

ACTS

CHAPTER 9:19-31

Media Reference Number: smx 178

TITLE:

ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER?

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**."

Are you really a Believer? *What a question!*

OR *What Kind* of a Believer are You?

To be a Believer in God or even Jesus does NOT necessarily guarantee an entrance into heaven

The News of Saul's 'Alleged' Conversion was spreading
After all, Christianity had become Saul's main topic of interest and effort.

The Kingdom Parables

The Sower

Matthew 13:1 & Luke 8:4,

Jesus makes it very clear that not all who say they're believers are believers... 3/4 of those who confessed knowing Jesus, in fact did not, and only 1/4 were actually saved

Not all decisions are lasting decisions
(the issue is salvation)

Hebrews 6:12

do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

We're going to look at '4' very important indicators that will settle the Question,
ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER?

BY THE WAY,
THIS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MESSAGE

ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER?

1.) The Real Believer's Response vv. 19-22

There are (3 a,b,c) three things that tell us that Saul really was a Believer..... by how he responded.

Verse 19

A.) *He spent some days with the disciples*

You can't survive as a solo saint

For Some Reason There

are Christians who think they have somehow marked, like they've arrived.

Hebrews 10:25

Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, ***and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (What day... The Coming!)***

We need to Prioritize our Priorities
- *and be committed to them*

my first solo flight. (oct. 1, 83)
the panic! (don't leave)

B.) *Immediately he preached the Christ*

Immediately GRK 2112 eutheos (yoo-theh'-oce) directly, at once, **at that very moment**
Our English word Enthusiastic comes from this word
Theus - God, En- Inside, (Possessed by God)

NO UNDERCOVER CHRISTIANITY HERE
he went to his own (synagogues, & fellow Jews)

“That He is the Son of God”

Kosher Background is needed here.

the Jews believed in Christ and expected Him to come. In fact according to the Old Testament Prophet Daniel, the very day of the Messiah's coming to Jerusalem was given. The Problem was.....they refused to believe that JESUS was the Christ. he preached JESUS as Christ

We all have different attitudes and personalities but one very thing is certain... we are always thinking and looking for opportunities to tell somebody!!! ***Do You Care about People ?***

Who is Saul of Tarsus,
isn't this the guy who lives a couple doors down,
The Answer is YES !

C.) he increased all the more in strength, and confounding the Jews proving that this Jesus is the Christ

increased **GRK 1743 endunamoo (en-doo-nam-o'-o)**
to empower by steps, to be made stronger

1 Peter 2:2

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

confounded **GRK 4797 sugcheo (soong-kheh'-o)**
to pour sand into the wheel, to add, comingle foreign matter ***in the mind***
throw into disorder, to perplex

proving **GRK 4822 sumbibazo (soom-bib-ad'-zo)**
to collide, to join the reason to the thought. to drive together,

From The Old Testament

I shared with several Jews from the Old Testament that Jesus is the Christ of the O.T.
(proving, arguing, he increased by virtue of sharing... it galvanizes you)

Nothing was Passive

Paul's Preaching resulted in Revivals or Riots

Like Stephen, Like Saul...

A wolf never attacks a wooden sheep.
A Hawk never dives a plastic duck

Between vv. 22 & 23 there is a 3 year space in time
see Galatians 1:17

I've Had 'Grown Men' tell me that the Bible is the first Book that they've ever read.

(Education is one of the fruits of Christianity...)

- Who are the ones who have built the Universities around the world?
- Who are the ones who have built the Hospitals around the world?
- Who are the ones who have built Shelters around the world?

What has Buddhism done for man's pain and affliction •
 What has Islam done for man's pain and affliction •
 What has Hinduism done for man's pain and affliction •

ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER?

2.) The Real Believer's Rejection vv. 23-25

Another thing is 'How a young Christian handles the trials in his life'

They (*his buddies*) plotted to kill him.

The BC. Days

Old Friends Never Stay, they just fade away. they kinda just walk away.

All my friends walked out on me. We no longer had anything in common, we had nothing to talk about anymore.

Zero Comfort Zone

If you are still hanging with your BC friends chances are you haven't given them the real gospel!

Matthew 13:21

"yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when **tribulation or persecution arises** because of the word, immediately he stumbles."

HE WAS TRIAL TESTED

John 15:18-19

:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. **:19** "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (**KAMIKAZE CHRISTIAN**)

The resistance that he received

Luke 6:26

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

- Saul, • not welcome in Damascus
 • let down
 • shunned in Jerusalem

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

John 6:37

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER

3.) The Real Believer's Relations vv. 26-29

he *tried to join* the disciples

Join GRK 2853 *kollao (kol-lah'-o)*
to glue, to stick, to keep company with

Tried GRK 3987 *peirao (pi-rah'-o)*
to attempt again, to be attempting

He kept Re-gluing himself to them
like a little brother trying to hang around his big brother and his friends

Grace to Grow is always Needed

But Barnabas took

is in contrast to the **BUT in verse 26**

his name was Joseph (acts 4:36), but the disciples changed his name to Barnabas because he was a encourager

The son of Consolation
- not Condemnation

Be A Barney instead of a Burney

I think of the woman Joan who discipled me in the Lord, like a baby I was thirsty

took **GRK** to seize by gripping, lay hold upon firmly
 to grab firmly, as a parent would draw close a child

Spiritual Pediatrics Ward

brought **GRK** *ago (ag'-o)* to bring or to drive (as in Saul being driven to school)

Barnabas defended Saul's Conversion

because he had seen a change. We often destroy any new attempt to change..

4.) The Real Believer's Rest vv. 30-31

Acts 20:22-24

"... I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, :23
"except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying **that chains and tribulations await me.** :24
"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Boldly GRK 3955 parrhesiazomai (par-hray-see-ad'-zom-ahee)

to be frank, to cut to the root, to be confident in spirit

disputed **GRK 4802 suzeteo (sood-zay-teh'-o)**
 to investigate by reason, to think through

CHECK THIS OUT

- Arguing with the Hellenists at the synagogues of the Freedmen in Jerusalem
- Just like Stephen (acts 6:9)
- there were men there from Cilicia (ciliicia was the capitol of Tarsus)

Saul goes back to Jerusalem, to the scene of the crime and he attempts to convince those who worked for him earlier.

(only a true believer would do that)

Verse 30

Acts 22:18 tells us that GOD told him

They sent him to Caesarea then to Tarsus
They sent him Where?

From the Frying pan into the Fire.

This Good Jewish boy goes back home after being at university for years, then post graduate studies with Jesus in the desert, and comes home to hear mama ask "So How Was Your Day?" Oh fine mama, by the way I'm a Christian"

It was rejection time, It was refusal time,
It was Outta here time, It was funeral time,

Matthew 10:35-37

"For I have come to `set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; :36 "and `a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' :37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Philippians 3:7-8

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 dung, (Bandini) that I may gain Christ

Verse 31

The Receipt for Church Growth

- Walking in the Fear of the Lord
- Walking in the Comfort of the Holy Spirit

Calvary Chapel Chino Hills

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;