



In Christianity a number of individuals <sup>have</sup> had an effect on its development. One particular individual who exemplifies this is Paul of Tarsus. Paul was born ~~not long after Jesus' death~~ <sup>during Jesus' time</sup> originally a Jewish believer. It was on the Road to Damascus that Paul's way of life changed. He had a vision of God, calling him to praise God's Word through the preaching of Christianity. Originally Paul had ~~been~~ disliked Christians and had persecuted them. Upon his experience on the Road to Damascus Paul had tentatively concentrated on God's message and began to follow His Word.

For the next thirty five years Paul of Tarsus travelled throughout the Mediterranean region setting up Christian communities. It is during this time that Paul shaped and taught of the Christian way of life, giving meaning to what Christianity is today. Paul would arrive in a community, teach the people of God's way and upon establishing another Christian community would continue to



communicate with them in his letters, which became known as the Letters of Paul.

These letters are now a part of the Bible's New Testament. The New Testament is made up of Paul's letters, a number of others' letters and the Gospels.

It is the Gospels of the New Testament that Paul also had a massive impact on. Paul of Tarsus founded the term 'the gospel' additionally influencing the writings of the gospels writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Paul of Tarsus is considered ~~by many~~ to be the first missionary and theologian of Christian tradition and is also known to be the number one Christian spokesperson, following Jesus of Nazareth.

It is in these positions that Paul also was able to impact on the Christian tradition and lifestyle. His ideas brought to life the religion of Christianity.

Another example of how Paul impacted on the development and expression of Christianity is



in the way Calvin and Luther, individuals who took part in the 16th Century Reformation based their ideas on Paul's writings. They both emphasised Paul's insistence on the primacy of faith over works.

Paul of Tarsus shaped ~~into~~ Christianity into what it is today through the way he expressed the fundamental beliefs it should contain. Paul was conservative concerning the role of women. He spoke of how they should be silent in church and in matters of theology. Paul was considered to be considerably conservative in relation to his ideas.

Overall it is clear that Paul of Tarsus had ~~an~~ a large impact on the Christian tradition and lifestyle in the way he taught and spread the Christian tradition and Word of God.