

## Title: I Got a New Job: Working Out Our Salvation

### **Sermon Summary:**

This sermon challenges believers to recognize that salvation is not just about securing a place in heaven, but about actively doing the work God has called us to do. Using the conversion of Saul (later Paul) on the Damascus road as the central narrative, the pastor draws parallels between Saul's persecution of early Christians and modern-day persecution, particularly referencing ICE raids and social injustice. The message emphasizes that Christ begins the good work in us, carries it out through us, and will ultimately complete it. However, believers must actively participate by reading God's Word, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them, and introducing others to Christ. The sermon stresses accountability, encouraging congregants to move beyond comfortable church attendance into active ministry in their workplaces and communities. The pastor challenges the congregation to understand that their job is not their work—their true work is the Kingdom assignment God has given them, which requires daily study of Scripture and intentional engagement with those who need to encounter Jesus.

### **Key Points:**

- Salvation has already been accomplished in Christ, but believers must work it out through active obedience and service
- Reading and studying God's Word is essential for doing the work God has called us to do
- Our jobs are not our work; God has Kingdom work for us to do wherever we are
- Just as Saul was transformed from persecutor to apostle, God can give us a new job and even a new name
- We must hold each other accountable in our spiritual walk and work
- The enemy knows his time is short and is working diligently; the church must match that urgency
- Spiritual problems require spiritual solutions, not just labeling everything as mental illness
- Being holy means being consistent in character every day, not just on Sunday
- God has already prepared people to help us in our work, just as He prepared Ananias for Saul
- We cannot expect to hear "well done, good and faithful servant" if we haven't done the work

- Complacency and comfort zones cause us to miss what God wants to do through us
- Every believer has a responsibility to lead others to Christ, not just preachers

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Philippians 1:6 - Christ begins the good work in us
- Philippians 2:12-13 - Christ carries out the work in us
- Philippians 3:21 - Christ will ultimately complete the work in us
- Acts 9:1-31 - The conversion of Saul on the Damascus road (primary text)
- Acts 9:1-2 - Saul breathing threats and slaughter against disciples
- Acts 9:3-6 - Saul's encounter with Christ and his blinding
- Acts 9:10-16 - Ananias's vision and commission to help Saul
- Ephesians 6 - Reference to the Holy Ghost given to believers
- Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission to go, preach, teach, and baptize

### **Stories:**

- The conversion of Saul on the Damascus road, including his encounter with the light from heaven, his blindness, and his transformation
- The account of Ananias receiving a vision to minister to Saul despite knowing Saul's reputation as a persecutor
- The stoning of Stephen and Saul's presence at his death (Acts 6-7)
- Contemporary parallels drawn between Saul's persecution and modern ICE raids targeting immigrants
- Historical references to persecution of African Americans through lynching and police brutality
- Illustration about workplace dynamics and the importance of knowing the IT person and custodial staff
- Analogy of reading training manuals for work equipment (like printing presses) compared to reading the Bible for spiritual safety and effectiveness