



The Conversion Of An Enemy Acts 9

Introduction

The work of the gospel takes a “dramatic turn” at this point...the church’s staunchest adversary becomes one of its chief proponents (**cp. 1 Tim. 1:12-15**). The events described in this chapter declare some very important Biblical truths: God loves all sinners (**1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9**); and, the gospel and its principle Character – *the resurrected Christ* – are more powerful than any opposition (**Rom. 1:16-17; Psa. 2:1-12**).

Saul’s Conversion (9:1-19a)

- 1) When we last read of Saul, what was he doing? (**8:1, 3**) Has he changed? (**vv. 1-2**)

- 2) What happens to him on his way to Damascus? (**v. 3**) What happens next? (**vv. 4-5**)
Thought question: do you see any significance to Jesus’ words? (**cp. Mt. 25:34-45**)

- 3) Some claim what happened was Saul’s “experience of faith” and his salvation? How do Jesus’ words in **v. 6** address this claim?

- 4) What is recorded in **vv. 7-9**? Based on **v. 9**, how would you describe Saul? (**cp. 2 Cor. 7:10**)

- 5) How and who does the Lord talk to in **v. 10**? What were his instructions? (**vv. 11-12**) How did he receive these instructions? (**vv. 13-14**) What was the Lord’s response? (**vv. 15-16**)

The Two Treatises

Lesson 33

- 6) How did Ananias obey what the Lord said? (v. 17) What did Saul have to do? (v. 18; cp. 22:16)

Saul's Early Work In The Kingdom (9:19b-31)

- 7) Describe his initial efforts for the gospel. (vv. 19b-20, 22) How did the people react? (v. 21)
- 8) What happened to Saul? (vv. 23-25) When he arrived in Jerusalem, what happened? (v. 26) Do you see this verse representing a "pattern" re: local church membership? (cp. 2:47)
- 9) Who came to Saul's aid? (v. 27) What were Saul's efforts in Jerusalem? (vv. 28-29a) What happens to him again? (vv. 29b-30)
- 10) How does Luke describe the church throughout Judea & Samaria? (v. 31)

Peter's Work In Judea & Samaria (9:32-43)

- 11) Where did Peter's travels take him? (v. 32) With whom did he come into contact and with what results? (vv. 33-34) How did this aid the gospel? (v. 35)
- 12) What does Luke record in vv. 36-38? When Peter arrived in Joppa, what did he observe? (v. 39)
- 13) What did Peter do? (v. 40) What happened next? (v. 41) What impact did this have on that region? (v. 42) Where does Peter stay? (v. 43)