

Paul's Conversion

This week we learn how Paul was changed as he came 'face to face' with The Lord Jesus Christ.

***Paul wrote: 'I count all things
but loss for the excellency of the
knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord'.
Philippians 3v8***

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 9v1-16 (Saul is called to faith in Jesus Christ)	
Monday	Acts 9v17-31 (Paul preaches Christ crucified)	
Tuesday	Acts 22v1-16 (Paul's testimony of his faith in Christ)	
Wednesday	Acts 22v17-30 (Paul continues his testimony)	
Thursday	Acts 26v1-18 (Paul repeats his testimony to King Agrippa)	
Friday	Acts 26v19-32 (King Agrippa almost persuaded)	
Saturday	Philippians 3 (Paul knew the power of Christ)	

Important Lesson for us today: *We learn from the conversion of Paul what a profound change is made by God The Holy Spirit when a soul is converted from rebellion against God and rejection of Him, to a position of faith, repentance, trust, obedience; to a life of obedient faithful witness, and service, to The Lord Jesus Christ.*

We encourage you to use Paul's experience as a guide for your life.

Paul wrote: ***'If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new'. 2 Corinthians 5v17.***

Prayerfully seek the Lord for this change in your heart.

Hymn 389 – We must come to the Saviour pleading His shed blood on the cross.

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| 1. Just as I am – without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God I come, I come. | 4. Just as I am – poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee I find,
O Lamb of God I come, I come. |
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We see from Paul's Conversion a Complete Change of Life.

- **Saul of Tarsus, as he was - A Pharisee of the Pharisees. A Proud Man.**
 - Proud of 'keeping' God's Law – I am 'blameless' before God, without sin.
 - Proud of being a Jew - but he did not know God personally as his Saviour.
 - Proud of man-made religion, religious ritual/ceremonies, formal worship.
- **Saul's Reaction to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel.**
 - He hated Jesus Christ – he would not accept Him as The OT Promised Messiah, nor His death for his sin on Calvary – The Lamb of God - the ultimate sacrifice.
 - He could not accept that the OT sacrifices and ceremonies should now stop.
 - He would not believe that Jesus Christ was God - now risen from the dead.
 - He did not accept that he was a sinner in God's Holy sight, needing a Saviour, nor could he accept that God was interested in saving Gentiles (Non-Jews).
 - He saw Christians as God's enemies and sought to arrest and have them killed.
- **The Lord Intervenes in Saul's Journey to Damascus.**
 - The Lord Jesus Himself, appears from Heaven, stopping Saul in his tracks with a blinding light, saying to him; ***"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" Acts 9v4.***
 - Saul is brought to his knees, and answers; ***'Who art Thou Lord?'*** Acts 9v5.
 - The Lord convinces Saul that He is God, the very One Who he is 'kicking' against. The Lord changes Saul's heart - causing him to believe and repent his sin.
 - Saul's immediate and obedient response, ***'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?'***
 - Saul now admitted that he had broken every one of God's commandments, and that the Law condemned him as guilty – **he could not keep God's Law.**
 - He realised that all his 'good' deeds, and religious ceremonial were as filthy rags in God's sight. He now saw that his only hope was in Christ's death on Calvary.
 - Saul, blinded, is received by Ananias in Damascus, and is given his sight back. He was appointed by the Lord to be the Apostle Paul, to preach The Gospel to all, and to write much of the New Testament under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit.
- **What does Christian Conversion mean?**
 - We must first realise that there is no good in us whatsoever – (not even that our attendance at Church will save us as this is not acceptable to God).
 - We must **'face the Lord'**, realising that we, whilst in our sin, are His enemy.
 - We must seek to know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Personal Saviour. We must ask Him to change our hearts, to give us faith and repentance to believe that He died on the Cross to take the punishment for our sin.
 - We must hear His call to repent our sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ so that we will love Him as our Saviour and want to obey and serve Him.

The Lord God promises - "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh". Ezekiel 36 v26