

## TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 20

### GOD'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT (Part 2)

How God Shapes His Servants

(Acts 9:19b-31)

#### INTRODUCTION:

"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for **he is a chosen instrument of Mine**, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel."

—Acts 9:15

#### A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 9:

##### 1A. SAUL'S UNUSUAL CONVERSION (v. 1-9)

"...and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him..."

##### 2A. SAUL'S UNCOMMON COMMISSION (v. 10-19a)

"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for **he is a chosen instrument of Mine...**'"

##### 3A. SAUL'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT (v. 19b-31)

"...and **immediately** he began to proclaim Jesus..."

##### 1B. In Spite of Severe Resistance that Threatened His Life. (v. 19b-25)

"...the Jews **plotted together to do away with him...**"

##### 2B. In Spite of Serious Reservations that Questioned His Faith. (v. 26-31)

"...they were all afraid of him, **not believing that he was a disciple....**"

#### SAUL: GOD'S CHOSEN INSTRUMENT

##### TWO STATEMENTS SAUL WOULD MAKE...

1. God's gracious work of salvation in my life—His choosing me—is so that I might be an illustration of the transforming power of the Gospel.
2. God's gracious work of salvation in my life—His choosing me—is so that I might be an instrument in the tireless proclamation of the Gospel.

##### TWO REMINDERS SAUL WOULD GIVE...

1. As you carry out the purpose for which you have been chosen, you should expect to experience both tremendous opportunity and opposition.
2. As you carry out the purpose for which you have been chosen, you must remember that you are the instrument, not the Artist.

1A. SAUL'S \_\_\_\_\_ : (v. 19b-22)

"Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and **immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues**, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' <sup>21</sup> All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, 'Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' <sup>22</sup> But Saul kept increasing in strength and **confounding** the Jews who lived at Damascus by **proving that this Jesus is the Christ.**"

2A. SAUL'S \_\_\_\_\_ : (v. 23-30)

1B. God is going to \_\_\_\_\_ him... \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 23a)

"When **many days had elapsed**,..."

"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but **I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.** <sup>18</sup> **Then three years later** I went up to Jerusalem..."

—Galatians 1:11-24

2B. God is going to \_\_\_\_\_ him... \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 23b-30)

1C. "Will you persevere when... people \_\_\_\_\_?"

"...the Jews plotted together to do away with him,.... They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death..."

2C. "Will you persevere when... people \_\_\_\_\_?"

"When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but **they were all afraid of him**, not believing that he was a disciple."

TWO \_\_\_\_\_ SAUL WOULD LEARN...  
(about \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_)

1. As God **prepares** you for the purpose for which you have been chosen, He may lead you to some unlikely \_\_\_\_\_. Trust Him. He has \_\_\_\_\_ for you to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. As God **prepares** you for the purpose for which you have been chosen, He may lead you to some unlikely \_\_\_\_\_. Trust Him. He will give you \_\_\_\_\_ on whom you can \_\_\_\_\_.