



◆ INTRODUCTION

In **SINCERE, BUT SINCERELY WRONG**, PT follows Saul down the Damascus Road and confronts a dangerous cultural assumption: sincerity does not make a belief true. Saul had Scripture in his mouth, religious credentials, and passionate conviction—yet he was fighting the very Jesus he believed he was defending. The risen Christ interrupted Saul’s certainty, exposed his blindness, sent Ananias with grace, and changed a persecutor into a preacher. This study challenges us to test inherited beliefs by Scripture, speak truth without hatred, refuse bitterness, make room for people with complicated pasts, and remember that genuine conversion does not merely change our opinion about Jesus—it changes our direction.

◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 9:1–22** — Saul heads to Damascus convinced he is serving God by persecuting Jesus-followers. The risen Jesus confronts him, Saul is blinded, Ananias receives him with grace, and Saul begins proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God.
- **John 16:2–3** — Jesus warns that people can become so religiously deceived they harm others while believing they are serving God. Zeal is not proof that we represent God correctly.
- **Philippians 3:4–10; Galatians 1:13–14** — Paul describes the religious résumé, heritage, training, and zeal he once trusted. After meeting Christ, what once gave him confidence became loss compared with knowing Jesus.
- **1 Corinthians 15:3–4** — The apostolic Gospel centers on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Remove the crucified and risen Christ and the center of the Gospel is gone.
- **Galatians 1:8–9** — Even a supernatural or angelic claim must be rejected if it produces a different gospel. Spiritual experiences must be tested by the Gospel already revealed.
- **1 Timothy 1:13–16** — Paul remembers being a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent man, yet receiving mercy. His past became evidence of how far the grace of Jesus can reach.
- **Acts 22:10** — Paul remembers asking, “What shall I do, Lord?” Revelation about who Jesus is must lead to surrender and obedience.

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Our culture often treats sincerity as its own proof—“my truth” becomes untouchable. Saul was deeply sincere and deeply wrong. Where do you see sincerity being treated as more important than truth today? What beliefs become dangerous when we refuse to let Jesus or Scripture examine them? (*Acts 9:1–5*)
2. The sermon subtitle says, “*Scripture in His Mouth. Murder in His Heart.*” How can someone quote Scripture and still behave in a way that looks nothing like Jesus? Where are Christians most tempted today—politics, social media, family conflict, or church conflict—to be right in content but wrong in spirit? (*John 16:2–3*)
3. PT said, “*If Jesus can’t correct my theology, my CERTAINTY has become my Lord.*” What belief, political position, family tradition, denominational idea, or personal conviction would be hardest for you to admit might be wrong? How can you tell when certainty has quietly taken the place of surrender?
4. PT said, “*Accountability is biblical. Bitterness is not a spiritual gift.*” How do we distinguish confronting something genuinely wrong in the Church from developing contempt for the Church Christ loves? Has “church hurt” ever become an identity, an excuse to disconnect, or permission to stay bitter? What would healing require?
5. PT said, “*Love does not require theological dishonesty. Don’t be argumentative; become informed.*” In a culture that often labels disagreement as hatred, how can Christians love Muslim, Mormon, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, or secular neighbors without pretending contradictory claims about Jesus are equally true? What does respectful courage look like?
6. Galatians 1:8–9 warns against another gospel, even when it comes with a supernatural claim. PT said, “*The most dangerous counterfeit is the one that looks close enough that nobody thinks to take a closer look.*”

How much of our theology is shaped today by TikTok, YouTube, podcasts, influencers, algorithms, or emotionally powerful testimonies? What must always outrank them?

7. PT described how reading Charles Swindoll's *The Grace Awakening* forced him to admit that beliefs he had preached and defended with certainty needed to change. Have you ever had a "sincere but sincerely wrong" moment? Why is admitting spiritual error so difficult, and what may grace be challenging in you now?
8. Ananias had every reason to fear Saul, yet God sent him to call the persecutor "*Brother Saul.*" PT said, "*Grace sent the victim to lay hands on the villain.*" Who are the kinds of people Christians may pray will get saved but secretly feel uncomfortable welcoming into the room? How can your group become a place where complicated people and honest questions are safe? (*Acts 9:10–17*)
9. PT asked, "*If Jesus is really Lord, what changes when you leave here?*" Which area is easiest for Christians to fence off from Jesus—calendar, money, relationships, sexuality, entertainment, forgiveness, or priorities? What is one act of obedience you already know God is asking from you?
10. Saul moved from "*Who are You, Lord?*" to "*What shall I do, Lord?*" Why is information about Jesus not the same as surrender to Jesus? Salvation is by grace through faith, but genuine conversion begins changing direction. What would "Respond. Repent. Surrender. Change." look like in your life this week?

◆ PASTOR'S BEST QUOTES

- "*Putting a Bible verse beside bad behavior does not baptize it. If Jesus would rebuke it, attaching His name doesn't make it holy.*"
- "*If Jesus can't correct my theology, my CERTAINTY has become my Lord.*"
- "*Being right is never permission to stop being like Christ.*"
- "*The resurrection means Jesus gets to define the conversation.*"
- "*The goal is not to win the argument and lose the person.*"
- "*Respond. Repent. Surrender. Change. That is conversion.*"

◆ ACTION PROMPTS

- **PRAY THE CORRECTION PRAYER:** Every day this week pray, "Lord, where am I blind?" Ask the Holy Spirit to expose certainty, pride, bitterness, or inherited beliefs that need to be surrendered.
- **TEST ONE BELIEF:** Choose one strongly held belief or opinion and test it honestly against Scripture—not family tradition, political loyalty, social media, or a favorite teacher. Let Jesus have the final word.
- **MAKE ONE GRACE MOVE:** Forgive, apologize, reconnect, or have the difficult conversation you have been avoiding. Ask, "Am I helping heal the Body of Christ, or adding another wound?"
- **BE AN ANANIAS:** Make room for someone with questions or a complicated story. Invite someone to your group or Sunday services, listen without mocking their background, and help them take one step toward Jesus.
- **OBEY THE LAST WORD:** Identify one clear next step God has already shown you—baptism, serving, generosity, reconciliation, removing a sinful influence, or another act of obedience—and do it. Don't ask for a new word while ignoring the last one.

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, search us the way You searched Saul. If we are sincere but wrong, correct us. If certainty has become pride, humble us. If bitterness has taken root, heal us. Give us courage to ask, "Lord, where am I blind?" and enough surrender to obey when You answer.

Anchor everyone who attends CrossPointe in Scripture, the finished work of the cross, and the power of the resurrection. Make us a church/family that speaks truth without hatred, gives grace without compromising truth, and welcomes complicated people because we remember how much mercy we have received.

Guard the next generation coming behind us. Root our children, students, and young adults so deeply in New Testament Christian faith that cultural pressure, counterfeit gospels, and spiritual confusion cannot pull them away from Jesus. Give parents, grandparents, leaders, and small groups wisdom to model a faith worth following.

Put people on our hearts who need the hope of Jesus, and give us courage to invite them to Sunday services. Let our invitations become somebody else's Damascus Road moment. Make us people who respond, repent, surrender, change, and help others find their way to the risen Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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