

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

ACTS 9:1-16

Text:

Introduction:

In the story of the conversation of the Apostle Paul, we see the true power of the Lord. His power is demonstrated in the way He changes lives.

Saul was the great persecutor of the early church yet Christ forgave him and used him as no other man has ever been used.

Note

1. SAUL'S DESIRE

To Build His Own Righteousness

Saul didn't understand that righteousness is given not gained.

2. SAUL'S DISDAIN (VS. 1-2)

Acts 9:1-2

¹ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

A. There was a consuming wrath – Breathing out threatenings

- He hated men and women who professed faith in Christ.

Acts 8:3

³ As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

B. There was a collective wrath – went unto the high priest

Saul was zealous in his hatred of Christians. He asked the high priest for letters giving him authority to arrest any believers he could find in Damascus.

The fact that he had reason to believe he would find Christians in the city of Syria, some 120 miles from

Jerusalem is a testimony to how far and how fast the Gospel was spreading.

C. There was a calculated wrath –Paul hated those who were of “the way.”

The first century Christians and church were not known for their buildings, but for their way of life.

The distance that Paul traveled to bring followers of the Way back to Jerusalem showed his dedication and determination to his cause.

3. SAUL’S DELIVERANCE (SALVATION) (VS. 3-9)

Acts 9:3-9

³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷ And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. ⁸ And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw

no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

The conversion of Saul reminds us that there is hope for anyone.

A. It was a sudden conversion

B. It was a sure conversion

1. Conviction of sin – Whom thou persecutest.

2. Confession of faith – Lord what wilt thou have me to do?

C. It was a sanctifying conversion

3. SAUL'S DEVOTION

The reality of Saul's conversion can be seen in his dramatic change of devotion.

Acts 22:10

¹⁰ And I said, **What shall I do, Lord?** And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Before salvation his devotion was to Himself

After his salvation his devotion was to the Saviour

Saul's surrender was complete. He had finally humbly submitted his entire life to the Lord.

Close:

Christians are men and women, boys and girls, old and young that have had their desires changed, their devotion directed to God and God alone.

Are you a Christian is your surrender complete? Have your desires changed, is your devotion directed toward Heaven and God alone who is worthy?