

**PAUL'S CONVERSION:
WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS?**

1. Text: Acts 9:1-8
2. Saul or Paul is usually considered the greatest follower ever of Jesus Christ. How did he come to his conversion to the Lord?
3. This lesson and the next will deal with that subject. Three accounts of his conversion are given in Acts: Acts 9:1-19 (Luke's account); Acts 22:5-16 (Paul's testimony before a Jewish audience); Acts 26:12-20 (Paul's testimony from a Gentile perspective).
4. What happened on the road to Damascus?

I. The Cause (9:1-2)

1. "Breathing" (Expressive of deep, agitated emotion) threats and murder (9:1). Bring back men or women bound to Jerusalem (9:2). To punish (22:5) Persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering to prison (22:4,19).
2. Had authority and commission (letters) from Jerusalem for Damascus and "the brethren" (26:12; 22:5).
3. Against "the disciples of the Lord" (9:1); "Any of that way" (Acts 16:17; 18:25:19:23).

II. The Confrontation (9:3-5)

1. From dark mission to the light of truth.
2. A brilliant light shines on Saul and his companions (26:13).
3. The Lord Jesus speaks, "Why are you persecuting me?" (9:4)
4. Who are you, Lord? I am Jesus. Think what that conversation meant to Saul.

III. The Connection (9:4)

1. Why are you persecuting me?
2. When he persecuted the Lord's church (His body of Ephesians 1:22-23) he persecuted Christ.
3. Our connection to Him:

IV. The Clash (26:14)

1. "It is hard for you to kick against the goads." These were sharp stakes attached to the front of carts to keep rebellious oxen from kicking apart the carts.
2. Saul was hopelessly rebelling against God's will. Was it conscience? See Acts 23:1; 26:9.

V. The Contradictions?

1. Acts 9:7 Stood speechless and 26:14 All fallen to ground. Answer: different times. See 26:14 first; 9:7 last.
2. Acts 9:7 Heard voice; 26:14 Did not hear voice. Answer: First was a noise, the second related to understanding.

VI. The Commission (26:16-18)

1. The Lord had a unique plan for Saul's life.
2. Minister and witness.
3. Mission: to open the lost's eyes, to turn them from darkness to light; Satan to God. Remission of sins, sanctify by faith.
4. See verse 19: He was obedient to that vision.

VII. The Confusion

1. The biggest mistake concerning Paul's life has to do with the fact that he was not saved on the road to Damascus.
2. Nothing says this. His use of Lord does not.
3. Acts 22:16 clearly shows he was not.
4. Acts 9:6 What will you have me do? In the city you will be told what you must do.

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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