

**Acts 9:1-16**  
Martyrs: Paul 1

*Saul, Saul ...*

- I. Dramatic Confrontation
  - A. Why Saul?
  - B. I AM Jesus
- II. Purposeful Reversal
  - A. Radical Transformation
  - B. Glorious Mission
- III. Mounting Trouble
  - A. Murderous Malefactors
  - B. Mighty Movement

*... do not be silent, for I am with you.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What was Saul doing when Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus?
2. Where was Jesus when He spoke to Saul?
3. What did Saul (Paul) start doing almost immediately after becoming a Christian?
4. What could Paul expect when he went out to preach the Gospel?
5. What did Jesus promise Paul that gave him confidence and boldness?

**Forewarned – Forearmed**

Saul's conversion was startling but not entirely instantaneous – the Lord was obviously preparing him in advance for the dramatic confrontation on the road to Damascus. The forewarning that he would suffer in his new calling to preach the Gospel was undoubtedly daunting, but it was no surprise. Paul knew full well that Christians would suffer for their faith, he knew it well, after all, he had been on the other side of the sword of persecution. Yet he went forward and in time faced some of the most intense harassment and abuse recorded in Scripture after that of Christ. What gave him such resolve and courage? He knew the Christ and he had to serve Him – He knew the Word and had to preach it – He knew the risk and he had to take it – and he endured to the end - most importantly he knew that Jesus was true to His word when he told him from the beginning He will be with him and then bolstered Paul's confidence along the way with reminders of His nearness. Paul was forewarned about the trouble that lay ahead – but he was forearmed with grace, faith, the Holy Spirit and His Sword (the Word of God) and the presence of the Lord who would strive with him in the battle to its victorious end. Jesus' promise is true for all who are in Christ no matter what our circumstances may be – and it is an especially salient assurance for those who face persecution today.