

## A Few Things They Didn't Like About Paul The Apostle

### I. Introduction:

A. Jesus referred to Paul as “a chosen vessel” when communicating with Ananias (**Acts 9:15**).

1. This did not get to Paul's head. Paul humbly understood his role in the Lord's work (**I Corinthians 15:8-10** and **Ephesians 3:8**).
2. He did not seek the approval of men (**Galatians 1:15-16**).

B. Jesus told Ananias that Paul would suffer for the cause (**Acts 9:16**).

1. At one point, Paul appealed to the carnality of the Corinthians to get them to stop following those that appeared great and spoke in a foolish manner comparing his sufferings to those they were erringly enamored with (**II Corinthians 11:16-33**).
2. Paul went through terrible events, but literally got right up and back to the Lord's work (**Acts 14:19-23**).

II. Body: The Apostle Paul Taught The Truth Even If It Meant He Became The Enemy To Those He Taught (**Galatians 4:16**).

A. They disliked Paul because he taught the Gospel to all (**Acts 13:42-51**).

1. Since Paul taught the Gospel to all (**Romans 1:13-17**), he was labelled as a trouble-maker and attacked (**Acts 17:1-10**).
2. False charges were brought against Paul with terrible consequences because they didn't like Paul for the work he did (**Acts 21:27-36**).
3. One awesome thing we should think about is how one brother who was rebuked by Paul in his defense of the Gentile brethren turned to later call him “beloved” (**Galatians 2:11-17** and **II Peter 3:15**; cf. **Proverbs 28:23**).

B. Paul didn't measure up, in their view, in bodily presence and speech in the same way he wrote (**II Corinthians 10:10**).

1. He never professed to be a great public speaker. In fact, he didn't aim to be such (**I Corinthians 1:17** and **I Corinthians 2:1-5**).
2. He acknowledged being rude [an ignoramus (compare “idiot”): - ignorant, rude, unlearned; Strong's # 2399] in speech (**II Corinthians 11:6**).
3. An eloquent speaker doesn't atomically mean he teaches the truth (**Acts 18:24-28**).

C. They disliked Paul not only because of his speech, but also because they perceived him to be crazy (**Acts 26:19-24**).

1. Paul is in good company here (**Mark 3:13-21** and **John 10:17-20**).
2. Shouldn't the world see the “crazy” in us too (**I John 4:4-6**)?

III. Conclusion: We should be imitators of Paul within the framework of understanding who he is following (**I Corinthians 4:16** and **I Corinthians 11:1**).