1-12

I. Intro

The interview with Sergius Paulus vv. 6-12

- a. Proconsul Sergius Paulus – a “civilized” or “cultured” man
Summons the “traveling philosophers”
- b. Focus on first use of the name “Paul” in v. 9
1st journey after the commissioning v. 3
- c. Naming conventions in the ancient world
 - i. Commonly three names
 - ii. A fourth name for familiarity purposes (incl religion)
 - iii. Saul’s names
 - Paulus – a Roman surname
 - Saul – a Benjamite Hebrew name Phil 3:5 *cf.* Acts 13:21

II. Background

- a. The name “Saul” in Acts 7-13
 - i. Representing the Pharisees Ch 7
 - ii. Persecuting the Christ-cult Ch 8-9
 - iii. Associating with leadership in Palestine Ch 9-13
- b. The order of names: “Barnabas & Saul”
9:27; 11:25-26; 11:30; 12:25; 13:1; 13:2-3; 13:7 (*cf.* 15:25)

III. The Shift in Name and Order

- a. Before the Roman Proconsul, he is “Paul” 13:9
- b. The only deviations after 13:9
 - i. The incident in Lystra 14:12-14
 - ii. The Jerusalem Council 15:12, 25
 - iii. Autobiographical references in Ch 22 & 26
- c. In his letters (to churches in Gentile cities), always “Paul”
- d. St. Paul’s own explanation: I Cor 9:19-23

IV. Lessons

- a. Have confidence in the Holy Scriptures
They are internally consistent, precise and trustworthy
- b. Utilize that aspect of your life most advantageous to the gospel
(following St. Paul’s example)