

ACTS 9:1-19 – The Damascus Road Experience

Paul's conversion is related to Samson's riddle. (Judges 14:14) "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet."

(v.1-2) Paul was on a mission to apprehend believers and was *consequently* apprehended by the Lord!

At this time Christians were called people of the "Way."
There is a cost associated with the "Way!" Luke 14:25-33.

(Matthew 7:13-14) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

(v.3-9) Note: the close association between Jesus and His church!

(Matthew 25:40) And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

(v.5) Godly wisdom: (Ecclesiastes 12:11) The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.

In **(v.6)** Pride and arrogance are *replaced* by reverence and submission.

When God does not make sense! **(ttt) Psalm 131.**

(v.7) A better translation of **Acts 22:9 (NIV)** - *“they did not hear with understanding.”*

(v.10-14) (v.12) While Saul prayed, God was moving.
“Pray without ceasing,” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Reluctance, as a substitute for faith, is *merely* another form of rebellion!

God invites Ananias to be a partaker of His glory.
Hebrews 12:10 – God disciplines us that we might be
“partakers of His holiness.”

That which we are *quick* to curse, God claims, as His own!

Why did God choose us? (ttt) Deuteronomy 7:7-11.

The Greek word for “bear” – **bastazo: to carry on one’s person; to take up with the hands.** To bear Christ’ name is to *unashamedly* identify with Him!

“fight the good fight of faith!” (1 Timothy 6:12).

Suffer for His name. (Philippians 3:10-11) “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

(v.17-19) Three evidence of God’s transforming power and presence:

1) Enemies become “brothers.” (v.17).

2) Benevolence. Attention is given to Paul’s physical needs. (v.19a).

3) Paul was welcomed into the fellowship of the Way. (v.19b).

CONCLUSION: God sent His Son to interrupt our journey.

(Proverbs 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.