

Conversion of Paul
Outline – April 21, 2024
Acts 8:1-4; Acts 9:1-9,17-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17

How Does A Person Become A New Creation?

- I. The Apostle Paul who was Saul of Tarsus would tell us**
 - A. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone in Christ becomes a new creation
 - B. If anyone experienced that it was Saul of Tarsus
- II. Who was Saul of Tarsus?**
 - A. Raised in Tarsus
 - 1. Center of advanced learning
 - 2. Hellenistic Jew
 - 3. Roman citizen
 - 4. Student of Gamaliel
 - B. He was extremely zealous
 - 1. Pharisee: Religious but not right with God
 - 2. Prisoner – to his religion
 - 3. Personality of a narcissist
 - 4. Plethora of titles
 - 5. Persecutor of Christians
 - A. Torture
 - B. Enslave
 - C. Murder
- III. Why did Saul hate Christians?**
 - A. He saw Christianity as a threat
 - B. An insult to his religion
 - C. He saw them as an enemy of the state
 - D. He felt something must be done
 - 1. With determination
 - 2. Without hesitation
 - 3. Without reservation
 - E. His position was Christians were to be:
 - 1. Silenced
 - 2. Removed
 - 3. Destroyed
 - F. He was like a Nazi storm trooper
 - 1. Cruel, vicious
 - 2. Violent, callous

3. Determined, hardened

G. He was on a mission

1. Going to Damascus

2. To destroy Christians

IV. Four things happened on his way to Damascus

(That changed his life and the trajectory of the Christian movement)

A. Divine Contact

1. A light hits him

2. Knocked him to the ground

3. Is blinded by the light

4. A voice speaks to him

5. A rebuke

6. A question

7. A principle

8. Paul asks, "Who are you?"

9. The powerful becomes the pathetic

10. He is blind, broken, on his back

11. The voice declares

A. I am Jesus

B. The one you are persecuting

12. Paul learns 3 things

A. Jesus is alive

B. Jesus is the one being persecuted

C. He is no match for the power of God

13. There is a moment in your life God makes it clear who He is

A. Maybe in church

B. A close call

C. A medical situation

D. An answered prayer

E. A moment when you feel broken

B. Divine Conviction

1. No push back from Saul

2. He saw and heard the risen Messiah

3. He knew he was on the wrong side

4. He knew this was a "turn or burn" moment

5. This was real and there was no going back

6. Conviction is when you take

God's Involvement

God's Revelation

God's Participation in your life seriously

7. Paul knew this was a moment of Grace

C. Divine Conversion

1. Paul realizes, believes, Jesus is alive
2. Jesus is Lord
3. Jesus is Messiah
4. He believes and receives the gift of God
5. He is forever changed
6. He plants churches

Writes part of the New Testament

Mentors pastors

Counsels churches

Defends the faith

Missionary to Gentiles

Endures hardship

7. Every believer has a conversion experience that redirects your life

D. Divine Communion

1. Now called Apostle Paul
2. Eyewitness to risen Messiah
3. Experience new purpose, blessing, new fellowship
New eternal destiny

V. That's your story as well

- A. From religion to a relationship
- B. From an enemy of God to a child of God
- C. From kingdom of darkness to light

That's What It Means To Be Made New