

SERMON SERIES: The Good News of Second Chances
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Key Line

The Good News is that God alone determines my value.

Introduction

Have you ever felt like God was constantly disappointed in you? What do you do when you feel like you've made so many mistakes that God will not give you a second chance?

Seek the Word

Read Acts 9:1-22.

- Who was Saul? Describe him at the beginning of the story, before he met Jesus. What was he doing? *(He was a Pharisee, a Jewish leader and teacher who was trying to suppress Christianity and get rid of Jesus followers. He was imprisoning and persecuting Christians.)*
- Why was he going to Damascus? *(To persecute more Christians.)*
- What happened on the way? *(A bright light blinded him, and the voice of Jesus said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?")*
- What did Saul call himself after this experience with Jesus? Who did he become? *(He changed his name to Paul and became one of the most influential apostles in the beginning of the Church. He wrote much of the New Testament.)*

We often try to add something to Jesus' sacrifice in order to please God and make up for our mistakes. A group of Gentiles from Galatia were taught by the Judaizers that they had to add Jewish teachings and practices to Jesus' sacrifice in order to be accepted. Read Galatians 1:6.

- What was Paul's response to that in Galatians 1:6? *(He said he was surprised that they were deserting the grace of Christ and attempting to work their way into God's favor.)*
- Why is it futile to attempt to do that? *(We cannot work our way into God's good graces. We can only be accepted because of Jesus' sacrifice.)*

Talk About It

We sometimes think our value determines Jesus' love for us. However, Jesus says that his love for us determines our value. Our price has been paid for by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

CS Lewis said, "It matters what we think about God, but it matters infinitely more what God thinks about us."

- What do you think God really thinks about you?
- Do you ever doubt his love for you, his acceptance of you? Why do you think you doubt (or don't doubt) that?
- Share some practical ways you can live in the love of Christ this week.