

The Historical Paul



Come, journey with Paul.

Shiver with him around a mountain campfire, breathe deeply of the aromas wafting through a teeming marketplace, sway with the veiled Temple dancers to the melodies of the harp, and savor a tangy goat stew in a tumbledown hut in a nameless hamlet.

Along the way, you will witness the birth pangs of Christianity.

Historian and author Obie Holmen will bring Paul to life for your congregation. During a single two-hour session or a series, Holmen's stimulating presentation will appeal to head and heart. A former trial attorney, Holmen relies upon current Pauline scholarship and a knack for storytelling to transport his audience into the first-century world.

Paul the Pharisee. Paul the persecutor. Paul the apostle. Paul the one untimely born. Paul comes ready-made with knotty complications and buffeted by conflict from all sides. Caught between two cultures, Hebrew and Hellenist, Paul dared promote a Jewish Messiah to a Gentile world.

Pastor Steve Delzer of Our Savior's Lutheran (Faribault) says ...

I invited Obie to lead our Cannon River Conference Pastors in a discussion about the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul and his influence on the history of the Christian Church. It was the most lively and intriguing discussion that our group has ever had. If you want to get folks talking, invite Obie to lead your discussion.

Pastor Marty Raths of Northfield United Methodist Church says ...

We were delighted to have Obie Holmen come and share with our adult forum at church. He was approachable as a person and engaging as a speaker, and our people appreciated and enjoyed his obvious passion for and knowledge of the Apostle Paul.

Liz McKay, Christian Education Director of Our Savior's Lutheran (Arlington Heights, IL), says ...

Obie Holmen makes Paul and the New Testament come alive in his presentations. His historical descriptions and time lines help the participant understand how the early church all fits together!

Pastor Phil Eaves of the Northfield Retired Clergy Association (a group with connections to St. Olaf and Carlton) says ...

Using communication skills seasoned by his years as a trial lawyer, Obie Holmen's penchant for precision and detail (in Pauline research) has contributed to his growing popularity as an enlightened and engaging speaker. At a large gathering of retired clergy and spouses, Holmen's conversational demeanor drew the audience into a lively and informative exchange which evoked enthusiastic accolades of admiration and gratitude.

Participants are saying ...

You brought to life a distant time and place with such humanity and liveliness that I felt it opened up Scripture to me in a new way (and I have read and studied Scripture a LOT).

I found that you really challenged me to put on the shoes (sandals) of the early Christians and to wonder what "it" was like.

I really got a much deeper and clearer sense of the actual tensions within the early Church between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians.

Following your presentation, I have decided I need to get back to Paul's writings in the New Testament. You have given me a deeper understanding of how the early Christian church grew.



RW "Obie" Holmen is a lifelong Lutheran with a heart for Christian education. During twenty-five years as a St. Cloud trial attorney, he managed to sneak away to study theology and Christian history with the monks of nearby St. John's Abbey and University. More recently, he has authored *A Wretched Man, a Novel of Paul the Apostle* and *Prowl: Short Stories of the Vietnam War*, and his latest book is in publication with Pilgrim Press (tentatively titled *Queer*

Clergy: A History of Gay and Lesbian Ministry in American Protestantism).

Cost is \$200 for a two-hour session or \$100 per session for a series.

obie.holmen@gmail.com
320-492-6660