

ACTS

CHAPTER 9:1-9

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TITLE:

“ A GOOD MAN GETS SAVED ”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**“

Bible Scholars Generally Agree that the conversion of Paul ranks as one of the highest points among New Testament events.

Luke (the author of acts) records Paul's conversion three times here and in Chapters 22 & 26, distinct from any other Bible personality.

Why ?

Because his Conversion was Highly Unlikely and Greatly Confirmed

During the late 1800's, England had two well-known and scholarly men who joined forces to discredit Christianity and put an end to it

SIR GILBERT HAWKINS & LORD LITTLETON

HAWKINS undertook a study to prove the Resurrection a hoax

LITTELTON planned on disproving the Conversion of Paul

HAWKINS had found that the Resurrection record proved undeniably credible. The Archeological evidence was firm, and the fact that it all led to the conversions of those who yielded to the Resurrection Message.

LITTELTON discovered that the Conversion of Paul was a result of his own, personal experience with the resurrected Jesus and had so altered him that it literally changed the course of History.

Agreeing to unite after one year of research they got together and discovered **each of them had become Christians!**

With the Conversion of Paul

We see a prototype or model of the Gospel going to all nations as represented in three converts.

- 1.) In Acts 8, **The Ethiopian** a descendant of Noah's son Ham
- 2.) In Acts 9, **Paul a Jew**, a descendant of Noah's son Shem
- 3.) In Acts 10, **Cornelius a Gentile**, a descendant of Noah's son Japheth

**'Jesus didn't come to make bad men good,
He came to make dead men live.'**

Romans 3:23

For all have **sinned**, and fallen short of the glory of God;

John 8:24

Jesus said Therefore 'I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your **sins**.'

That's Not P.C.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| My Inconsistencies, | • to fall short, to miss the mark |
| My Short Comings | • to fall short, to miss the mark |
| My Lapses in Moral Judgment | • to fall short, to miss the mark |

Sin is Defined as Lawlessness

1 John 3:4

Whoever practices **sin** also commits lawlessness, sin is **lawlessness**.

lawlessness **GRK 458 anomia (ano-mee'-ah)**
*illegal activity in thought or action,
to violate THE LAW of God, not so much man's*

Sin **GRK hamartia (hamar-tee' ah)**
*Is a sporting term, to miss the true mark,
to aim, only to miss. (SINNER!!!)*

HE WAS A BELIEVER,
He was very much like a Jonah, he missed God's Will.

You don't have to be a Murderer or a Thief to be a fugitive from God.
 You can be "A GOOD MAN"

Verse 1

Then speaks of the reaction of Saul against the Preaching success of the church.

Acts 22:20

... when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death,

Still

GRK 2089 *eti (et'-ee)*

continuing, progressing. like a train on a track (8:3)

Breathing **GRK 1709** *empneo (emp-neh'-o)*

to inhale, and exhale with force, to be animated.

the word describes a panting & snorting horse after a hard run.

- The **Image** of Stephen was fresh in Saul's' mind. (I see the Son of God...
- The **News** set him on edge

Christianity, The Crutch for the Weak

Paul Was no Weak Man

Acts 22:3-5 (19)

"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. :4 "I persecuted this Way (*or sect*) to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, :5 "as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who of Jerusalem to be punished. :19 "*they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed on Lord.*

Acts 26:10-11

"This I also did in Jerusalem, I shut up the saints in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were *put to death*, I cast my vote against them. :11 "And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly *enraged* against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

enraged GRK *emmainomai* (em-mah'-ee-nom-ahee)
to transform, to become maniac, to go insane, to be mad

'That was a nice dinner Honey, Thanks' 'you're welcome sweetie...would you like to go to church tomorrow morning'
("?:?+<%^\$@#!*^/&"- church")

- He would Snap
- *He would Threaten*
- He would Ridicule
- *He would be Angry to the point of violence*

Verse 2

Damascus, 140 north of Jerusalem, an oasis

- *it's a six to eight day journey from Jerusalem, it's believed to be the oldest city in the world.*
- *Damascus was the gateway to the eastern world from Damascus influenced the east Iran, Iraq etc.*

Thousands of Christians had fled there, and Saul was Going to Stop Them... *Why ?*

Because He thought that he was helping God.

Jesus Said in John 16:2

"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

You Can't Get Any more Sincere Than Saul

He Believed That This WAY was an abomination to God

Galatians 1:13

It was his lifestyle in times past regarding the Jews' religion, that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

This Man Was Driven On

In Saul's Yearbook he was pictured as the one * most likely to succeed. * Captain of the Debate Team. * *and least likely to be saved.*

Acts 22:3

"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our laws,

His Parents had

"My Child made the Honor Roll at Tarsus High"

on the bumper of their donkey

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

2.) Saul, A Man

Convicted By God

vv. 3-5

Verse 3

Nearing his goal

suddenly, GRK exaiphnes (ex-ah'-eef-nace)

unexpectedly, without warning. Overwhelming surprise

Mark 13:35-36

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at evening, or at noon, or at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning hours: :36 Lest coming suddenly he *find you sleeping.*

Shone

GRK 4015 periastrapto (per-ee-as-trap'-to);

to flash and blaze, to flash all around, an envelope of light:

In Hiroshima & Nagasaki

when the Enola Gay dropped the Atomic Bomb

The Flash of Light was so great that the Images of people were etched in the earth & concrete.

(so with Saul, Jesus Etched in him his Reality)

John 9:5

I am the light (the brightness, shine, luminousness) of the world."

Verse 4

The Moment of Encounter is the Moment of Conviction,
There is One Greater than You

Jesus speaking to him In Hebrew said

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

*"what wrong, great or small, have I done to you
that causes you to do this to Me.*

Why... Stephen Why... Phillip Why... Peter Why... Jesus !!!

Don't Bash Christians... You're Bashing Jesus

This Had to Have Blown his Yamakuk right off

Jesus Said;

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; :17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. :18 I will not leave you comfortless:

I will come to you.

Verse 5

"Who Are You" ... He Had The Guts to Ask

I am Jesus,
ego eimi Iesous
The One, The Eternal, Salvation of God

HAWKINS & LITTLETON
Said that Paul had a stroke and a hallucination

- 9:17 *Ananias said "The Lord Jesus Who appeared to you..."*
- 9:27 *Barnabas taking Paul, brought him to the apostles and declared to them how he had seen the Lord*
- 22:14 *Ananias again said "you have seen the Just One & Heard His Voice"*

It's Hard for You To Kick Against The Goads (stinger)
"Goads were hooks or spikes that directed the ox"

Saul's mind & emotions had been fighting with The Spirit.

"It's destructive to resist, you're only hurting yourself"

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us *reason* (yaw-kahh', to argue and debate) together, saith the LORD:

3.) Saul, A Man Broken For God vv. 6-9

The Mark of True Believer...

"Lord, what do You want me to do?" HE ASKED ALL HIS LIFE

The 'Distance' Between Saul & the Temple Police

God was humbling him

"but they led him by the hand"

he's scared, depressed, rejected, confused, and blind with no appetite,
*his tears became his drink for three days...this was God's moment, it's God's way of breaking
the heart.*

(Saul is in the dark night of the soul)

Matthew 21:44

"And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

Deuteronomy 28:29

"The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart. 29 "And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not escape

When Paul Recounts

Acts 22:6

"Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me.

Philippians 3:7

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as **rubbish**, (*GRK is Bandini, ENG, Kitty Litter, No. 2*) that I may gain Christ

Verse 9

a painful three days as Saul was laid up by God to consider his position. Allot had to be going on inside...

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.