

Acts # 49

“Paul’s Amazing Transformation” *Acts 9:23-31; Romans 9:1-8 ; Phil 3:4-10; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:16-31*

**We are all born arrogant, self-seeking and self-absorbed because we know of no other way to express ourselves.**

When we become born-again, we have the God-given tools of the Holy Spirit, a new nature and God’s Word to change our motivations but that remains potential unless we apply ourselves to consistent Bible study to adopt the mind of Christ.

*It’s highly advisable that we seek a convenient time to ourselves to meditate on God’s loving kindness which is better than life itself.*

If we would just refrain from speaking vainly and paying attention to rumors, we’d find plenty of time for relaxed meditation on good things.

**Paul is a man who came to understand that anyone who intends to attain a more inward spiritual life must depart from society’s expectations to be with Jesus.**

No one rules well unless he’s willing to humble himself in subjection to authority; for he cannot command unless he’s learned to obey and no one truly rejoices, unless he has the witness of a good conscience.

*Saul went from Christian persecutor to writing thirteen New Testament epistles; going on four lengthy missionary journeys with three recorded arrests and imprisonments lasting five and one-half years; to being beheaded for his Savior’s sake!*

**For the first time in his life, Saul truly saw the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The god of this world could no longer blind Saul because he had seen Jesus and *everything else* had lost its appeal for Saul.

*Just picture the Hebrew of Hebrews, the blameless Pharisee; now the helpless blind Saul led by the hand into Damascus.*

**So, Paul is God’s perfect choice to bring His message of grace to the world as his entire theology emanated from the explanation of his own conversion where the worst of religious legalistic sinners has become God’s trophy of grace!**

Saul of Tarsus has gone from human greatness to divine grace; from religion to relationship; from counting his accomplishments to counting his blessings and all because of one meeting with One Person.

**Paul was transported by a rope hoist illustrating that he who had the highest gift anyone ever had in a local church, apostle, was dependent upon believers who had inferior gifts and this is the concept of teamwork in the body of Christ.**

As Paul approaches the city, he’s looking forward to meeting many believers whom he originally tried to kill but as expected, they’re not having it.

*Legalism always produces fear.*

**If you are in Christ, there is no condemnation, no judgment, no punishment awaiting you when you leave this life.**

Only love awaits those who belong to Jesus Christ.

*What will it take for you to believe that all your sins are forgiven; every one of them just as Jesus said?*

**WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START LIVING LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL; LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN GRACE, POWER AND COMPLETE FORGIVENESS AND NOT LIKE RELIOUS, LEGALISTIC SAUL OF TARSUS; LED BY HIS ARROGANT SIN NATURE IN FEAR AND WEAKNESS?**