

The Conversion of Saul

Text: Acts 9:1-22.

Introduction:

- A. The purpose of examples is to clarify rules.- e.g. sample problems in math book
- B. There are two kinds of examples of salvation which you can follow:
 - 1. modern cases related by denominational preachers- Mark 7:9.
 - 2. Bible cases which were under divine supervision twice: when done and when written- Acts 9:6,10-12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What can we learn about our salvation from the conversion of Saul?

I. Does one's earthly importance matter with the Lord?

- A. Saul was born of a proud race.- Acts 22:3; Philippians 3:5
- B. He enjoyed great privileges.- Acts 22:24-29; 25:9-12
- C. He attained a position of great importance.- Acts 22:3; Galatians 1:14; Acts 26:10
- D. Yet, he needed salvation.- Acts 22:16; 10:34-35

II. Is one religion as good as another?

- A. Saul was a zealous member of a respected religion.- Acts 26:45; 22:3; Galatians 1:14
- B. Yet, he was not saved.- Acts 26:9; 4:10-12; cf. John 14:6

III. Is conscience a safe guide?

- A. Saul always had a clear conscience.- Acts 23:1
- B. Yet, his conscience led him to persecute disciples of Christ. - Acts 26:9-11; Acts 7:57-59; 8:1,3; 9:1-2,13-14; 22:4-5; Galatians 1:13
- C. But his clear conscience did not justify him.- 1 Timothy 1:15

IV. Is anyone too sinful to be saved? - 1 Timothy 1:13; 1 Corinthians 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:15

V. How can I be saved?

- A. Should I expect a miraculous "experience of grace"?
 - 1. Saul saw a miraculous appearance of the Lord.- Acts 9:3-7; 22:6-9; 26:12-15
 - 2. But the Lord did not save Paul there.- Acts 9:6; 22:10,16
 - 3. Why did the Lord appear to Saul?- Acts 22:14-15; 26:15-18; 1 Corinthians 9:1.
 - 4. Should we expect a similar occurrence? - 1 Corinthians 15:8.
- B. Should I "pray through"?- Acts 9:11; 22:16.
- C. How was Paul saved?
 - 1. preaching of the gospel- Acts 9:6,11-17; Romans 10:14-17.
 - 2. faith- Acts 9:4-6; Hebrews 11:6
 - 3. repentance- Acts 9:9; 3:19
 - 4. baptism- Acts 22:16; 9:18

Conclusion:

- A. Saul's life was transformed after this.- Acts 9:19-22
- B. The reason was simple.- Philippians 3:7-8
- C. If you will be like-minded, you can share his reward.- 2 Timothy 4:7-8.