



SAUL: FIGHTING GOD

ACTS 9:1-9

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • June 19 & 20, 2021 • Acts, week 43 • Msg. 21-22

Acts 9:1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. **4** And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" **5** And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **6** But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. **8** Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
(ESV)

1. See _____
(vv.1-5)

2. Understand _____
(vv.6-7)

3. Recall _____
(vv.8-9)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Matthew 13:44-46**. How can understanding the profound problem of our sin impact the way we value and celebrate our conversion and inclusion in Christ's kingdom?
2. Read **Ephesians 4:17-19**. How can consideration of specific examples of this in your own past drive you to make a greater difference for Christ in the lives of the non-Christians in your weekly sphere of activity?
3. Read **Ephesians 4:20-24**. What specific motivations do you derive from considering the need to make progress in these areas as a person freed from your past enslavement to sin and your exclusion from God's kingdom?
4. Read **Ephesians 2:11-12** and **John 9:39-41**. How might the truth of these passages rightly impact the way we present the gospel?
5. Read **Matthew 7:13-14**. How can initial steps toward church or the gospel truths deceive some into thinking they are on the "narrow way" when in fact they have not responded to Christ with penitent faith?

*This Week's
Bible Reading Schedule*

June 20th
Neh. 12-13 & Ac. 4:23-37

June 21st
Esth. 1-3 & Ac. 5:1-16

June 22nd
Esth. 4-6 & Ac. 5:17-42

June 23rd
Esth. 7-10 & Ac. 6

June 24th
Job 1-3 & Ac. 7:1-19

June 25th
Job 4-6 & Ac. 7:20-43

June 26th
Job 7-9 & Ac. 7:44-60

June 27th
Job 10-12 & Ac. 8:1-25

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 15-54 – **The Salvation Experience**
Msg. 13-04 – **The Gospel's Assault on the Egocentric**
Msg. 18-02 – **Lamenting the Rebellious Subjects**
Msg. 13-30 – **Apostasy & Stumbling Saints**
Msg. 17-28 – **Right with God: Seeing Our Need**
Msg. 12-18 – **Guilt & Forgiveness**
Msg. 06-21 – 06-24 – **Almost a Christian** (a four-part series on unconverted churchgoers)

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Augustine. **The Confessions**. Reprint. Baker Books, 1977.
Beale, G. K. **We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry**. InterVarsity Press, 2008.
Blocher, Henri. **Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle**. IVP Press, 2000.
Bunyan, John. **Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners**. Reprint. Baker Books, 1986.
Burroughs, Jeremiah. **Gospel Fear: Developing a Tender Heart that Trembles at the Word of God**. Soli Deo Gloria, 1997.
Grudem, Wayne. **"Free Grace" Theology: Five Ways It Diminishes the Gospel**. Crossway, 2016.
Love, Christopher. **The Mortified Christian**. Reprint. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.
Lutzer, Erwin. **Christ Among Other Gods**. Moody Press, 1994.
Ortlund, Raymond C. **God's Unfaithful Wife: A Biblical Theology of Spiritual Adultery**. InterVarsity Press, 2001.
Phillips, Richard, et al. **Only One Way? Reaffirming the Exclusive Truth Claims of Christianity**. Crossway, 2007.
Piper, John. **What Jesus Demands from the World**. Crossway Books, 2006.
Plantinga, Cornelius. **Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin**. Eerdmans Publishing, 1995.
Pyne, Robert. **Humanity and Sin**. Thomas Nelson, 1999.
Venning, Ralph. **The Sinfulness of Sin**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1997.