

## 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)

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)
- 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)**

- *What can you learn from all this?*