

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1-19



What is this man doing? If he is praying, to whom may this man be praying?

Will a false god be able to forgive his sins?

How will he find out about the True God?

Today we will read about Saul, who also was following the wrong religion. How did he find out about the True God?

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 faith in 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.

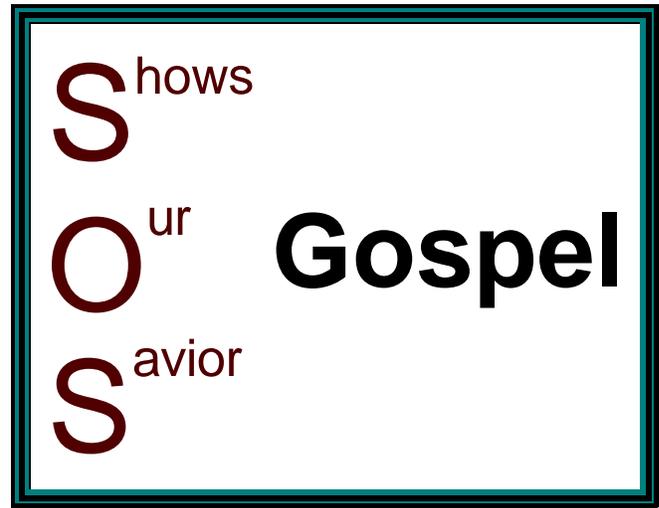
Outer Aim - When God brought Saul to know Jesus as Savior, He also prepared him to be the great Christian apostle and missionary Paul.

Review - Write the correct letter in the blank to complete this summary.

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|---|----------------|
| 1. ____ asked to be allowed to capture Christians in ____. | a. disciples |
| 2. As he traveled there, a ____ came from heaven and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why are you ____ Me?" | b. wait |
| 3. Saul asked who was speaking, and the voice said, "I am ____." | c. light |
| 4. The Lord told Saul to go into the city and ____. | d. Paul |
| 5. Saul was then ____. | e. Ananias |
| 6. ____ was told by the Lord to go to Saul. | f. persecuting |
| 7. After Saul was able to see he was ____. | g. blind |
| 8. Saul spent some days with the ____ at Damascus. | h. Saul |
| 9. He would later be known as ____. | i. Damascus |
| | j. Jesus |
| | k. baptized |

Discussion - Discuss the following with your classmates and teacher.

- ◆ Describe the spiritual problem of everybody.
- ◆ What does the Law show us?
- ◆ When we realize we are sinful, what are we led to do?
- ◆ What does the Gospel then shows us?
- ◆ What Person of the Triune God works through the Bible to convert?
- ◆ When did you become a child of God?



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.

Oh , the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me - wondrous tho't!
Found me when I sought Him not. TLH 342 v. 1-2

Passages - Use the passages below to answer the questions.

1 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 Timothy 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus
came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

Ephesians 1:3-5 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...as
He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...having predestined us
to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,
according to the good pleasure of His will.

1. Underline the three words in the 1 Corinthian passage that tell what has happened to you because of Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit.
2. What are you called by God in the 1 Timothy passage and Hymn 342, stanza 1?
3. According to God's Word in Ephesians 1, when were you chosen to be children of God?
4. Whose child were you before God brought you into His family?

Prayer

Dear Father, 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.