

SAUL PREACHED AT DAMASCUS; ESCAPES TO JERUSALEM; RETURNS TO TARSUS -- ACTS 9:19-31

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

THIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:19b-22

Act 9:19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Act 9:20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Act 9:21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"

Act 9:22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

THIS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:19b-22

v. 19b “spent some days with the disciples” - His fellowship with the believers. How important is it for new believers to immediately associate with other, more seasoned believers?

*v. 20 “Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues” – His evangelism in the synagogues - *eutheōs*” - Mark’s word of a servant’s response. Did the Jews believe in Paul’s day that the Messiah would be the Son of God? What was their problem with Jesus?*

v. 22 “proving (join together) that this Jesus is the Christ.” - His growth in what he believed – “to join together”– using the Old Testament. Why is this so important to potential Jewish believers? How would you prove that Jesus is the Son of God to a Jew, using only the Old Testament? How excited are you in sharing Jesus Christ with others? Do you believe that a new believer not care about sharing Christ?

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“IS SAUL REALLY A BELIEVER?” - Acts 9:19b-31

How does the **immediate response** of Saul indicate that Saul was truly converted? How does one know if a person is really a believer? - Cf. Luke 8:4-15

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OBSERVATION

THE OBVIOUS RESISTANCE OF THE JEWS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:23-25

Act 9:23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

Act 9:24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

Act 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

INTERPRETATION

THE OBVIOUS RESISTANCE OF THE JEWS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – vs, 23-25 – Is another evidence of conversion, that your old friends no longer want to associate with you?

v. 23 “after many days” – cf. - Galatians 1:16-17 - It was after three years! - cf. - 1 Kings 2:38-39- “And Shimei said to the king, “The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do.” So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days. [39] Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, “Look, your slaves are in Gath!”

Acts 9:25 – cf. - 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 – Aretas, Nabatean King

APPLICATION

Gal 1:16-18 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, **I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, [17] nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. [18] Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.**

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THE LOVING RELATIONSHIP OF BARNABAS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:26-30

Act 9:26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

Act 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Act 9:28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

Act 9:29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

Act 9:30 When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

THE LOVING RELATIONSHIP OF BARNABAS DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:26-30 -

v. 26 “but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.” - The circumstances were difficult

v. 27 “took him and brought him to the apostles” - His concern was convincing in bringing Paul to them. cf - Acts 4:36 How important was Barnabas to Paul- a man that everyone was afraid of? **Are you a Barnabas?** A real friend is one who defends you/your character, when you're out of town!

v. 28 “he was with them at Jerusalem” – he was “with them” 15 days

v. 29 “he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists,” - In defending Paul before them – Hellenists” – Stephen

v. 30 “they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.” - In protecting Paul with them – Cilicia (capital is Tarsus!) -- “learned” – cf. - Acts 22:17-21
How long do you think Paul stayed in Tarsus? What do you think he was doing there? cf. - Acts 15:23, 41

2Pet. 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

We should never be satisfied with a person's conversion. That is only the beginning. The same grace which brings a person to new birth is able to transform him or her into Christ's image.

2Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

In God's economy, some are to stay and die and others are to flee for their own safety? How would you explain that?

Saul originally left Jerusalem the persecutor of Christians; now he leaves being persecuted for being a Christian!!!

Notice that witness for Christ involves suffering for Christ!

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THE CONTINUAL RESULTS FROM THE CHURCH DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:31

Act 9:31 Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria

had peace and were edified.

And walking in the fear of the Lord and

in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,

they were multiplied.

THE CONTINUAL RESULTS FROM THE CHURCH DEMONSTRATED THE REALITY OF HIS CONVERSION – Acts 9:31

v. 31b “had peace and were edified.” – edification (being built up) in an atmosphere of peace

v. 31 c “walking in the fear of the Lord” – The fear of the Lord – a right attitude toward sin

v. 31d “in the comfort of the Holy Spirit” - The comfort of the Holy Spirit

v. 31e “they were multiplied.” - expansion with an attitude of dependency on the Holy Spirit

Questions:

1. How do the following verses indicate that Saul was truly converted?

- v. 19b spent some days with the disciples
- v. 20 Immediately he preached the Christ
- v. 22 increased all the more in strength,
- v. 25 the disciples took him
- v. 26 but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe
- v. 29 disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.
- v. 30 When the brethren found out
- v. 31 the churches throughout all

2. In verse 23, about how long a period of time do you think the “many days” occurred? If it was 3 years, how could you prove that from the Bible?

3. In verse 30, how do you think the plot to kill Saul became known to him?

4. v. 27 - Are you a Barnabas? “took him”! When you spot a brand new believer, what is your response to him or her? Do you think that Saul, as a new believer would be easy to get close to? (confronting Peter, Gentile believers in the church and Barnabas-John Mark)

5. Does v. 29 remind you about anyone who lost his life with these same people?

6. In verse 30, how do you think the plot to kill Saul became known to him? In God’s economy, some are to stay and die and others are to flee for their own safety? How would you explain that?