Lessons from the Conversion of Saul

Kevin Clark · Acts 9:1–22 · Series: **By The Word?**

INTRODUCTION

- In fact, outside of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and biblical prophecy, I think you'd be challenged to find a more effective proof of the resurrection of our Savior than the life of the Apostle Paul.
- He can say that because if you persecute the children of God, if you persecute the saints of God, if you persecute Christians, Jesus says, You're persecuting me.
- We understand who the hero of the story is, because it's really not Saul. It's really God and his word.

1 Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover in Evangelism

1 Timothy 1:12–17; Romans 1:16; Acts 6:7

- He underestimated the power of God's word. Now that's what he got wrong.
- Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man, but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Why? For it's the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- If Saul can obey the gospel, there is not a soul out there that cannot obey the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Then the word of God spread. And the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.
- But it's our job, it's our mission, it's our mandate to get the word out there and let it have its work on the hearts of men.

2 Being Sincere and Religious Alone Is Not Enough

Acts 23:1; John 16:1–2

- Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.
- Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. Saul was sincere.
- So all of that sincerity, all of that fervor, all of that zeal, all that conviction that I'm doing the will of God, did that alone save him? Of course not. He had to obey the gospel.
- If Saul had to obey the gospel, everybody has to obey the gospel.

3 Baptism Is Necessary for Salvation

Acts 22:11–16; Galatians 3:26–27; 1 Corinthians 12:13

- So whatever it is that he's going to hear in the city of Damascus, we know one thing. It's something that he must do.
- And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
- So we've got a man here that believes that Jesus is the Son of God. And this man is praying, and yet he's not saved.

- The same gospel that Saul obeyed is the same gospel that we all have to obey.
- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

4 The Great Personal Cost of Salvation

Philippians 3:3–11; 2 Corinthians 11:22–28; Romans 8:18

- For whom I have suffered the loss of all things. And count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ.
- We're not selling some discounted salvation. We're not selling some cheap grace.
- It doesn't just start or stop after you obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a cost, the great personal cost of salvation. It's a cost that we continue to pay.
- Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- There's a cost when we obey the gospel and we continue to pay the cost. But you know what? The cost is worth it.

MY NOTES