



THE CONVERTED LIFE Acts 9:1-19

No. 3985

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Saul of Tarsus had an encounter with the risen Christ en route to Damascus on a mission to persecute followers of the Way. After the encounter he became Paul the apostle, the great proponent of "the Way." Not all conversions are so dramatic, but they are necessary!

I. Saul on the Road. vv. 1-2

- A. Saul's perceptions.
 - 1. Jesus was not the Christ and therefore was a dangerous imposter. 26:8-9
 - 2. His followers were blaspheming heretics and should be punished. 22:4-5
 - a. "Lord's disciples."
 - b. "Belonged to the Way." 16:17; 18:25
- B. Saul's persuasion.
 - 1. Truth was worth defending.
 - 2. Zeal was greatly admired.
 - 3. Something needed to be done; he would do it!
- C. Saul's persecution.
 - 1. Officially sanctioned.
 - 2. Strenuously pursued.
 - 3. Murderously exercised.

II. Saul on His Face. vv. 3-19

- A. A light from heaven.
- B. The voice of God.
- C. The baffling question, "Why do you persecute me?"
- D. The positive identification: "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."
- E. The startling call: "chosen instrument...he must suffer for my name."
- F. The unequivocal response: "I was not disobedient to the vision." 26:19

III. Saul on a Mission.

- A. Called to be different: enemies became his friends, his allies try to kill him.
- B. Called to be "a servant and witness." 26:16ff
- C. Called to be a blessing.
 - 1. Opening blind eyes.
 - 2. Turning from darkness to light.
 - 3. From power of Satan to God.
 - 4. Receive forgiveness of sins.
 - 5. A place among the sanctified believers.

Point to Ponder: Christ died to fit us for heaven; He rose to transform us for earth.