

Acts 9:1-31 – 14 June 2020

“A Religious Person’s Conversion To Christ”

Introduction

Jesus has ordained there to be an “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

There are many types of people that are accepting Christ’s payment on the cross for eternal life

Chap 8 – The Gospel came to the Samaritans

Chap 8 – The Gospel came to an Ethiopian man

Chap 10 – Gospel will come to Roman Centurion

Chap 9 today – Interestingly, the Gospel can even come to a religious man!

Today, we’ll see a 4 S.T.E.P. process of a religious person’s conversion to Christ

That Jewish man, of course, is Saul of Tarsus

1st S.T.E.P. in the process is Stagnation

(Chap 9:1-5)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Saul wasn't trying to live a life contrary to God
 - a. Read John 16:2-3 – They don't know God
 - b. Read I Tim 1:12-16 – He didn't know better
 - c. Rom 10:1-3 – Have zeal, but not...
2. Saul thinks of himself as a powerful man, who's going to put this people "of the way" under.

Read Vs 3-4

1. Persecution against the bride of Christ, the Church is the same as persecution against Christ Himself.
2. Now someone has shown power over him!

Read Vs 5

1. Paul's stagnation
 - a. Saul is the one Gamaliel couldn't keep enough books in front of.

- b. Saul would later say...
 - i. There are men that are “Ever learning but never able to come to knowledge of truth.”
 - ii. There are men that “Profess themselves to be wise, but become fools” by denying God
 - c. Saul has reached his frustration point w/ Jewish learning b/c it’s not lining up w/ reality around him.
2. What’s the solution to stagnation?
- a. The Sadducees challenged Jesus re: resurrection when He said, (Read Matt 22:29)
 - b. Accept the Scripture for what it’s saying
 - c. Accept the HS power to interpret all things
3. Saul has been confronted w/ fact that the God he’s trying to zealously serve IS the God he’s persecuting!
- a. Kick against the pricks – HS has been trying to get Saul to turn and repent, but will he?

2nd S.T.E.P. in the process is Transformation (Chap 9:6-18)

Read Vs 6a

1. THIS is the right question to ask, “How do I repent and change”?
 - a. Angel came to transform Zacharias’s life
 - i. Didn’t belief, angel struck him dumb.
 - b. Angel came to transform Mary’s life
 - i. Mary believed and submitted to the Lord

Read Vs 6b-9

1. Saul has just died. (Life, death, Resurrection)
 - a. Dead for 3 days as Jesus was
 - b. Moses 40-40-40, palace, desert, new life
2. Thus he begins a walk of faith in trusting God one step at a time.
3. Instead of trusting in his training & education, he’s now going to learn to trust God’s HS as He guides Saul into a dynamic ever-fresh new life.

Vs 10-18 – *Ananias learns to accept this transformed man Saul*
Whom God chooses, we can in no wise cast out!

Read Vs 10-12

1. Jesus performs His work thru the local church
2. Would take great faith for Ananias to do this.

Read Vs 13-14

1. It's ok to converse with the Lord – “Ok Lord how's this gonna happen...”
2. The Lord has proven His love and care for us over and over.
 - a. Don't worry about turns on the road when you already know that the destination is HOME!

Read Vs 15-16

1. So God reminds Ananias that he has the whole plan worked out from beginning to the end.

Read Vs 17-18

1. So both men's faith is rewarded!

3rd S.T.E.P. in the process is Exercise

(Chap 9:19-22)

Read Vs 19-21

1. Vs 19 – Saul was filling himself by feeding on the Word of God and fellowship w/ believers.
2. Vs 20-21 – He then used it for Evangelism!
3. Both in and out
 - a. Dead Sea is dead b/c it takes in but doesn't give out water. Sea of Galilee is alive b/c it does both.
 - b. Which one is more important, taking in the Word of God and fellowship or giving out the Word of God and fellowship?
 - i. I'd say to you, which one is more important, breathing in or breathing out?
 - ii. Can't have one without the other.

Read Vs 22

1. This is exercising your spiritual muscles.
2. Turn to I Tim 4:6-8 – Exercise to discern the truth from God's Word

4th S.T.E.P. in the process is Power (Chap 9:23-31)

Read Vs 23-25

1. Saul has already learned what he would later tell us in Rom 1:16 – He's not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it's the *power* of God unto salvation.
2. Saul msg of Christ has so much power that it stirred people up to want to kill him.
3. The power of the Gospel is moving Saul away from non-believers.
4. Have you ever stirred people up that much?

Read Vs 26-27

1. The very power and boldness that Saul had in Damascus is what Barnabas used to prove that Saul was a legitimate Christian!

Read Vs 28-31

1. The power of the Gospel has moved Saul toward fellowship with believers.

Conclusion

So, we've seen a 4 S.T.E.P. process of a religious person conversion to Christ.

1. Stagnation

- a. Ever running but not getting anywhere
- b. Stagnation results when the life you leading doesn't line up with the reality on the ground

2. Transformation

- a. Transformation can begin when we simply turn the reins over to Christ
- b. What must I do to be saved?
- c. This begins a walk of faith, trusting God to lead.

3. Exercise

- a. Real exercise involves takes in and giving out. This keeps it fresh.

4. Power

- a. Real power is only found in a real message!
- b. A message that has true eternal value!