

THE CONVERSION & EARLY MINISTRY OF PAUL (Acts 9:1-31)

I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA (8-12)

A. The WITNESS of PHILIP to the SAMARITANS & ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH. (8:1-40)

B. The CONVERSION & EARLY MINISTRY of PAUL (9:1-31)

1. The Conversion of Paul (9:1-19)

a. Paul's Life before Christ (9:1-2)

1) Paul was born in _____ of Cilicia as a _____ citizen (9:11; 21:39; 22:3) but raised in a _____ religious Jewish family in _____ (23:6, 16; 26:4-5).

- *Why does his name change from Saul (9:1; Phil. 3:5) to Paul (13:9)?*
- *How religious was Paul as a Jew? (Gal. 1:14; Phil. 3:5-6)*

2) Paul expressed his religious zeal by _____ the church. (22:4, 19; 26:9-11)

- *What did this involve and what can you learn from this? (1 Tim. 1:12-16)*

b. Paul Meets Jesus on the Road to Damascus (9:3-7)

1) Before entering Damascus, the _____, _____ Christ personally appeared to Paul and verbally _____ him to be His witness. (9:3; 22:14; 26:13-14)

- *What was His appearance like and how should we view Jesus today? (Matt. 17:2; Rev. 1)*
- *What important truth is implied here about the nature of Christ and the Church? (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:12-16; Col. 2:19)*

2) At this pivotal moment, Paul realized the _____ of the _____ he had been rejecting up to this point. (26:16-18; Gal. 1:11-12)

- *How does this apply to you?*

c. Paul Accepted and Affirmed in the Church through Ananias (9:8-19)

- 1) As a result of seeing Jesus, Paul was _____, _____, and _____ for 3 days. (9:8-9)
- 2) The Lord Jesus appeared to a disciple in Damascus named _____ (9:10-16), who was _____ and had a _____ among all (22:12) in order to _____ Paul as a fellow believer and witness for Christ.
 - *What is significant about Christ's instructions to Ananias?*
 - *What is the purpose of laying on hands & how does it relate to Paul here? (6:6; 8:17; 13:3; 19:6)*
 - *Why might Paul have been blinded but not the others with him? (22:9, 11; 26:13-14, 17-18)*
- 3) Though the passage doesn't explicitly say when Paul was born again, the details of the story show it was _____ his _____.
 - Paul called Jesus "Lord" and was immediately obedient to Christ's will (9:6, 8 cf. 1 Cor. 12:3)
 - He spent 3 days in prayer to Jesus, calling on His name (9:11)
 - He received a vision from the Lord to confirm Ananias's coming to him (9:11-12)
 - Ananias called him "Brother" before baptizing him (9:17)
 - He was "filled with the Holy Spirit," which is *not* for regeneration (John 3:3-8; Acts 2:38; 19:2; Titus 3:5) but only for those who are already believers for enabled service (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8, 31; 13:9, 52; Eph. 5:18).

2. The Early Ministry of Paul (9:20-31)

- a. After Paul's conversion and affirmation through Ananias, he _____ preached that Jesus is the _____, the _____ in the synagogues of Damascus. (9:20-22; John 20:30-31)
- b. Between vv. 22 & 23 is likely an interval of _____ years where Paul went to _____. (Gal. 1:15-19)
 - Crucifixion of Christ A.D. 33
 - Pentecost (Acts 2) A.D. 33
 - Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6-7) A.D. 35
 - Paul's Conversion A.D. 35 (summer)
 - Paul in Damascus and Arabia A.D. 35 (summer) to 37 (early summer)
 - Paul's first visit back to Jerusalem A.D. 37 (summer)
 - Paul returns to Tarsus and Syria-Cilicia A.D. 37 (fall)
- c. In Damascus, Paul escaped _____ from both the _____ and _____. (9:23-25; 2 Cor. 11:32-33)
- d. In Jerusalem, Paul met _____ and _____ (9:27; Gal. 1:18-19), spoke _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed with the Hellenists before escaping death again. (9:26-29)
 - *What happened between vv. 29 and 30? (22:17-21)*
 - *Where was Paul for the next 6-7 years? (9:30; 11:25-26)*
 - *What can we learn from all this?*