

## LESSONS FROM THE CONVERSION OF SAUL OF TARSUS

Acts 9:1-6

INTRO: Up to this time, Saul of Tarsus had been the ring leader of the persecutors of Christ's church. In less than a week's time, he was in the process of becoming one of its greatest defenders. Let's notice some lessons we could learn from Saul's conversion.

### I. CONSCIENCE IS NOT AN INFALLIBLE GUIDE.

A. Saul persecuted the church in good conscience.  
READ ACTS 26:9-11

B. But what Saul thought he ought to do was wrong, dead wrong, dead drastically wrong. His conscience was clear but his soul was guilty.

### II. JUST BEING RELIGIOUS IS NOT ENOUGH.

A. No one was more religious, nor more fervent in his religion than Saul of Tarsus. READ ACTS 26:4-5

READ GALATIANS 1:13-14

B. But Saul was religiously wrong, dead wrong, drastically dead wrong.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (1 Cor 15:9).

And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, & guarding the clothes of those who were killing him. (Acts 22:20).

### III. IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS.

Saul was not aware of his sin--but he was guilty of his sin. He was a blasphemer, a persecutor, even a murderer. And he needed forgiveness in the worst way. He needed to have his sins washed away in the precious blood of Jesus Christ, Acts 22:16. Acts 17:30.

IV. THAT THE WORST OF SINNERS CAN BE SAVED.

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:13-15; Acts 7:58; 8:1; 9:1-2

V. UNCONVERTED SINNERS ARE NOT SAVED BY PRAYING

THRU. READ ACTS 9:8-11; 22:12-16. Still in his sins.

VI. THERE IS SOMETHING ONE MUST DO TO BE SAVED.

READ ACTS 9:6; 22:16

A. Saul became a pattern for others who want to be saved. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. (1 Tim 1:16).

1. If he could be saved, any sinner can be saved.
2. Any sinner can be saved like he was.

B. On the road to Damascus, Saul came to believe in the Lordship of Jesus, but he wasn't saved yet, Acts 22:16 Faith is essential, but faith alone is not enough.

C. Saul began to repent of his sins against Christ & Christ's people before he ever arrived at Damascus. And make no mistake about it--repentance is essential, 2 Pet 3:9. But repentance is only one step in the direction of the obedience Christ commands.

D. Penitent believers need to be baptized in order for their sins to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus, Acts 22:16.

READ ACTS 9:17-18

E. The pattern-nature of Saul's obedience becomes ever more obvious when we see what he taught others to do in order to enter into the benefits of Christ's sacrifice, Gal. 3:26-27.

READ ROMANS 6:3-6

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