

"The Early Witnesses, our Witness, and Christ's Witness" Acts 9:1-31; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Revelation 1:1-5 Pastor Steve McGuyre 11-26-2023

<u>Warm up:</u>

Was there an elementary teacher that really made a difference in your life? Briefly share with your group how this teacher impacted you.

Discuss:

Why is Paul's conversion to Christ so instrumental in the history of the church? And how can we use his experience to help lead our non-believing friends closer to God? (Remember the radical change in his life, from zealous Pharisee to humble Jesus follower. He went on to write almost half of the New Testament books as the Holy Spirit carried him along. Also, his life parallels some of our own, portraying how we were against the things of God and then in an instant were changed by the saving power of Jesus).

Even though Peter highlights his phenomenal experience on the Mount of Transfiguration, he concludes by saying that the fulfillment of Scripture is that which is "more fully confirmed." Take a moment to ask your group how their Bible reading and study has been lately. Have one or two of the ladies in the Psalms study share the impact the Word is having on them.

Pastor Steve introduced us to Simon Greenleaf in his sermon. Is there anything about his testimony that impacted you? While praying in your group, will you give thanks for people like Greenleaf who stood up for the integrity of the Evangelists (the gospel writers).

In Revelation, Jesus is called the "faithful witness." How does that designation strike you? Talk about how important it is to realize that Jesus will always be truthful with us. Ask your group members if it is sometimes hard for them to accept the gospel or statement from Jesus about us like Revelation 1:5 - he loosed us from our sins in his own blood.

Let's pray about our own witness to those in our sphere of influence. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit that we might be good witnesses in our generation.