

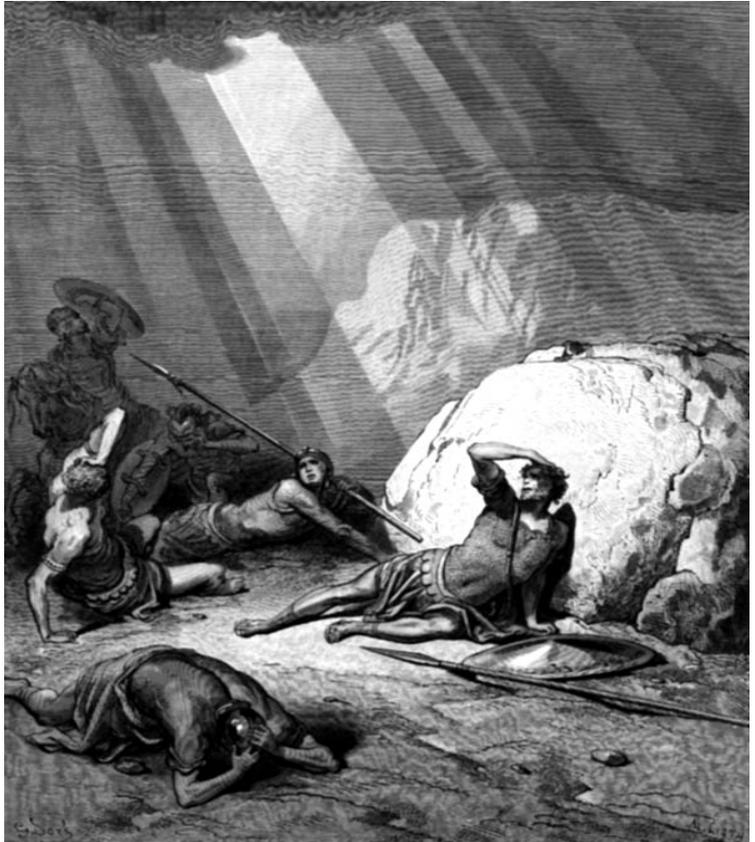
The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1-19

When the men stoned Stephen, they laid their coats at the feet of a young man. What was the name of that man?

What was that man busy doing to the Christians of that country?

How do you think Jesus felt about what that man was doing to His Church?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for calling us to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit in our baptism. Through the death of Jesus, Your Son, You have overlooked the sin in our hearts. Please continue to work upon the souls of unbelievers through the Holy Spirit in Your Word. Amen.

The Story - Acts 9:1-19

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest {2} and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might

bring them bound to Jerusalem.

{3} As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. {4} Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"



{5} And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads (*a pointed stick used to drive cattle*)."

{6} So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

{7} And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

{8} Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. {9} And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

{10} Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

{11} So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. {12} And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

{13} Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. {14}

And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

{15} But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. {16} For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

{17} And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." {18} Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. {19} So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Outer Aim

When God brought Saul to know Jesus as Savior, He also prepared him to be the great Christian apostle and missionary Paul.

Review - Write (T) rue or (F) alse for each of the following. If false, change the statement to make it true.

1. _____ Saul went to the city of Tarsus to find more Christians to persecute.
2. _____ Jesus appeared in a bright light to Saul and told him to wait in Damascus to be told what to do.
3. _____ Saul lost his voice after Jesus spoke to him.
4. _____ The Lord sent Ananias to Saul in Damascus.
5. _____ After Ananias talked to Saul, he received his sight.
6. _____ Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit because he ate and drank.

Questions

1. What does your Savior mean to you?
2. Describe how God might also allow you to suffer for Jesus' sake.
3. What will make you willing to suffer like that?
4. How will Jesus make you able to endure such persecution?

Hymn

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As a branch is to the vine,
I am His and He is mine. TLH 342

Passages - Find and circle the words in dark print in the word search below.

I Corinthians 6:11 - "But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord **Jesus** and by the **Spirit** of our God."

1 Corinthians 15:10 - "By the **grace** of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain."

S A N C T I F I E D Y
P V R N Q B V T L Z O
I N J U S T I F I E D
R A E Z G B C N P S L
I L S U R X D R J L F
T Q U W A S H E D N G
D X S R C U I S R L V
Y O T S E Q Z Y W N B

Inner Aim

God's love is for all people, the Jew and the Gentile.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for changing my life by calling me out of darkness into light through my baptism. Please continue to strengthen my faith so that I will not be afraid to suffer for Your name's sake. Strengthen Your Church so that it may continue to grow even though the devil and the world continue to persecute It. May You do this for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.