

SAUL: THE TRANSFORMED LIFE — ACTS 9:1-9

 ¹Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. (Ac.9:1-2)

- Paul is now bent on leaving town and finding Christians anywhere he can find them and rooting them out.

1 The CONTACT

v.3

 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. (Ac.9:3)

- God always initiates the contact in salvation. This is because the natural man cannot understand and does not seek God.
- God gets our attention in different ways. (1) still small voice; (2) more dramatic approach; (3) the “good” person must recognize their sinfulness. The last may be the greater miracle.
- Salvation begins with a divine, sovereign contact. That's the doctrine of the sovereignty of God in motion toward the sinner.

2 The CONVICTION

v.4

 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Ac.9:4)

- Whenever there's going to be salvation, there's got to be conviction of sin. Sin is what separates men from God. Sin must be exposed.
- The real issue in every man's life is what he does with Jesus Christ. The issue of conviction is unbelief and rebellion toward Jesus Christ.
- If you go to hell, it'll be because you did not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. That is the only reason.
- Any man who lives in this world apart from Jesus Christ is as guilty as Paul of rejection of Jesus Christ (1Co.16:22).

3 His CONVERSION

v.5

 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." (Ac.9:5)

- Paul is converted somewhere in the white spaces in verse 5. By verse 6 he is a different guy. When he heard it was Jesus, he said, “Okay, okay. I accept.” So, the battle is over. Paul believed and was converted.
- His heart was broken by repentance, but at that moment, it was healed by faith. God invaded his life as a pattern (1Tm.1:12-16)!



4 His CONSECRATION

v.6-8

 ⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. (Ac.9:6-8)

- The question in the Christian life is not: “Is He Lord of your life?” The question is: “Are you obeying Him?”
- Paul knew there was only one thing that was needful in his life, and that was obedience. Paul's whole life is a testimony for God.

5 His COMMUNION

v.9

 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (Ac.9:9)

- He had been transformed in an unbelievable fashion, and he needed time for his brain to catch up with what had happened in his soul.
- God gave him three days to catch up with what had happened. Salvation happens in an instant, but it takes a long time to plumb the depths of what it really is.