



Intro.

- A. Every preacher has preached about the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, **Ac. 9, 22, 26**
  - 1. You are well familiar with his 3-day blindness, during which time he did not eat or drink.
  - 2. After Ananias delivered to Saul the gospel message, his sins were washed away in baptism, & he began preaching Jesus & making disciples (supporting the cause he formerly persecuted).
- B. Today I want us to look at that account from a slightly different angle.
  - 1. There were some things that Paul saw (came to understand) while he was sightless. Christ.
  - 2. These are things that are vital for each of us to see, regardless of how long you've been a disciple of 

Discuss.I. HE SAW THAT BEING RELIGIOUS WAS NOT ENOUGH.

- A. Paul had been a diligent, spiritual man all along.
  - 1. He summed up his dedication in **Gal. 1:13-14**.
  - 2. It is an honorable thing to be religious, if one is genuinely seeking after righteousness.
- B. The Athenians of **Acts 17** were *very religious* (**vs. 22**), but their idolatry was wrong.
  - 1. In order for worship to be acceptable to the Lord, it must be *in spirit & in truth*, **Jn. 4:24**
  - 2. When one worships according to the *doctrines & commandments of men*, that worship = vain, **Mt. 15:9**
- C. Paul came to understand that just being religious (any way one choses) was not adequate to please God.

II. HE SAW THAT BEING SINCERE DOES NOT MAKE ONE RIGHT.

- A. There can be no doubt about the sincerity of Paul. obedience.
  - 1. He could state with absolute honesty, **Ac. 26:9-10**, as he told others of his background prior to his 
  - 2. No one could be fair in their thinking and deny Paul previous sincerity.
- B. Paul has teaming 1000's of like-thinking people that are *sincere* in their religious convictions today!
  - 1. Yet, the what Paul saw needs to be seen by those like-minded, i.e., you can be sincere & still *be wrong*.
  - 2. Being sincere does not automatically make things that are wrong acceptable to God.
- C. Paul saw that a person can be honestly mistaken, & sincerely wrong.

III. HE SAW THAT ONE'S CONSCIENCE DOESN'T ALWAYS LEAD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

- A. Paul live with a clear conscience.
  - 1. **Ac. 23:1**, Paul told the council, *I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day*.
  - 2. Before gov. Felix, Paul could say, *I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men*. **Ac. 24:16**
- B. Many today are letting their conscience be their guide in spiritual matters.
  - 1. It has to be remembered that our conscience can only lead us right if it has been trained right.
  - 2. Even those Tallilban terrorists believe they are doing right, but how much more wrong could they be!
- C. Paul saw that it is possible to be wrong even though we think we are right.

IV. HE LEARNED THAT HE HAD BEEN IGNORANT OF GOD'S WILL.

- A. Listen to Paul's self-description in **1 Tim. 1:13**.
- B. Even though Paul was a well-educated man, he was still ignorant of the Truth of God's will.
  - 1. He had been educated at the feet of Judiasm's finest, Gamaliel (**Ac. 22:3**)
  - 2. Gamaliel = a member of the Sanhedrin (**Ac. 5:34**), & was the grandson of the gt. Rabbi Hillel.
- C. Paul saw that ignorance will not excuse a person at the day of judgment (c. **Ac. 17:30**)

V. HE SAW THAT EVEN THE GREATEST OF SINNERS COULD BE SAVED.

- A. Paul's ability to put things into proper perspective is worthy of imitation, c. **1 Tim. 1:15**.
- B. There are many who feel that they are not *good enough* to obey the gospel. **Ac. 2:23, 36**
  - 1. Keep in mind that the church began with people who were responsible for Jesus' crucifixion, \\
  - 2. They learned of the possibility of *remission of their sins*, **Ac. 2:37-38 (& 41, 47)**.

3. Peter declared God's determination to save everyone who is willing to obey, **2 Pet. 3:9**  
C. Paul saw that absolutely *any one* who will come to Christ on His terms can be accepted by Him.

**Rm.10:13**

#### **VI. HE SAW THAT HE HAD TO CHANGE HIS RELIGION.**

- A. There had to be some serious changes come about in Paul's life religiously if he was going to enjoy the provision of God's blessings.
1. He would have to give up the religion he had grown up with!
  2. The law of Moses had to be rejected as his rule of faith & practice!
  3. His reputation among the Pharisees would need to be forfeited, along with former friends
- B. Sad to say, many today are unwilling to give up what they have been taught & what they have been practicing religiously, even when they learn that it is contrary to God's will.
- C. Paul saw that truth requires us to change in the areas in which we have been wrong!

**Phil.4:4-11**

#### **VII. HE SAW THAT CHRIST AND CHRISTIAN ARE ONE.**

- A. Paul grew to appreciate the close connection of Christ and His body, the church.
1. He had *persecuted the church of God, & wasted it* **Gal. 1:13**
  2. But in doing so, he was persecuting Christ (**Ac. 9:4-5**).
- B. When the church (Christians) is persecuted, then Christ is also being persecuted at the same time.

#### **VIII. HE SAW THAT THE LORD HAD NEED OF HIM.**

- A. God temporarily blinded Paul so that he would later be able to teach others, *opening the eyes* of the spiritually blind to the truth of the gospel.
- B. The Lord told him that he was being sent to the Gentiles, *To open their eyes...* **Ac. 26:18**.
- C. Christ needs us involved in teaching His word to all the lost who will listen!

Concl.

#### **IX. HE SAW WHAT ALL SINNERS MUST DO IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.**

- A. He realized that *just believing* in the Lord was insufficient.
1. On the road to Damascus He had believed on the Lord.
  2. For 3 days he had prayed (while waiting for the preacher), but that had not saved him.
  3. He saw that something in addition to believing & repenting had to be done. (c.**Ac. 9:6**)
  4. Ananias told him to be *baptized, & wash away your sins.* (**Ac. 22:16**)
- B. According to **Ac. 9:18**, that's just what Paul did.
1. Later he wrote in **Rom. 6:3-4**
  2. If you can see what Paul saw when he first learned & obeyed the gospel, then you need to do as he did. (**Ac. 9:18**)
  3. We are going to stand & sing the invitation song together hoping that you are ready to do that right now!