

I. Paul Captured By His Call (Acts 9:1-16)

- A. Paul's radical past (1-2) - "But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem."
- B. Paul's radical encounter (3-9) - "Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 5 And he said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ...8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank."
- C. Paul's radical assignment (10-14) - "15 But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name.'"

II. Paul's Consecration Unto His Call (Galatians 1:15-18)

- A. The depth of his purpose (15-16a) - "But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, 16 was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..."
- B. The protection of his purpose (16b-17) - "...I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus."
- C. The partnerships in his purpose (18) - "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days."

Paul's calling involved countless partnerships over the years; seasonal partnerships are essential in Kingdom ministry. While we must not allow anyone to undermine our call from God, we should always consider how to be flexible in allowing our calling to partner with others' callings for the sake of the Gospel.

III. Paul's Continuance in His Call (Acts 26:17-19)

- A. A specific component (17) - "...delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles - to whom I am sending you."
- B. A general description (18) - "...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."
- C. A militant obedience (19) - "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision..."
- D. An eternal awareness (Acts 20:24) - "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."
- E. A powerful finish (2 Timothy 4:6-8) - "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."